



---

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

---

Case No. 2017-1131

**Al-Ashi**

**(Appellant)**

**v.**

**Commissioner-General**

**of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency  
for Palestine Refugees in the Near East**

**(Respondent)**

**Order No. 306 (2018)**

1. On 16 October 2017, the Dispute Tribunal of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA or Agency, respectively) issued Judgment No. UNRWA/DT/2017/032 in *Al-Ashi v. Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East*. Mr. Ali Al-Ashi appealed the Judgment on 19 November 2017 to the United Nations Appeals Tribunal (Appeals Tribunal). The appeal was transmitted to the Commissioner-General on 20 November 2017. The time limit for filing an answer in terms of Article 9(3) of the Appeals Tribunal Rules of Procedure (Rules) is 60 days and the answer was therefore due 19 January 2018.

2. On 23 January 2018, the Commissioner-General filed a motion requesting a waiver of time limits and for leave to file an answer to the appeal. In support of his request, the Commissioner-General explains that it has not been possible to finalize and file an answer to the appeal timeously because since 17 January 2018 there has been ongoing strike action at the UNRWA West Bank Field Office, Jerusalem (where the Department of Legal Affairs is based). The strike has prevented staff from gaining access to their offices, with the consequence that counsel for the Commissioner-General has not been able to access the relevant documents and facilities needed to prepare and file the

answer by the due date. The Commissioner-General requests that he be granted 15 days from the date of the issuance of this Order to file his answer.

3. Under Article 30 of the Rules, “the President or the panel hearing a case may shorten or extend a time limit fixed by the rules of procedure or waive any rule when the interests of justice so require”.

4. The Commissioner-General has shown good cause for an extension of the time limit fixed by Article 9(3) of the Rules. The grant of an extension of 15 days will not prejudice the Appellant as it is improbable that such will delay the hearing of the appeal. It accordingly will be in the interests of justice to extend the time limit.

5. For the foregoing reasons, I grant the Commissioner-General’s motion and order that, under Article 30 of the Rules, he shall be entitled to file an answer to Mr. Al-Ashi’s appeal within 15 days of the date of this order.

**IT IS HEREBY ORDERED** that the Commissioner-General’s answer to the appeal, if any, should be submitted no later than 13 February 2018, COB.

Original and Authoritative Version: English  
Dated 29<sup>th</sup> day of January 2018  
in Cape Town, South Africa.

*(Signed)*  
Judge John Murphy,  
President

Entered in the Register on this 29<sup>th</sup> day of  
January 2018 in New York, United States.

*(Signed)*  
Weicheng Lin, Registrar