



Case No. 2012-419

Abdel Rahman
(Appellant)

v.

Commissioner-General
of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency

(Respondent)

5. On 15 July 2013, the Registry again requested Mr. Abdel Rahman, through his counsel, to file his appeal brief, setting a deadline of 1 August 2013, failing which this Tribunal would consider the appeal to have been abandoned. Mr. Abdel Rahman was also asked to provide an explanation for the delay in filing the appeal brief.

6. On 1 August 2013, Mr. Abdel Rahman filed his appeal brief; however, he did not explain the delay in filing the brief.

7. On 11 September 2013, in response to the Registry's further request for an explanation for the delay in filing the brief, Mr. Abdel Rahman advised that he was not previously aware that an appeal brief was required.

8. On 8 October 2013, at the Registry's request, Mr. Abdel Rahman filed a motion requesting this Tribunal to waive the time limits for filing his appeal brief on the ground of exceptional circumstances.

9. On 31 August 2015, the Registry served Mr. Abdel Rahman's appeal form, appeal brief, supporting annexes and motion to waive the time limits for filing his appeal brief on the Commissioner-General and requested comments solely with respect to the motion.

10. On 9 September 2015, the Commissioner-General filed his comments and opposed the request on the basis that Mr. Abdel Rahman had failed to establish any exceptional circumstances justifying it.

11. Article 8(1) of the Rules of Procedure of the Appeals Tribunal (Rules) provides that appeals shall be submitted on a prescribed form, and Article 8(2) mandates that "[t]he appeal form shall be accompanied by [a] brief that explains the legal basis of any of the five grounds for appeal set out in article 2.1 of the statute of the Appeals Tribunal".

12.

13. Article 30 of the Rules allows this Tribunal to shorten or extend a time limit “when the interests of justice so require”. Further, Article 18*bis* of the Rules provides that “[t]he President may, at any time, either on a motion of a party or on his or her own volition, issue any order which appears to be appropriate for the fair and expeditious management of the case and to do justice to the parties”.

14. While the Appeals Tribunal has repeatedly and consistently held that it “will continue to strictly enforce ... the various time limits”,² based on the extraordinary circumstances of this particular case, including the Registry’s ongoing communications with