

UNDT/2023/101, Mutombo

UNAT Held or UNDT Pronouncements

The Tribunal established that there was no evidence to support the Administration's position. Therefore, the Tribunal held that the contested decision was arbitrary, capricious, and unlawful.

Regarding the Applicant's claim for damages, the Tribunal concluded that no evidence was presented by the Applicant and thus he failed to sustain his burden of both production and proof. As a result, the request for moral damages was denied.

In light of the Tribunal's findings, the Respondent was ordered to pay to the Applicant four months of interest on the money that was due to him, calculated at the US prime rate. The Applicant's claim for financial and moral damages was denied.

Decision Contested or Judgment/Order Appealed

The Applicant contested the decision dated 22 August 2022 by the Under-Secretary-General, Department of Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance, to delay the issuance of his Personnel/Payroll Clearance Action Form ("P.35") and the release of his Separation Notification Form ("PF.4") until the conclusion of investigations against him for possible fraud by the Office of Internal Oversight Services.

Legal Principle(s)

Pursuant to sections 5 and 10 of ST/AI/155/Rev.2 (Personnel payroll clearance action), the Administration is required, amongst others, to provide a staff member preparing to separate with a copy of ST/AI/155/Rev.2, completing form P.35 normally one month in advance of the last regular working day of the staff member, preparing the pension fund separation notification (PF.4) and sending it to the Secretariat of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund.

The appropriate remedy for delays in paying monetary entitlements is the award of damages. The Statute of the Dispute Tribunal expressly authorizes the award of compensation for harm, supported by evidence. The Applicant bears the burden to adduce sufficient evidence proving beyond a balance of probabilities the existence of factors causing harm to the victim's personality rights or dignity. That evidence may take many different forms.

Outcome

Judgment entered for Applicant in full or in part

Outcome Extra Text

The Respondent was ordered to pay to the Applicant four months of interest on the money that was due to him, calculated at the US prime rate.

Full judgment

[Full judgment](#)

Applicants/Appellants

Mutombo

Entity

MONUSCO

Case Number(s)

UNDT/NBI/2023/024

Tribunal

UNDT

Registry

Nairobi

Date of Judgement

12 Sep 2023

Duty Judge

Judge Wallace

Language of Judgment

English

Issuance Type

Judgment

Categories/Subcategories

Reasons

Evidence of harm

Delay

Investigation

Non-pecuniary (moral) damages

Administrative decision

Compensation

Due process

Applicable Law

Administrative Instructions

- ST/AI/155/Rev.2

Related Judgments and Orders

2017-UNAT-742

2020-UNAT-1069

UNDT/2021/125

UNDT/2017/043

UNDT/2011/144

UNDT/2016/100

2010-UNAT-059