



UNITED NATIONS APPEALS TRIBUNAL TRIBUNAL D'APPEL DES NATIONS UNIES

Case No. 2025-2010

Jonathan Hall

(Appellant)

v.

Secretary-General

of the International Seabed Authority

(Respondent)

ORDER No. 601 (2025)

1. On 27 March 2025, Mr. Jonathan Hall filed an appeal of the Decision ISBA/JAB/APPELLANTS/2025, issued by the Joint Appeals Board (JAB) of the International Seabed Authority (ISA) in the matter of *Khalilah Hackman, Jonathan Hall, Giovanni Ardito, David Pusztai v. Secretary-General of the International Seabed Authority* (impugned Decision).

2. In the impugned Decision, the JAB addressed a joint application filed by Mr. Hall, together with three other individuals, seeking a suspension of action on decisions taken by ISA to terminate their appointments. Mr. Hall sought a suspension of the ISA's decision to unilaterally withdraw his appointment to the position of Partnership Coordinator (at the P-3 level), which was communicated to him on 2 January 2025, when the appointment was effective only the day before, on 1 January 2025. Mr. Hall also requested that the JAB halt any new recruitment by ISA for the position that he held.

3. In the impugned Decision, the JAB recalled that under the relevant ISA Staff Rule 11.2(c)(ii), a request for a suspension of action must meet two conditions: (i) the contested decision has not been implemented; and (ii) its implementation would result in irreparable injury. The JAB concluded that suspension of action was not possible because the contested decision – the withdrawal or termination of their appointments – had

already been executed.¹ Moreover, the JAB concluded that the request to halt recruitment was moot because the positions were restructured and did not exist in the same form.² The JAB thus dismissed the application for suspension of action.

4. On 1 March 2025, Mr. Hall filed a request for reconsideration with the JAB, noting that ISA had advertised his position on 25 February 2025, proving that in fact his position did still exist. Mr. Hall requested that the JAB reconsider its ruling and issue a decision to halt the ongoing recruitment. On 4 March 2025, the JAB found the request for reconsideration not receivable under the ISA legal framework.³

5. Mr. Hall's appeal of the impugned Decision and related Order was lodged as Case No. 2025-2010 with the United Nations Appeals Tribunal (UNAT or Appeals Tribunal).

6. On 2 April 2025, Mr. Hall filed a Motion for Interim Measures (Motion) in which he requested that the UNAT suspend ISA's decision to terminate his appointment, suspend the recruitment for his position, and prohibit the reclassification/restructuring of his position pending the resolution of the appeal in Case No. 2025-2010.

7. On 11 April 2025, the Secretary-General of ISA filed her Response to the Motion.

Submissions

8. Mr. Hall submits that contrary to the JAB's factual finding, ISA is currently conducting a recruitment for his position. He argues that this creates the obvious and imminent risk of irreversibly undermining his reinstatement. Mr. Hall seeks to preserve the availability of reinstatement relief should his appeal be successful.

9. In its Response to the Motion dated 11 April 2025, ISA raises a variety of arguments. One of those arguments is that, pursuant to the Special Agreement between the United Nations and ISA, the United Nations Appeals Tribunal does not have jurisdiction to pass judgment on a motion for interim relief.

¹ Impugned Decision, para. 50.

² *Ibid.*, para. 53.

³ *Jonathan Hall v. Secretary-General of the International Seabed Authority*, JAB Order on request for review, dated 4 March 2025.

10. On 24 April 2025, Mr. Hall sent a letter to the President of the UNAT noting that ISA had raised a variety of jurisdictional arguments in its Response, and he requested leave to submit a three-page comment addressing these points. Mr. Hall noted that this case presents novel issues concerning the justice system of ISA.

Decision

11. Based on my review of the file, I had already taken note that the jurisdictional issues raised by ISA are worthy of consideration by a three-judge panel. I have therefore decided to defer consideration of the Motion for Interim Measures to the UNAT's 2025 Summer Session.

12. Although Mr. Hall did not properly file a Motion for Additional Pleadings, given my decision, this requirement is dispensed with for the purposes of this case.

13. Mr. Hall is granted 10 days from the issuance of this Order to file any comments, not to exceed three pages in length, on the jurisdictional arguments raised by ISA in their Response to his Motion.

14. Upon receipt of Mr. Hall's comments, ISA will be granted 10 days to file a three-page reply to Mr. Hall's comments.

15. Both parties are reminded that all submissions should follow the line spacing, font-size and other formatting requirements set out in paragraphs 7-9 of UNAT Practice Direction No. 1.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Original and Authoritative Version: English

Decision dated this 30th day of April 2025 in Paris,
France.

(Signed)
Judge Nassib G. Ziadé
President

Order published and entered in the Register on this
30th day April 2025 in New York, United States.

(Signed)
Juliet E. Johnson,
Registrar