

**CASE CONCERNING SOVEREIGNTY OVER  
PULAU LIGITAN AND PULAU SIPADAN  
(Indonesia/Malaysia)**

This case is still pending.<sup>1</sup> On 11 May 2000, the Court made an Order extending the time-limit for the filing of a Counter-Memorial by each of the Parties until 2 August 2000. The case is now ready for the oral hearings to be held on dates to be announced.

**THE PROCEEDINGS**

On 2 November 1998, Indonesia and Malaysia jointly requested the Court to determine their dispute concerning sovereignty over Pulau Ligitan and Pulau Sipadan, two islands in the Celebes Sea. They did this pursuant to a Special Agreement they signed on 31 May 1997 at Kuala Lumpur, which entered into force on 14 May 1998.

On 8 May 2000, the two Parties addressed a joint letter to the Court, which read as follows, *inter alia*:

It is the Parties' position that the current eight-month time-limit for the simultaneous filing of the Counter-Memorial does not leave sufficient time for the Parties to address issues which have been raised in each Party's Memorial. Therefore, the Parties have agreed to request jointly a further one month extension for filing the Counter-Memorials to 2 August 2000. In all other respects, the Special Agreement signed by the Parties on 31 May 1997 and notified to the Court on 2 November 1998 remains unchanged, including the date for submission of the Reply.

The Parties would be grateful if the Court would take note of the joint request and thereby modify the Order [of 14 September 1999] for the filing of the Parties' Counter-Memorials so as to reflect a filing date of 2 August 2000...

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<sup>1</sup> For background information on this case, refer [1999] *Australian International Law Journal* 308-309.