



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

Press Release

APPLICATION FILED ON BEHALF OF PANAMA AGAINST YEMEN FOR RELEASE OF ARRESTED VESSEL

On 3 July 2001, an application was submitted to the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea under article 292 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea for the prompt release of a vessel flying the flag of Panama and its crew.

According to the Application, the *Chaisiri Reefer 2* was arrested for alleged violation of fishery laws on 3 May 2001 by Yemeni coastguard officials while leaving the port of Mukalla (Yemen), bound for Thailand. The vessel was ordered to sail back to Mukalla, where the cargo of 765.74 metric tons of frozen fish (cuttlefish and mixed fish), valued at US\$ 950,332, was off-loaded. The Application further states that, on 16 June 2001, the Yemen Court of Public Assets delivered a judgment ordering the release of the vessel and the payment of a commercial guarantee and that, on the same day, the shipowners of the vessel supplied the commercial guarantee. The Application, however, states that the vessel has not yet been released and the captain and the 15 man crew are being held onboard. The captain is of Burmese nationality and the crew of Thai nationality.

Panama requests the Tribunal to order the immediate release of the vessel and its cargo and crew. A copy of the Application has been transmitted to the Government of Yemen, the respondent in the case.

The Application contains a request that the case be dealt with by the Chamber of Summary Procedure, a standing Chamber of the Tribunal composed of five of its Members. Pursuant to article 112, paragraph 2, of the Rules of the Tribunal, the Chamber will deal with the case provided that, within five days of the receipt of notice of the Application, the detaining State notifies the Tribunal that it concurs with the request. If no notification is received within the time-limit the case will be dealt with by the full Tribunal.

Pursuant to article 112, paragraph 3, of the Rules of the Tribunal, the President will fix the dates of the hearing at the earliest possible date within a period of 15 days commencing with the first working day following the date on which the Application is received. In accordance with article 112, paragraph 4, of the Rules, the Judgment in the case will be delivered at a public sitting, to be held no later than 14 days after the closure of the hearing.

(more)

The Press Releases of the Tribunal, documents and other information are available on the United Nations website: <http://www.un.org/Depts/los/> and from the Registry of the Tribunal. Please contact Mr. Robert van Dijk or Ms. Julia Pope at Am Internationalen Seegerichtshof 1, 22609 Hamburg, Germany, Tel.: (49) (40) 35607-228/227, Fax: (49) (40) 35607-245/275; E-mail: press@itlos.org

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