



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

Press Release

**PUBLIC HEARING TO BE HELD IN *THE M/V "LOUISA" CASE*
(*SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES V. SPAIN*)
ON 10 AND 11 DECEMBER 2010
LIVE WEBCAST OF THE HEARINGS ON THE TRIBUNAL'S WEBSITE**

Hamburg, 8 December 2010. The public hearing in *The M/V "Louisa" Case (Saint Vincent and the Grenadines v. Spain)* will open on Friday, 10 December at 2:30 p.m. Judge José Luis Jesus, President of the Tribunal, will preside. The public hearings will be transmitted live on the Tribunal's website.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines instituted proceedings in *The M/V "Louisa" Case* before the Tribunal on 24 November 2010. The Applicant simultaneously submitted a request for the prescription of provisional measures under article 290, paragraph 1, of the Convention, in which it requested the Tribunal, *inter alia*, to order the Respondent to release the *MV Louisa* and return the property seized. The hearing on 10 and 11 December 2010 will be devoted to the request for provisional measures.

The schedule for the hearings is as follows:

First round of oral argument:

Friday, 10 December 2010

2:30 p.m – 6:15 p.m.: Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

Saturday, 11 December 2010

9:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.: Spain

Second round of oral argument:

Saturday, 11 December 2010

3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.: Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

7p.m. – 8 p.m.: Spain

The verbatim records of the hearings will be [published](#) on the website of the Tribunal. The hearings can also be [viewed live](#) on the website.

History of the proceedings

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines instituted proceedings against Spain on 24 November 2010, regarding the *MV Louisa*, a vessel flying the flag of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, which was arrested on 1 February 2006 by the Spanish authorities. According to the Applicant, the *MV Louisa* was involved in conducting sonar and cesium magnetic surveys of the sea floor of the Bay of Cadiz in order to locate and record indications of oil and methane gas. The Applicant states that the vessel was arrested for alleged violations of Spain's historical patrimony or marine environment laws, that various members of the crew were also arrested but have since been released and that the vessel is being held without bond in the port of El Puerto de Santa Maria. The Applicant maintains that the vessel was involved in scientific research with a valid permit from the coastal State. The Applicant claims that Spain has violated articles 73, 87, 226, 245 and 303 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and requests the Tribunal to award damages in the amount of "not less than \$10,000,000".

Attending the hearings

The hearings will be held in the main courtroom of the Tribunal and are open to the public. Members of the diplomatic and consular corps, press and general public are welcome to attend but are requested to [register](#) in advance with the Press Office.

Accreditation for media representatives

Members of the press are welcome to attend the hearings 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 hearings is possible. 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.

Press information will be available at the sitting itself, or from the Press Office.

Webcast

The hearings will be transmitted [live](#) on the website of the Tribunal. Short interludes in transmission may occur due to congestion on the Tribunal's site. A recorded webcast of the hearings will be available after each sitting under [Webcast Archives](#).

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