



Case No. 2015-726

Abdullah
(Applicant)

v.

Commissioner-General
of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency
for Palestine Refugees in the Near East
(Respondent)

ORDER No. 231 (2015)

1. On 19 April 2015, the Dispute Tribunal of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA DT and UNRWA, respectively) rendered Judgment No. UNRWA/DT/2015/025 in the case of Abdullah v. Commissioner-General of UNRWA. The UNRWA DT granted the application of Mr. Mohammad Mustafa Abd Alla ¹ and rescinded UNRWA's decision to not inform him of the results of the investigation of his complaint, but denied his request for compensation.
2. On 23 April 2015, the Registry of the UNRWA DT transmitted the Arabic translation of the Judgment to Mr. Abdullah. On 14 May 2015, the UNRWA DT Registry transmitted a Corrigendum to the UNRWA DT Judgment together with the corrected Judgment No. UNRWA/DT/2015/025/Corr.1. On 2 June 2015, Mr. Abdullah submitted an application for interpretation of the corrected Judgment.
3. On 4 June 2015, Mr. Abdullah filed a motion with the United Nations Appeals Tribunal (Appeals Tribunal) requesting an extension of time of 60 days from receipt of the UNRWA DT's interpretation to file his appeal. He contends that his decision of whether to appeal the UNRWA DT Judgment will depend on the outcome of the application for interpretation.

¹ Mr. Abdullah's name is spelt differently in the UNRWA DT Judgment and the various filings and annexes. For the sake of consistency, will adhere to the spelling by the UNRWA DT.

4. Pursuant to Article 7(3) of the Statute of the Appeals Tribunal (Statute), “[t]he Appeals Tribunal may decide in writing, upon written request by the applicant, to suspend or waive the deadlines for a limited period of time and only in exceptional cases”. This Tribunal has repeatedly held that it “has been strictly enforcing, and will continue to strictly enforce, the various time limits”.²

5. Having considered the circumstances of Mr. Abdullah’s case, I find no merit in his request. Mr. Abdullah merely points to the fact that his request for interpretation is pending and advances no reasons as to why in his specific circumstances, a time extension is indeed warranted. A pending request for interpretation of a Dispute Tribunal judgment does not, as such, constitute an exceptional case within the meaning of Article 7(3) of the Statute. Finding otherwise would severely undermine the statutory deadline to appeal and allow staff members to circumvent the deadline simply by filing a request for interpretation. Moreover, as the Appeals Tribunal cannot predict when the UNRWA DT will dispose of Mr. Abdullah’s request for interpretation, his request is, accordingly, an open-ended extension of time.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Mr. Abdullah’s motion for an extension of time IS DENIED .

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that, due to the delay in addressing Mr. Abdullah’s request for an extension of time, he will be given an additional ten days, or until 23 July 2015 , to file an appeal. No further requests for an extension of time will be entertained.

Original and Authoritative Version: English

Dated this 2nd day of July 2015
in Geneva, Switzerland.

(Signed)
Judge Rosalyn Chapman, President

Entered in the Register on this 2nd day of
July 2015 in Geneva, Switzerland.

(Signed)
Weicheng Lin, Registrar