

My topic is on the dispute between Cambodia and Thailand concerning the Preah Vihear temple.

After Cambodia's independence Thailand occupied the 900 year old Hindu temple in 1954

In 1962 it was found that the temple is situated in the territory under the sovereignty of Cambodia and Thailand must remove its military stationed at the temple.

In April 2011 Cambodia requested the ICJ to explain the meaning of the of the 1962 Judgment.

- The reason they asked this was because although Thailand recognizes Cambodia's sovereignty over the temple they do not believe that sovereignty goes beyond the temple. This means Thailand thinks the land around the temple is not under Cambodia's sovereignty

The reason for the interpretation of

- At least 28 people were killed in outbreaks of violence since 2011

Tens of thousands of people were displaced in the 2011 fighting

- Tourists were still allowed to visit the temple through the Cambodian territory but journalists were not allowed in.
- The cambodian villagers that lived near the temple were always on edge and had prepared bunkers and some people evacuated houses because of the dangers

The reason for this dispute initially was the borders on the original maps drawn by a Cambodian French colonial and another by Thailand. Both of these maps put the temple and surrounding land in the Cambodian territory but later on Thailand said the maps were not official.

- A more recent dispute started with trying to get the temple listed as a UNESCO World Heritage site. Thailand wanted it to be a joint Thai-Cambodia listing but it was denied. This enraged the Thai nationalists and fighting started.

On Nov. 11, 2013 the ICJ ruled that Cambodia has sovereignty over the entire territory of the Preah Vihear Temple.