



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

# Press Release

## **THE M/T "SAN PADRE PIO" (NO. 2) CASE (SWITZERLAND/NIGERIA)**

### **CASE REMOVED FROM TRIBUNAL'S LIST**

On 29 December 2021, by Order of the President of the Tribunal, Judge Albert Hoffmann, the *M/T "San Padre Pio" (No. 2) Case* was removed from the Tribunal's list of cases.

The proceedings in the *M/T "San Padre Pio" (No. 2) Case* were instituted on 17 December 2019 by a special agreement concluded between Switzerland and Nigeria to submit to the Tribunal their dispute concerning the arrest and detention of the *M/T "San Padre Pio"*, its crew and cargo.

By letter addressed to the Registrar dated 10 December 2021, the Agent of Switzerland informed the Tribunal that, in accordance with a Memorandum of Understanding signed by Switzerland and Nigeria on 20 May 2021,

*the proceedings of the M/T "San Padre Pio" (No. 2) case (Switzerland/Nigeria) (Case No 29) before the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea shall be discontinued from the moment that the M/T "San Padre Pio" enters the high seas, or the territorial sea or Exclusive Economic Zone of another State.*

In the said letter, the Agent of Switzerland also informed the Tribunal that "as of 10 December 2021, the vessel *M/T 'San Padre Pio'* exited the exclusive economic zone of Nigeria, and entered the exclusive economic zone of Bénin", and that, in accordance with the terms of the Memorandum of Understanding,

Switzerland requests the Tribunal to record the discontinuance of the *M/T "San Padre Pio" (No. 2) case (Switzerland/Nigeria) (Case No 29)* in accordance with Article 105 of the ITLOS Rules and to remove the case from Tribunal's List of cases.

By letter addressed to the Registrar dated 24 December 2021, filed in the Registry on 27 December 2021, the Agent of Nigeria indicated that, "on the 10<sup>th</sup> of December, 2021, *San Padre Pio* was released and departed the Maritime space of Nigeria and entered the Exclusive Economic Zone of Benin Republic" and that "[o]n this basis therefore, Nigeria has no objection whatsoever to the discontinuance of the case by the Tribunal as already notified by Switzerland."

In accordance with article 105 of the Rules of the Tribunal, the Order adopted by the President of the Tribunal on 29 December 2021 places on record the discontinuance, by agreement of the Parties, of the proceedings initiated by Switzerland and Nigeria on 17 December 2019, and orders that the case be removed from the Tribunal's list of cases. The Order is available on the [website](#) of the Tribunal.

Note: The press releases of the Tribunal do not constitute official documents and are issued for information purposes only.

The press releases of the Tribunal, documents and other information are available on the Tribunal's website (<http://www.itlos.org> and <http://www.tidm.org>) and from the Registry of the Tribunal. Please contact Ms Julia Ritter or Mr Robert Steenkamp at: Am Internationalen Seegerichtshof 1, 22609 Hamburg, Germany, Tel.: +49 (40) 35607-227; Fax: +49 (40) 35607-245; E-mail: [press@itlos.org](mailto:press@itlos.org)