



UNITED NATIONS APPEALS TRIBUNAL TRIBUNAL D'APPEL DES NATIONS UNIES

Case No. 2021-1555

Ratnanjali Venkata Koduru

(Applicant)

v.

Secretary-General of the United Nations

(Respondent)

ORDER No. 410 (2021)

1. On 9 March 2021, the United Nations Dispute Tribunal in New York rendered Judgment No. UNDT/2021/022 in the case of *Koduru v. Secretary-General of the United Nations*, in which the Dispute Tribunal rejected Ms. Ratnanjali Venkata Koduru's application contesting her "separation from service" upon the expiry of her fixed-term contract.
2. On 10 May 2021, Ms. Koduru filed a request for suspension, waiver or extension to file her appeal. She states that the United Nations Joint Staff Fund declared her disabled due to mental health issues on 20 April 2020. Her attachments include an estimate of her disability benefits and some letters prepared by her treating psychiatrist in May 2020 and in May 2021. According to Ms. Koduru, she wants to appeal the UNDT Judgment, but her health condition has not allowed her to file her appeal within the time limit. She therefore requests a six-month extension as of 11 May 2021 for her to prepare her appeal.
3. Article 7(1)(c) of the Statute provides that an appeal must be filed within 60 calendar days of the receipt of the judgment of the Dispute Tribunal, or where the Appeals Tribunal has decided to waive or suspend that deadline in accordance with paragraph 3 of Article 7, within the period specified by the Appeals Tribunal.

4. Paragraph 3 of Article 7 states that the 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.

5. Under Article 7(4) of our Statute, the Appeals Tribunal can exercise its powers, upon written request by the appellant, to waive the time limit to file an appeal, up to one year after the contested UNDT Judgment.

6. Having reviewed the circumstances of the present case, I find that Ms. Koduru's arguments merit attention, so as to allow her some extension of time. It is understandable that, in her delicate situation, revisiting documents and notes is a considerable task that requires time and energy which can be a real challenge for a mentally disabled person.

7. However, I find a six-month extension as requested is excessive. In the interests of justice and considering Ms. Koduru's personal situation, I have decided to grant her request, but for a shorter period of another 60 days, which will double the amount of time ordinarily specified in the law.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Ms. Koduru's request is partially **GRANTED**. She is to file her appeal within 60 days of the date of this Order, i.e., no later than 13 July 2021.

Original and Authoritative Version: English

Dated this 14th day of May 2021
Juiz de Fora, Brazil.

(Signed)
Judge Martha Halfeld,
President

Entered in the Register on this 14th day
of May 2021 in New York, United States.

(Signed)
Weicheng Lin, Registrar