



# UNITED NATIONS APPEALS TRIBUNAL TRIBUNAL D'APPEL DES NATIONS UNIES

Case Nos. 2015-770 and 2015-772 through 2015-783

**Bhatia *et al.***

**vs.**

**Secretary-General of the United Nations**

**ORDER No. 250/Corr.1 (2016)**

**Case Management - Consolidation**

1. On 24 March 2015, the United Nations Dispute Tribunal (UNDT or Dispute Tribunal) in Geneva issued Summary Judgment No. UNDT/2015/024, in respect of 19 individual applications filed by staff members of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) based in India, in which they challenged a local salary survey and the resulting salary freeze. The UNDT consolidated the 19 applications and issued a single judgment addressing them, as they “concern[ed] identical decisions, rel[ied] on common facts and raise[d] the same questions of fact and law”. The Dispute Tribunal concluded the 19 applications were not receivable *ratione materiae*.

2. Of the 19 applicants, Amandeep Singh Bhatia, Veerapathiran Chelliahpillai, Priya Rozario, Ankush Kakkar, Minou Verghese, Anup Bhardwaj, Satish Sehgal, Bhuvana Balasubramanian, Ajit Dogra, Kalpana Tawakley, Shuchita Mehta, Satchithananda Valan Michael and Arvind Kumar (Bhatia *et al.*) have filed separate, almost identical appeals against Judgment No. UNDT/2015/024.

3. On 8 September 2015, the Secretary-General submitted a consolidated answer to the 13 appeals filed by Bhatia *et al.*<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> The Secretary-General is admonished for filing a consolidated answer without the prior permission of the Appeals Tribunal; it is not the Secretary-General's prerogative, as a party. The Registry should not have filed the consolidated answer, and the Secretary-General is advised that, in the future, a consolidated answer will not be filed by the Registry without an order from the Tribunal allowing such filing.

*Reissued for technical reasons on 2 March 2016.*

4. Article 18*bis*, subsection 1, of the Appeals Tribunal Rules of Procedure, 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”.

5. In light of the fact that all the appeals before us challenge the same UNDT Judgment - Summary Judgment No. UNDT/2015/024 - and the UNDT had consolidated the staff members’ applications based on their employment affiliation, the Appeals Tribunal finds that it is “appropriate for the fair and expeditious management of the case and to do justice to the parties” to consolidate these 13 appeals for all purposes.

**IT IS HEREBY ORDERED** that the appeals filed by Bhatia *et al.*, case Nos. 2015-770 and 2015-772 through 2015-783 should be consolidated for all purposes.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that any further filings and submissions by any of the parties should be filed under case No. 2015-770, the first of the 13 appeals filed, and that any orders and judgment in this consolidated matter will be issued under case No. 2015-770.

Original and Authoritative Version: English

Dated this 19<sup>th</sup> day of January 2016  
in Los Angeles, California.

(Signed)  
Judge Rosalyn Chapman,  
President

Entered in the Register on this 19<sup>th</sup> day of  
January 2016 in New York, United States.

(Signed)  
Weicheng Lin, Registrar