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## JURISDICTION AND COMPLIANCE IN RECENT DECISIONS OF THE INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

OGUNO, Paschal

Faculty of Law, Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University,  
Igbariam Campus, Anambra State, Nigeria.

### ABSTRACT

The International Court of Justice (ICJ) was established in June 1945 by the UN Charter but began work in April 1946. It is located at The Hague in the Netherlands. The ICJ serves as the principal judicial organ of the UN. It settles legal disputes between states and gives advisory opinions to the UN and its specialized agencies. Its Statute is an integral part of the UN Charter. The official languages of the Court are English and French. The International Court of Justice has been criticized as being plagued by too many expectations and too little power. It has been criticized as being an ineffective player in achieving international peace and security, largely because of its inability to control states' behaviour which has been blamed over the years on the jurisdictional design of the ICJ based on consent. In analyzing and comparing the Court's decisions in two landmark cases of *Nicaragua v. USA* and *Cameroun v. Nigeria*. This paper seeks to portray that in spite of this position by many scholars and jurists, the ICJ is still a vital institution for the resolution of inter-state disputes and a force for world public order.

*Keywords:* Jurisdiction, ICJ, UN Charter, Court Decisions.