

PRESS RELEASE

Sea Shepherd denied access hearings International Court of Justice

Amsterdam, 15 July 2013 – Today and tomorrow the last public hearings in the case *Whaling in the Antarctic (Australia v. Japan)* at the International Court of Justice in The Hague will take place.

Mr Geert Vons, General Director of Sea Shepherd Netherlands, has been exceptionally granted written permission by the International Court of Justice to attend these hearings in the Great Hall of Justice in The Hague, given Sea Shepherd's unique involvement in this case.

This morning however, Sea Shepherd was denied access to the Great Hall of Justice, both for today's and tomorrow's hearings, for 'technical reasons' without further explanation. A spokesperson for the Court later stated that the public area has been closed and denied to comment on the reasons.

The case *Whaling in the Antarctic* originated in the institution by Australia of proceedings against Japan, alleging – in short - that Japan's large-scale whaling program is in breach of Japan's obligations under, inter alia, the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling.

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