



INTERNATIONAL TRIBUNAL FOR THE LAW OF THE SEA
TRIBUNAL INTERNATIONAL DU DROIT DE LA MER

Press Release

***THE M/V "LOUISA" CASE (SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES V.
KINGDOM OF SPAIN)***

**PUBLIC HEARING TO BE HELD FROM 4 OCTOBER 2012
LIVE WEBCAST OF THE HEARINGS ON THE TRIBUNAL'S WEBSITE**

The public hearing in *the M/V "Louisa" Case (Saint Vincent and the Grenadines v. Kingdom of Spain)* will open on Thursday, 4 October 2012 at 10 a.m. Judge Yanai, President of the Tribunal, will preside. The hearing will be broadcast live on the Tribunal's [website](#).

The schedule for the hearing is as follows:

First round of oral argument

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

<i>Thursday, 4 October 2012</i>	10 a. m.–1 p.m. 3 p.m.–6 p.m.
<i>Friday, 5 October 2012</i>	10 a. m.–1 p.m. 3 p.m.–6 p.m.
<i>Saturday, 6 October 2012</i>	10 a. m.–1 p.m. 3 p.m.–6 p.m.

Spain

<i>Monday, 8 October 2012</i>	10 a.m.–1 p.m. 3 p.m.–6 p.m.
<i>Tuesday, 9 October 2012</i>	10 a.m.–1 p.m. 3 p.m.–6 p.m.
<i>Wednesday, 10 October 2012</i>	10 a. m.–1 p.m. 3 p.m.–6 p.m.

Second round of oral argument

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

Thursday, 11 October 2012

3 p.m.–6 p.m.

Spain

Friday, 12 October 2012

3 p.m.–6 p.m.

The verbatim records of the hearing will be [published](#) on the website of the Tribunal.

Background of the case

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines filed an Application instituting proceedings against Spain on 24 November 2010, regarding the detention, by Spanish authorities, of the *MV Louisa*, a vessel flying the flag of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

The Application instituting proceedings included a request for provisional measures under article 290, paragraph 1, of the Convention. The Tribunal delivered its Order on this request on 23 December 2010, finding that “the circumstances, as they now present themselves to the Tribunal, are not such as to require the exercise of its powers to prescribe provisional measures under article 290, paragraph 1, of the Convention.”

The Tribunal will hear the merits of the case during the upcoming oral proceedings. These were preceded by written proceedings in the course of which both Parties filed written pleadings within the time-limits fixed by Orders of the President of the Tribunal. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines filed its Memorial on 10 June 2011 and Spain its Counter-Memorial on 12 December 2011. The Reply of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines was filed on 10 February 2012 and the Rejoinder of Spain on 10 April 2012.

According to the Rules of the Tribunal, copies of the written pleadings and the documents annexed thereto will be made accessible to the public on the opening of the oral proceedings.

Attending the hearing

The hearing will take place in the main courtroom of the Tribunal and is open to the public. Members of the diplomatic and consular corps and general public are welcome to attend. They are requested to [register](#) in advance.

Accreditation for media representatives

Members of the press are welcome to attend the hearing but are requested to [register](#) in advance with the Press Office using the accreditation form that is available on the [website](#) of the Tribunal.

Unobtrusive audio and video recording of the public sitting is permitted. Filming is subject to special authorization from the Press Office. Facilities are available for radio crews to connect recording equipment directly to the Tribunal's audio system.

Webcast

The hearing will be broadcast [live](#) on the website. A recorded webcast of the hearing will be available under [Webcast Archives](#).

Note: The press releases of the Tribunal do not constitute official documents and are issued for information purposes only.

The press releases of the Tribunal, documents and other information are available on the Tribunal's websites (<http://www.itlos.org> and <http://www.tidm.org>) and from the Registry of the Tribunal. Please contact the Press Office at: Am Internationalen Seegerichtshof 1, 22609 Hamburg, Germany, Tel.: +49 (40) 35607-227; Fax: +49 (40) 35607-245; E-mail: press@itlos.org