



INTL. COURT OF JUSTICE

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ICJ OVERVIEW

The purposes of the ICJ are to mediate disputes between states (member countries), and to provide advice to the General Assembly on issues relating to international law. The ICJ both at the UN and at KUNA deal with two kinds of cases:

ADVISORY

The General Assembly, and other bodies of the United Nations, may request Advisory Opinions from the Court in order to clarify a point of International Law or procedure. Such cases are not directed at specific states, although the decision of the court theoretically applies to all states within the United Nations.

This Year's Case: Legal Consequences of the Construction of a Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (2004)

The case before the International Court of Justice concerns the legality of a barrier being constructed by Israel in the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

The Court is being asked to determine whether the construction of the wall violates international law and what legal obligations arise for Israel and other states as a result.

CONTENTIOUS

Cases in which two or more states (member countries) are in disagreement about a point of International Law or treaty requirements.

This Year's Case: Case Concerning Application of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide: Croatia v. Serbia (2015)

The case before the International Court of Justice involves Croatia accusing Serbia of committing genocide during the 1991–1995 conflict following the breakup of Yugoslavia, with Serbia submitting a counterclaim against Croatia.

The Court is being asked to determine whether actions by either side meet the legal definition of genocide under the Genocide Convention.

When not participating in oral argument rounds, ICJ Advocates work in the UN Office of Legal Affairs to determine which resolutions are within the purview of the United Nations.