

2025-UNAT-1553, Dua Smadi

UNAT Held or UNDT Pronouncements

The UNAT noted that the UNRWA DT, in its Judgment, had ordered the Commissioner-General to pay Ms. Smadi the difference between the salaries and associated entitlements between her Grade of HL6 and step and the Grade HL7 and step to which she was entitled from 1 August 2017.

The UNAT held that the language of the order was unequivocal, as were its terms. The UNAT found that it had been also clearly expressed in the UNRWA DT Judgment that the US Prime Rate should apply as of 30 May 2023. The UNAT found that the UNRWA DT Judgment, in turn, had been unambiguously affirmed by the Appeals Tribunal in Judgment No. 2024-UNAT-1415.

The UNAT concluded that there was no basis to contend that the terms of the UNRWA DT Judgment or the UNAT Judgment were not clear and held that there was no need to interpret the UNAT Judgment to clarify its meaning.

The UNAT dismissed the application for interpretation.

Decision Contested or Judgment/Order Appealed

A staff member of UNRWA contested a decision not to reclassify her post from Grade HL6 to Grade HL7.

In Judgment No. UNRWA/DT/2023/016, the UNRWA DT rescinded the contested decision and ordered that the Commissioner-General was to pay Ms. Smadi the difference between the salaries and associated entitlements of the grade she held and the grade to which she was entitled. By Judgment No. 2024-UNAT-1415, the Appeals Tribunal affirmed the UNRWA DT Judgment.

Ms. Smadi filed an application for interpretation of the UNAT Judgment.

Legal Principle(s)

An interpretation application must, under Article 11(3) of the UNAT Statute, establish that the meaning or scope of the judgment as worded is equivocal or otherwise so unclear that the parties cannot reasonably agree on what it requires either or both to do to satisfy or implement the judgment.

Interpretation is only needed to clarify the meaning of a judgment when it leaves reasonable doubt about the will of the Tribunal or the arguments leading to a decision. But if the judgment is comprehensible, whatever opinion the parties may have about it or its reasoning, an application for interpretation is not admissible.

An application for interpretation is not receivable if its actual purpose is to contest a final judgment or to obtain comments on that judgment.

Outcome

Revision, correction, interpretation or execution

Outcome Extra Text

The application for interpretation is dismissed.

Full judgment

[Full judgment](#)

Applicants/Appellants

Dua Smadi

Entity

UNRWA

Case Number(s)

2024-1969

Tribunal

UNAT

Registry

New York

Date of Judgement

24 Jul 2025

President Judge

Gao

Judge Sheha

Judge Savage

Language of Judgment

English

Issuance Type

Judgment

Categories/Subcategories

Classification (post)

Interpretation of Judgment

Compensation (see also, Compensation)

Judgment-related matters

Remedies

Applicable Law

UNAT Statute

- Article 11.3

Related Judgments and Orders

2024-UNAT-1415

2025-UNAT-1540

2024-UNAT-1438

2021-UNAT-1148