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October 13, 2008

ICJ receives UN request concerning Kosovo independence

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The International Court of Justice (ICJ) in The Hague on Friday received a request from the United Nations General Assembly for an advisory opinion on the unilateral proclamation of the independence of Kosovo.

The ICJ announced on its website that its Secretariat was officially asked, as the top legal UN institution, to provide its opinion on the question: "Is the unilateral declaration of independence by the Provisional Institutions of Self-Government of Kosovo in accordance with international law?"

The opinion is sought by the UN General Assembly, which adopted Serbia 's proposal, at a session on October 8 by majority vote, that this question should be forwarded to the ICJ.

The ICJ statement said the Court will address UN members and relevant organizations to provide their stands on the independence of Kosovo in written form, and that a debate will be organized in The Hague before the ICJ takes the final decision.