



INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

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Press Release

Unofficial

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***Obligations of Israel in relation to the Presence and Activities of the United Nations,
Other International Organizations and Third States in and in relation to
the Occupied Palestinian Territory***

(Request for Advisory Opinion)

**The Court authorizes the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation
to participate in the proceedings**

THE HAGUE, 4 February 2025. The International Court of Justice has authorized the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (the “OIC”), at its request, to participate in the advisory proceedings on the *Obligations of Israel in relation to the Presence and Activities of the United Nations, Other International Organizations and Third States in and in relation to the Occupied Palestinian Territory*.

Pursuant to Article 66 of the Statute of the Court, the Vice-President of the Court, HE Judge Julia Sebutinde, Acting President, has decided that the OIC is likely to be able to furnish information on the question submitted to the Court by the General Assembly. The OIC may therefore present a written statement on that question within the time-limit fixed by the President’s [Order of 23 December 2024](#), i.e. by 28 February 2025.

The subsequent procedure has been reserved for further decision.

History of the proceedings

On 19 December 2024, the General Assembly of the United Nations adopted resolution A/RES/79/232 in which, referring to Article 65 of the Statute of the Court, it requested the International Court of Justice to give an advisory opinion. The relevant part of the resolution reads as follows:

“*The General Assembly,*

.....

10. *Decides*, in accordance with Article 96 of the Charter of the United Nations, to request the International Court of Justice, pursuant to Article 65 of the Statute of the Court, on a priority basis and with the utmost urgency, to render an advisory opinion on the following question, considering the rules and principles of international law, as regards in particular the Charter of the United Nations, international humanitarian law, international human rights law, privileges and immunities applicable under international law for international organizations and States, relevant resolutions of the Security Council, the General Assembly and the Human Rights Council, the advisory opinion of the Court of 9 July 2004, and the advisory opinion of the Court of 19 July 2024, in which the Court reaffirmed the duty of an occupying Power to administer occupied territory for the benefit of the local population and affirmed that Israel is not entitled to sovereignty over or to exercise sovereign powers in any part of the Occupied Palestinian Territory on account of its occupation:

What are the obligations of Israel, as an occupying Power and as a member of the United Nations, in relation to the presence and activities of the United Nations, including its agencies and bodies, other international organizations and third States, in and in relation to the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including to ensure and facilitate the unhindered provision of urgently needed supplies essential to the survival of the Palestinian civilian population as well as of basic services and humanitarian and development assistance, for the benefit of the Palestinian civilian population, and in support of the Palestinian people’s right to self-determination?”

By a letter dated 20 December 2024, the Secretary-General of the United Nations transmitted the request for an advisory opinion to the Court. By letters dated 24 December 2024, the Deputy-Registrar gave notice of that request to all States entitled to appear before the Court, pursuant to Article 66, paragraph 1, of the Statute.

By an Order dated 23 December 2024, the President of the Court decided “that the United Nations and its Member States, as well as the observer State of Palestine, are considered likely to be able to furnish information on the question submitted to the Court for an advisory opinion and may do so within the time-limits fixed in th[e] Order”. Pursuant to Article 66, paragraph 2, of the Statute of the Court, the President fixed 28 February 2025 as the time-limit for the presentation of written statements on the question.

Earlier [press releases](#) relating to this case are available on the Court’s website.

Note: The Court’s press releases are prepared by its Registry for information purposes only and do not constitute official documents.

The International Court of Justice (ICJ) is the principal judicial organ of the United Nations. It was established by the United Nations Charter in June 1945 and began its activities in April 1946. The Court is composed of 15 judges elected for a nine-year term by the General Assembly and the Security Council of the United Nations. The seat of the Court is at the Peace Palace in The Hague (Netherlands). The Court has a twofold role: first, to settle, in accordance with international law, legal disputes submitted to it by States; and, second, to give advisory opinions on legal questions referred to it by duly authorized United Nations organs and agencies of the system.

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