



UNITED NATIONS APPEALS TRIBUNAL TRIBUNAL D'APPEL DES NATIONS UNIES

Case No. 2025-2029

ABF¹

(Appellant)

v.

Secretary-General of the United Nations

(Respondent)

Order No. 606 (2025)

1. On 12 June 2025, ² ABF, a former staff member of the United Nations Secretariat, filed an interlocutory appeal of four orders issued by the United Nations Dispute Tribunal (Dispute Tribunal or UNDT) in Geneva. These orders were issued in anticipation of a hearing before the UNDT on the merits of ABF's application.
2. First, ABF seeks the rescission of Order No. 50 (GVA/2025), to the extent that this Order denied certain document production requests, the admission of several annexes to her rejoinder, and refused ABF access to her United Nations e-mail account.
3. Second, ABF seeks the rescission of Order No. 60 (GVA/2025), which denied ABF's request for a joint list of agreed and disagreed facts.
4. Third, ABF seeks the rescission of Order No. 61 (GVA/2025), in which the Dispute Tribunal denied her motion for reconsideration.
5. Fourth, ABF seeks the rescission of Order No. 63 (GVA/2025), in which the Dispute Tribunal denied ABF's request for in-person attendance by ABF and witnesses in a courtroom in New York for the hearing.
6. On 24 June 2025, ABF filed a Motion seeking to increase the page limit of her appeal brief from five pages, which is the page limit for briefs for interlocutory appeals pursuant to Article 8(2)(a) of the Appeals Tribunal Rules of Procedure (Rules), to 10

¹ ABF was granted anonymity by the UNDT, which remains in effect unless successfully challenged in the future by the Respondent. See UNAT Practice Direction no. 1, para. 32.

² The appeal was refiled on 23 June 2025 on instruction from UNAT Registry, to conform with filing requirements.

pages. ABF acknowledges the page limit but submits that an increase to 10 pages is reasonable given that she is appealing four separate UNDT orders, not just one. Moreover, Order No. 50 (GVA/2025) deals with multiple issues.

7. On 7 July 2025, the Secretary-General filed his Response to the Motion, noting that pursuant to Article 14 of the Rules, the President of the Appeals Tribunal has the authority to waive the requirements addressing written pleadings, provided that it does not affect the substance of the case.

8. The Secretary-General has no objection to the increase in the length of the appeal brief; however, he requests that if the Appeals Tribunal grants ABF's Motion, that the Secretary-General also be permitted to submit a longer answer brief.

9. Under Article 14 of the Rules, "the President may waive the requirements of any article of the rules of procedure dealing with written proceedings".

10. Article 8(2)(a) of the Rules provides that: "The brief that accompanies an appeal against an interlocutory order of the Dispute Tribunal shall not exceed five pages".

11. It is plain from the use of the singular "order" in Article 8(2)(a), that the Rules anticipated that an interlocutory appeal will normally be filed against one discrete order, and consequently, that five pages is sufficient for such a submission.

12. Given that ABF has filed an appeal of not one, but four, UNDT orders, and given that the Secretary-General has no objection to the requested length of the appeal brief, I consider it reasonable to increase the page limit for the appeal brief, and that ten pages is a judicious length. The same terms should apply to any answer filed by the Secretary-General.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the Appellant's motion is **GRANTED** and the parties are each permitted to file briefs of no more than 10 pages.

Original and Authoritative Version: English

Dated this 10th day of July 2025
in Washington D.C., United States

(Signed)
Judge Nassib Ziadé,
President

Entered in the Register on this 10th day of
July 2025 in New York, United States.

(Signed)
Juliet E. Johnson,
Registrar