



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

Press Release

TWO APPLICATIONS FILED AT THE TRIBUNAL BY JAPAN AGAINST THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION FOR RELEASE OF TWO ARRESTED FISHING VESSELS

Two applications were submitted today, Friday, 6 July, 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 release of two fishing vessels flying the Japanese flag.

The first application concerns the release of the 88th *Hoshinmaru* and of 17 members of its crew. The second application concerns the release of the 53rd *Tomimaru*.

According to the applications, the 88th *Hoshinmaru* and the 53rd *Tomimaru* were boarded by officials from a Russian coastguard patrol boat in the Russian exclusive economic zone for alleged violations of Russian fisheries legislation on 1 June 2007 and 31 October 2006, respectively. They were then rerouted to the port of Petropavlovsk-Kamchatskii, where they are still detained. The crew of the 53rd *Tomimaru* was allowed to leave Petropavlovsk-Kamchatskii; however, the crew of the 88th *Hoshinmaru* is still detained there.

Pursuant to article 112, paragraph 3, of the Rules of the Tribunal, the dates of the public hearing shall be fixed by the President of the Tribunal at the earliest possible date within a period of 15 days from the first working day following the date of receipt of the Application. Pursuant to article 112, paragraph 4, of the Rules of the Tribunal, the Judgment will be read 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 Ritter:

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