

UNDT/2016/199, Nikwigize

UNAT Held or UNDT Pronouncements

The Tribunal rejected the application on the merits.

Decision Contested or Judgment/Order Appealed

The Applicant, a former Senior Programme Officer at the P-5 level in OHRLLS, filed an application contesting the decision issued on 17 December 2015 by the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Resources Management (“ASG/OHRM”) not to investigate his complaint of discrimination filed under the provisions of ST/SGB/2008/5 on 3 June 2015 against the USG/OHRLLS and a Director in OHRLLS.

Legal Principle(s)

N/AThe scope of the responsible official’s discretion when deciding whether dismiss a complaint under ST/SGB/2008/5 or call a fact-finding panel: Benfield-Laporte 2015-UNAT-505 is the leading case and the responsible official therefore, “has a degree of discretion as to how to conduct a review and assessment of a complaint and may decide whether an investigation regarding all or some of the charges is warranted. Where there was no risk of undermining the investigation, it is good practice to hear both sides in order to decide whether there are sufficient grounds to warrant establishing a formal fact-finding investigation and assigning a case to a panel”. The present case could not be distinguished from Benfield-Laporte 2015-UNAT-505 as the Applicant has not identified that the responsible official’s discretionary action created any “risk of undermining the investigation” (see Benfield-Laporte, para. 38, second sentence) and no evidence on the case record can be construed as leading to such inference.

Outcome

Dismissed on merits

Full judgment

[Full judgment](#)

Applicants/Appellants

Nikwigize

Entity

OHRLS

Case Number(s)

UNDT/NY/2016/22

Tribunal

UNDT

Registry

New York

Date of Judgement

3 Nov 2016

Duty Judge

Judge Greceanu

Language of Judgment

English

Issuance Type

Judgment

Categories/Subcategories

Disciplinary matters / misconduct
Discrimination and other improper motives
Investigation
Fact-finding investigation

Applicable Law

Secretary-General's bulletins

- ST/SGB/2008/5

UNDT RoP

- Article 7.1
- Article 7.2
- Article 7.3

UNDT Statute

- Article 3.1
- Article 8.1

Related Judgments and Orders

2010-UNAT-073
2011-UNAT-182
2013-UNAT-313
2013-UNAT-335
2015-UNAT-519
2011-UNAT-123
2014-UNAT-417
2015-UNAT-505
2015-UNAT-518