



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

Press Release

APPLICATION FILED ON BEHALF OF SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES AGAINST GUINEA-BISSAU FOR THE RELEASE OF THE ARRESTED VESSEL *JUNO TRADER* AND ITS CREW

The International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea has received an application, submitted on behalf of the Government of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines against the Government of Guinea-Bissau under article 292 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, for the release of the *Juno Trader*, a reefer vessel flying the flag of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and 19 members of its crew.

According to the Application the *Juno Trader* was boarded by members of the navy of Guinea-Bissau on 26 September 2004, while traversing the exclusive economic zone of Guinea-Bissau, for the alleged infringement of national legislation on fishing in the maritime waters of Guinea-Bissau. The vessel was brought into Bissau, where it is still detained. The crew of Russian and Ukrainian nationality are currently being detained on board the vessel, with the exception of one crew member who was injured during the arrest. An order of confiscation has been issued for the cargo of approximately 1,183 metric tonnes of frozen fish found on board the vessel. The Applicant maintains that the fish had been legally caught by a fishing vessel in the exclusive economic zone of Mauritania and that the cargo had subsequently been transhipped onto the *Juno Trader*, which was engaged in transporting the cargo to its owners in Ghana when the arrest took place.

The Applicant requests the Tribunal to order the release of the *Juno Trader* and the 19 members of its crew either without issuing a bond or upon the posting of a reasonable bond.

Pursuant to article 112, paragraph 3, of the Rules of the Tribunal, the President shall fix the dates of the hearing at the earliest possible date within a period of 15 days from the first working day following the date of receipt of the Application. By Order of today's date, the President of the Tribunal, Judge Dolliver Nelson, fixed 1 and 2 December 2004 as the dates for the hearing. The Tribunal will deliver its Judgment at a public sitting of the Tribunal, to be held no later than 14 days after the closure of the hearing.

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 Ms. Julia Pope at Am Internationalen Seegerichtshof 1, 22609 Hamburg, Germany, Tel.: +49 (40) 35607-227, Fax: +49 (40) 35607-245; E-mail: press@itlos.org

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