

NRC2014085478

Page 3

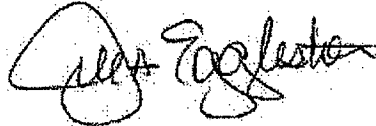
Because of unusual circumstances we may not be able to process your request within the statutory time limit, therefore, it will be necessary to extend the time limit for processing beyond the ten working day extension period due to the need to search for and collect the requested records from field facilities or other establishments that are separate from the office processing the request. You may wish to modify your request so that it can be processed within the statutory time limit or arrange an alternative time period with our office. Regardless of any delay, your FOIA/PA request will be complied with as accurately as possible.

This office will be providing your records on a Compact Disc (CD) for use on your personal computer. The CD is readable on all computers through the use of Adobe Acrobat software. A version of Adobe Acrobat will be included on the CD. Your records can be viewed on your computer screen and can be printed onto paper. Only records 15 pages or more are eligible for CD printing. To request your responsive records on paper, please include your control number and write to the above address Attention: FOIA/PA Officer, or fax them to (816) 350-5785.

You may check the status of your FOIA request online, at www.uscis.gov. Click on "FOIA Request Status Check" located on the left side of the web page under "Other Services", and follow the instructions. Please be aware that the National Records Center no longer accepts FOIA/PA related questions directly by phone.

All FOIA/PA related requests, including address changes, must be submitted in writing and be signed by the requester. Please include the control number listed above on all correspondence with this office. Requests may be mailed to the FOIA/PA Officer at the PO Box listed at the top of the letterhead, or sent by fax to (816) 350-5785. You may also submit FOIA/PA related requests to our e-mail address at uscis.foia@uscis.dhs.gov.

Sincerely,



Jill A. Eggleston
Director, FOIA Operations

Exhibit F



COMMUNITY EDUCATION CENTER • IMMIGRATION POLICY CENTER • INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE CENTER • POLITICAL ACTION CENTER

August 21, 2014

Associate General Counsel (General Law)
U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Mailstop 0655
Washington, D.C. 20528

**Re: Freedom of Information Act Appeal
2014-HQFO-00671**

Dear FOIA Appeals Officer:

On July 29, 2014, the American Immigration Council (“Immigration Council”), the National Immigration Project of the National Lawyers Guild (“NIPNLG”), and American Civil Liberties Union Foundation, Immigrants’ Rights Project (“ACLU-IRP”) (“Requestors”) submitted a request under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) for disclosure of agency records that contain, discuss, refer, or relate to policies, regulations, practices, procedures, recommendations, and guidelines with respect to the implementation of § 235(b) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1225(b) (“expedited removal”) since June 1, 2014 (Exhibit A). By letter dated August 8, 2014, the Department of Homeland Security denied our request for expedited processing (Exhibit B). Please consider this letter an appeal of the agency’s denial of expedited processing. This appeal is timely filed within 60 days of the August 8, 2014 denial. 6 C.F.R. § 5.9.

The agency asserted that the expedited processing request did not present “circumstances in which the lack of expedited treatment could reasonably be expected to pose an imminent threat to the life or physical safety of an individual,” 6 C.F.R. § 5.5(d)(1)(i), or “an urgency to inform the public about an actual or alleged federal government activity, if made by a person primarily engaged in disseminating information,” 6 C.F.R. § 5.5(d)(1)(ii). The agency denied the request because the requestors did not “qualify for either category under 6 C.F.R. § 5.5(d)(1).”

Contrary to the agency’s assessment, requestors meet both the statutory and regulatory criteria for expedited processing.¹ Requestors have demonstrated an “an urgency to inform the public

¹ Though the Department of Homeland Security has promulgated its own regulations addressing when expedited treatment is appropriate, the statutory criteria for expedited processing is not limited by these regulations. The FOIA statute directs agencies to allow “for expedited processing, not only ‘in cases in which the person requesting the records demonstrates a compelling need,’ but also ‘in other cases *determined by the agency.*’” *Al-Fayed v. CIA*, 254 F.3d 300, 307 n.7 (D.C. Cir. 2001) (quoting 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(6)(E)(i)) (emphasis in original). This provision allows an agency “latitude to expand the criteria for expedited access’ beyond cases of ‘compelling need.’” *Id.* (quoting H.R. Rep. No. 104-795, at 26).

about an actual or alleged federal government activity” by organizations “primarily engaged in disseminating information.” 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(6)(E)(v)(II). The D.C. Circuit has looked to several criteria when determining whether there is an “urgency to inform,” and a resulting “compelling need”: “(1) whether the request concerns a matter of current exigency to the American public; (2) whether the consequences of delaying a response would compromise a significant recognized interest; and (3) whether the request concerns federal government activity.” *Al-Fayed v. CIA*, 254 F.3d 300, 310 (D.C. Cir. 2001); *see also Long v. Dep’t of Homeland Sec.*, 436 F. Supp. 2d 38, 42 (D.D.C. 2006) (applying the criteria to an expedited FOIA request to the Department of Homeland Security).

This request plainly meets these criteria. First, there is “an urgency to inform the public” about this government activity. The government’s policies, procedures and practices related to implementation of the expedited removal process, including the application of this process to families with minor children apprehended or detained by DHS in Artesia, New Mexico, have been repeatedly raised and discussed by members of Congress, the news media, and the public in recent weeks. *See, e.g.,* Julia Preston, *As U.S. Speeds the Path to Deportation, Distress Fills New Family Detention Centers*, New York Times, Aug. 5, 2014, available at http://www.nytimes.com/2014/08/06/us/seeking-to-stop-migrants-from-risking-trip-us-speeds-the-path-to-deportation-for-families.html?_r=0 (last visited Aug. 16, 2014). Furthermore, early reports about expedited removal processing in Artesia raise serious due process concerns.² Second, a delayed response would compromise individuals’ due process interests in significant ways. Attorneys and other service providers need to understand the relevant policies, procedures, and practices to serve the population of individuals in that facility more effectively and to raise any potential challenges to those procedures in a timely manner. *See* 8 U.S.C. § 1252(e)(3)(B) (providing for challenge within 60 days of implementation of challenged directive, guideline or procedure). Moreover, a delay in public disclosure and discussion of these policies, procedures, and practices will likely allow problematic practices to persist longer than they otherwise would.

² Hannah Rapple and Lisa Riordan Seville, *Flood of Immigrant Families at Border Revives Dormant Detention Program*, NBC News, July 25, 2014, available at <http://www.nbcnews.com/storyline/immigration-border-crisis/flood-immigrant-families-border-revives-dormant-detention-program-n164461> (last visited July 30, 2014); Michael Oleaga, *Immigrants’ Rights Groups Discuss Conditions of Detained Mothers and Children at Artesia Family Detention Center*, Latin News, July 24, 2014, available at <http://www.latinpost.com/articles/17895/20140724/immigrants-rights-groups-artesia-family-detention-center.htm> (last visited July 30, 2014); Benjamin Goad, *Groups Cite “Horrific” Conditions at Immigrant Detention Center*, The Hill, July 24, 2014, available at <http://thehill.com/regulation/administration/213264-groups-cite-horrific-conditions-for-immigrant-detainees> (last visited July 30, 2014); Cindy Carcamo, *Child’s Detention Despite Citizenship Reveals Immigration Case Woes*, Los Angeles Times, Aug. 14, 2014, available at <http://www.latimes.com/world/mexico-americas/la-na-citizen-detained-20140815-story.html> (last visited Aug. 16, 2014); *New Family Detention Centers Hold Immigrant Women and Children Without Bond as Asylum Claims Pend*, Democracy Now, Aug. 14, 2014, available at http://www.democracynow.org/2014/8/14/new_family_detention_centers_hold_immigrant (last visited Aug. 16, 2014);

Third, this request obviously “concerns federal government activity” because both the proceedings and the detention facilities are federal.

We remind you that reporters and other media outlets are not the only entities primarily engaged in disseminating information. For example, a district court found the non-media entity Leadership Conference on Civil Rights to be “primarily engaged” in information dissemination. *Leadership Conference on Civil Rights v. Gonzales*, 404 F. Supp. 2d 246, 260 (D.D.C. 2005). The court reasoned that the “Conference’s mission [was] to serve as the site of record for relevant and up-to-the minute civil rights news and information” and that it “disseminat[ed] information regarding civil rights and voting rights to educate the public, promote effective civil rights laws, and ensure their enforcement by the Department of Justice.” *Id.* Just as the Leadership Conference was focused on civil rights news, the American Immigration Council is a non-profit organization established to increase public understanding of immigration law and policy. The Council advocates for the fair and just administration of our immigration laws, protects the legal rights of noncitizens, and educates the public about the enduring contributions of America’s immigrants. The Council’s policy department researches issues related to immigration and provides up-to-the-minute information to leaders on Capitol Hill, the media, and the general public. NIPNLG, another of the Requestors, is also engaged in disseminating information. For over forty years, the National Immigration Project has promoted justice and equality of treatment in all areas of immigration law, the criminal justice system, and social policies related to immigration. NIPNLG staff members often speak publicly and publish practice advisories and related written materials for the public and organizational members. Both the Council and NIPNLG make information provided through FOIA responses available on the organizations’ websites, accessible by any member of the public. Finally, both the Council and NIPNLG have frequent contact with national print and news media and plan to share information from FOIA disclosures with interested media.

Separately, the request meets the regulatory criteria for expedited processing because denial of expedited processing could reasonably be expected to pose an imminent threat to the life or physical safety of an individual. *See* 6 C.F.R. § 5.5(d)(1)(i). The FOIA request seeks information about the expedited removal process as applied to individuals in Artesia. A key part of the expedited removal process is the “credible fear” interview for individuals who intend to seek asylum or who otherwise express a fear of persecution. 8 U.S.C. § 1225(b)(1)(A)(ii); 8 C.F.R. § 235.3(b)(4); 8 U.S.C. § 1225(b)(1)(B). The credible fear interview is designed “to elicit all relevant and useful information bearing on whether the applicant has a credible fear of persecution or torture.” 8 C.F.R. § 208.30(d). Numerous news articles have raised questions about whether the women and children detained at Artesia are receiving fair credible fear interviews.³ Adding to the urgency, DHS currently is deporting individuals from Artesia.⁴ Thus, there is an imminent threat to the life or physical safety of these women and children.

³ *See, e.g.*, David McCumber and Susan Carroll, *Immigrant Detention Centers Decried by Advocates as ‘Deportation Factories,’* Houston Chronicle, Aug. 13, 2014, available at <http://www.houstonchronicle.com/news/article/Immigrant-detention-centers-decried-by-critics-as-5684471.php> (last visited Aug. 16, 2014); Melissa del Bosque, *At New Detention Facility It’s ‘Hurry Up and Deport’ Central Americans,* The Texas Observer, July 23, 2014, available at <http://www.texasobserver.org/new-facility-hurry-deport-central-americans/> (last visited Aug. 18,

Thank you for your prompt attention to this appeal. If you have any questions regarding this appeal, please do not hesitate to contact Beth Werlin at bwerlin@immcouncil.org or 202-507-7522.

Sincerely,



Beth Werlin
American Immigration Council
1331 G Street NW
Washington, DC 20005
(202) 507-7522
bwerlin@immcouncil.org

Trina Realmuto
National Immigration Project
of the National Lawyers Guild
14 Beacon St., Suite 602
Boston, MA 02108
(617) 227-9727 ext. 8
trina@nipnl.org

Omar C. Jadwat
American Civil Liberties Union Foundation
Immigrants' Rights Project
125 Broad Street, 18th Fl.
New York, NY 10004
ojadwat@aclu.org

2014); Jason Buch, *Advocates Say Deportation May Disrupt Due Process*, Houston Chronicle, July 19, 2014, available at <http://www.houstonchronicle.com/news/houston-texas/houston/article/jbuch-express-news-netTwitter-jlbuch-5633398.php> (last visited August 18, 2014).

⁴ See Russell Contreras and Susan Montoya Bryan, Associated Press, Aug. 2014, available at <http://www.abqjournal.com/448772/news/ice-resumes-deportations-from-artesia-center.html> (last visited Aug. 20, 2014).

EXHIBIT F



Office of Administrative Law Judges,
Seattle
United States Coast Guard

915 Second Avenue, Room 2609
Seattle, WA 98174
Staff Symbol: CG-00J
Phone: 206-220-7109
Fax: 206-220-7108
Email: Heather.L.MacClintock@uscg.mil

5720
October 20, 2014

Beth Werlin
American Immigration Council
1331 G Street
Washington, DC 20005

Trina Realmuto
National Immigration Project of the National Lawyers Guild
14 Beacon Street, Suite 602
Boston, MA 02108

Omar C. Jadwat
American Civil Liberties Union Foundation
Immigrants' Rights Project
125 Broad Street, 18th Floor
New York, NY 10004

RE: DHS FOIA APPEAL 2014-HQAP-00092

Dear Ms. Werlin, Ms. Realmuto, and Mr. Jadwat:

This letter is in response to your letter dated September 5, 2014, in which you appealed several issues related to FOIA Request 2014-HQFO-00671. This determination relates only to the portions of your request being processed by the Privacy Office and the Office of Civil Rights and Civil Liberties (CRCL); separate appeal determinations will be rendered by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), and Customs and Border Protection (CBP).

Pursuant to a memorandum of agreement, the United States Coast Guard Office of the Chief Administrative Law Judge is reviewing the FOIA appeals for the Department of Homeland Security General Counsel's office. Therefore, the Office of the Chief Administrative Law Judge will be rendering the official appeal decision on behalf of the Department of Homeland Security.

1. Appeal of Constructive Denial of Request

You allege the Agency has constructively denied your request because it has not provided documents within the statutory time frame. *See* 5 U.S.C. §§ 552(a)(6)(A)(i) and (B)(i). Your original request was sent on July 29, 2014 and received by the Agency on July 30, 2014. The Privacy Office acknowledged your request and assigned it a tracking number on August 8, 2014. As of the date of your appeal, CRCL had not yet acknowledged your request, however, the record shows an acknowledgment and tracking number were subsequently sent on September 11, 2014.

A requester need not file an administrative appeal when claiming that an agency has failed to comply with the time limits; FOIA permits a requester to treat this as constructive exhaustion of administrative remedies. 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(6)(C). Please note, however, that an agency is generally allowed additional time to produce documents if the agency can demonstrate it has been conducting a diligent search but has been delayed due to exceptional circumstances. 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(6)(C)(i); *see also* *CREW v. FEC*, 711 F.3d 180, 185 (D.C. Cir. 2013).

2. Restatement of Request for Expedited Processing

Your appeal of the Agency's decision to deny expedited processing has been considered under FOIA Appeal 2014-HQAP-00086. A letter explaining the reasons the Agency's determination was upheld was sent to you under separate cover and is the final agency action regarding that appeal. My analysis of your restated request for expedited processing has not changed: your original request did not comply with necessary requirements under 6 C.F.R. § 5.5(d)(3) to expedite it pursuant to that section. Nor did your original request contain sufficient information to show expedited processing was warranted under 6 C.F.R. § 5.5(d)(1)(i) or absent a showing of compelling need, as allowed by 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(6)(E)(i). Thus, the Agency properly denied it.

3. Appeal of Conditional Grant of Fee Waiver

You have appealed the Agency's decision to grant a conditional fee waiver, pending review of any responsive documents produced during the Agency's search. You assert that a full fee waiver should be granted.

I am upholding the Agency's determination. The Agency is unable to determine whether all six factors in the fee waiver analysis are satisfied until the relevant documents have been located and reviewed, therefore the Agency currently cannot make a conclusive determination regarding the fee waiver. If the Agency ultimately decides not to waive fees, you may appeal at that time.

This decision is the final action of the Department of Homeland Security concerning of FOIA Appeal 2014-HQFO-00092. While a comprehensive review of your appeal was made, you may seek judicial review of this decision pursuant to 5 U.S.C. §552(a)(4)(B) in United States District Court for either: 1) the district where you reside; 2) the district where the agency records are situated; or 3) the District of Columbia.

Sincerely,



Heather L. MacClintock
Attorney Advisor
United States Coast Guard

Copy: FOIA Officer, DHS Privacy Office

Sent: Via FedEx to the above addresses

EXHIBIT G

From: Pineiro, Aeron [<mailto:aeron.pineiro@hq.dhs.gov>]
Sent: Thursday, September 11, 2014 2:10 PM
To: Beth Werlin; Melissa Crow
Subject: CRCL FOIA Request Acknowledgement

Good afternoon,

I apologize for delay in acknowledging your request.

This acknowledges receipt of your July 29, 2014, Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties (CRCL) for records that were prepared, received, transmitted, collected and/or maintained by the Office of Civil Rights and Civil Liberties that contain, discuss, refer, or relate to policies, regulations, practices, procedures, recommendations, and guidelines with respect to the implementation of INA § 235(b) (“expedited removal”) since June 1, 2014. Your request was received in this office on July 30, 2014.

A search within CRCL for responsive records is complete, and the records are being reviewed and processed. Your request has been assigned reference number **2014-CRFO-00039**. Please refer to this identifier in any future correspondence. Also, feel free to contact me anytime to discuss your request.

Regards,

Ms. Aeron J. Pineiro
FOIA Officer
Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
(202) 357-1218 (office)
aeron.pineiro@hq.dhs.gov

EXHIBIT H

U.S. Department of Homeland Security
National Records Center
P.O. Box 648010
Lee's Summit, MO 64064-8010



U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

August 11, 2014

NRC2014085478

Beth Werlin
American Immigration Council
1331 G Street NW
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Beth Werlin:

We received your request dated July 29, 2014, requesting to "disclosure of the following records[1] that were prepared, received, transmitted, collected and/or maintained by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), the Office of Civil Rights and Civil Liberties (CRCL), U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), and/or U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS)[2] that contain, discuss, refer, or relate to policies, regulations, practices, procedures, recommendations, and guidelines with respect to the implementation of INA § 235(b) ("expedited removal") since June 1, 2014. Such records shall include, but are not limited to, all policies, regulations, practices, procedures, recommendations and guidelines that address:

- * When to apply INA § 235(b) and related regulations to families with minor children.
- * Application of 8 C.F.R. § 235.3(b)(2) to families with minor children.
- * Detention of families with minor children who are potentially subject to expedited removal," the portion of your request pertaining to USCIS.

In accordance with Department of Homeland Security Regulations (6 C.F.R. § 5.4(a)), USCIS uses a "cut-off" date to delineate the scope of a FOIA request by treating records created after that date as not responsive to that request. Therefore, in determining which records are responsive to your request, we will only include records in the possession of this agency as of August 11, 2014, the date we began the search for records.

We respond to requests on a first-in, first-out basis and on a multi-track system. Your request has been placed in the complex track (Track 2). You may wish to narrow your request to a specific document in order to be eligible for the faster track. To do so, please send a written request, identifying the specific document sought, to the address above. We will notify you if your request is placed in the simple track.

Your fee waiver request is granted.

NRC2014085478

Page 3

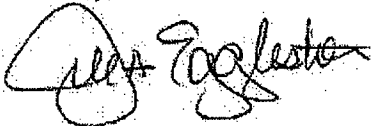
Because of unusual circumstances we may not be able to process your request within the statutory time limit, therefore, it will be necessary to extend the time limit for processing beyond the ten working day extension period due to the need to search for and collect the requested records from field facilities or other establishments that are separate from the office processing the request. You may wish to modify your request so that it can be processed within the statutory time limit or arrange an alternative time period with our office. Regardless of any delay, your FOIA/PA request will be complied with as accurately as possible.

This office will be providing your records on a Compact Disc (CD) for use on your personal computer. The CD is readable on all computers through the use of Adobe Acrobat software. A version of Adobe Acrobat will be included on the CD. Your records can be viewed on your computer screen and can be printed onto paper. Only records 15 pages or more are eligible for CD printing. To request your responsive records on paper, please include your control number and write to the above address Attention: FOIA/PA Officer, or fax them to (816) 350-5785.

You may check the status of your FOIA request online, at www.uscis.gov. Click on "FOIA Request Status Check" located on the left side of the web page under "Other Services", and follow the instructions. Please be aware that the National Records Center no longer accepts FOIA/PA related questions directly by phone.

All FOIA/PA related requests, including address changes, must be submitted in writing and be signed by the requester. Please include the control number listed above on all correspondence with this office. Requests may be mailed to the FOIA/PA Officer at the PO Box listed at the top of the letterhead, or sent by fax to (816) 350-5785. You may also submit FOIA/PA related requests to our e-mail address at uscis.foia@uscis.dhs.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jill A. Eggleston". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and "E".

Jill A. Eggleston
Director, FOIA Operations

EXHIBIT I

U.S. Department of Homeland Security
HQ FOIA/PA Appeals
150 Space Center Loop, Suite 500
Lee's Summit, MO 64064-2139



U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

September 18, 2014

APP2014001365

Beth Werlin
American Immigration Council
1331 G Street NW
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Ms. Werlin:

Re: NRC2014085478

You appealed the action of the National Records Center regarding your request for access to records pertaining to AIC request for documents relating to expedited removal since June 1, 2014, dated August 4, 2014.

We consider your appeal of the fee waiver request to be moot, since U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services granted your original request for fee waiver.

With respect to your request for expedited treatment, on the basis of information you provided, we have determined that expedited processing of your request is not warranted. In your Missions and Goals Statement, you establish that the ACLU works "daily in courts, legislatures and communities to defend and preserve the individual rights and liberties that the Constitution and laws of the United States guarantee everyone in this country", and that "the ACLU also works to extend rights to segments of our population that have traditionally been denied their rights, including people of color; women; lesbians, gay men, bisexuals and transgender people; prisoners; and people with disabilities." As such, it appears that disseminating information is a secondary or lesser mission of the ACLU. Standards established by the Department of Homeland Security regarding expedited processing are very strict (6 C.F.R. § 5.5(d)) and permit expedited treatment only when the requester demonstrates that:

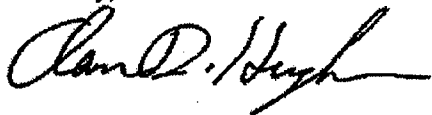
- a. circumstances in which the lack of expedited treatment could reasonably be expected to pose an imminent threat to the life or physical safety of an individual;
- b. an urgency to inform the public about an actual or alleged federal government activity, if made by a person primarily engaged in disseminating information.

APP2014001365

Page 2

If you are dissatisfied with our action on your appeal, you may seek judicial review in accordance with 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(B). The Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) also mediates disputes between FOIA requesters and Federal agencies as a non-exclusive alternative to litigation. The OGIS does not have the authority to handle requests made under the Privacy Act of 1974. If you wish to contact OGIS, you may email them at ogis@nara.gov or call 1-877-684-6448.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alan D. Hughes". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Alan D. Hughes, Associate Counsel
Commercial and Administrative Law Division
Department of Homeland Security
Citizenship and Immigration Services

EXHIBIT J

Freedom of Information Act Office

U.S. Department of Homeland Security
500 12th St SW, Stop 5009
Washington, DC 20536



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

August 08, 2014

Beth Werlin
American Immigration Council
1331 G Street NW
Washington, DC 20005

RE: ICE FOIA Case Number 2014-ICFO-04325

Dear Ms. Werlin:

This acknowledges receipt of your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), dated July 29, 2014, and to your request for a waiver of all assessable FOIA fees. Your request was received in this office on August 08, 2014. Specifically, you requested disclosure of records that contain, discuss, refer or relate to policies, regulations, practices, procedures, recommendations, and guidelines with respect to the implementation of INA 235(b) expedited removal since June 1, 2014.

Due to the increasing number of FOIA requests received by this office, we may encounter some delay in processing your request. Per Section 5.5(a) of the DHS FOIA regulations, 6 C.F.R. Part 5, ICE processes FOIA requests according to their order of receipt. Although ICE's goal is to respond within 20 business days of receipt of your request, the FOIA does permit a 10-day extension of this time period. As your request seeks numerous documents that will necessitate a thorough and wide-ranging search, DHS will invoke a 10-day extension for your request, as allowed by Title 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(6)(B). If you care to narrow the scope of your request, please contact our office. We will make every effort to comply with your request in a timely manner.

You have requested a fee waiver. The DHS FOIA Regulations at 6 CFR § 5.11(k)(2) set forth six factors ICE must evaluate to determine whether the applicable legal standard for a fee waiver has been met: (1) Whether the subject of the requested records concerns "the operations or activities of the government," (2) Whether the disclosure is "likely to contribute" to an understanding of government operations or activities, (3) Whether disclosure of the requested information will contribute to the understanding of the public at large, as opposed to the individual understanding of the requester or a narrow segment of interested persons, (4) Whether the contribution to public understanding of government operations or activities will be "significant," (5) Whether the requester has a commercial interest that would be furthered by the requested disclosure, and (6) Whether the magnitude of any identified commercial interest to the requester is sufficiently large in comparison with the public interest in disclosure, that disclosure is primarily in the commercial interest of the requester.

Upon review of the subject matter of your request, and an evaluation of the six factors identified above, ICE has determined that it will conditionally grant your request for a fee waiver. The fee

waiver determination will be based upon a sampling of the responsive documents received from the various ICE program offices as a result of the searches conducted in response to your FOIA request. ICE will, pursuant to DHS regulations applicable to non-commercial requesters, process the first 100 pages. If upon review of these documents, ICE determines that the disclosure of the information contained in those documents does not meet the factors permitting ICE to waive the fees, then ICE will at that time either deny your request for a fee waiver entirely, or will allow for a percentage reduction in the amount of the fees corresponding to the amount of relevant material found that meets the factors allowing for a fee waiver. In either case, ICE will promptly notify you of its final decision regarding your request for a fee waiver and provide you with the responsive records as required by applicable law.

In the event that your fee waiver is denied, and you determine that you still want the records, provisions of the FOIA allow us to recover part of the cost of complying with your request. We shall charge you for records in accordance with the DHS Interim FOIA regulations as they apply to non-commercial requestors. As a non-commercial requester you will be charged for any search time and duplication beyond the free two hours and 100 pages mentioned in the previous paragraph. You will be charged 10 cents per page for duplication and search time at the per quarter-hour rate (\$4.00 for clerical personnel, \$7.00 for professional personnel, \$10.25 for managerial personnel) of the searcher. In the event that your fee waiver is denied, we will construe the submission of your request as an agreement to pay up to \$25.00. This office will contact you before accruing any additional fees.

ICE has queried the appropriate program offices within ICE for responsive records. If any responsive records are located, they will be reviewed for determination of releasability. Please be assured that one of the processors in our office will respond to your request as expeditiously as possible. We appreciate your patience as we proceed with your request.

Your request has been assigned reference number **2014-ICFO-04325**. Please refer to this identifier in any future correspondence. You may contact this office at (866) 633-1182. Our mailing address is 500 12th Street, S.W., Stop 5009, Washington, D.C. 20536-5009.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "T. Fuss For". The signature is written in a cursive, somewhat informal style.

Catrina M. Pavlik-Keenan
FOIA Officer

Freedom of Information Act Office

U.S. Department of Homeland Security
500 12th St SW, Stop 5009
Washington, DC 20536



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

August 08, 2014

Beth Werlin
American Immigration Council
1331 G Street NW
Washington, DC 20005

RE: ICE FOIA Case Number 2014-ICFO-04325

Dear Ms. Werlin:

This acknowledges receipt of your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), dated July 29, 2014, and to your request for expedited treatment. Your request was received in this office on August 08, 2014. Specifically, you requested disclosure of records that contain, discuss, refer or relate to policies, regulations, practices, procedures, recommendations, and guidelines with respect to the implementation of INA 235(b) expedited removal since June 1, 2014.

Your request for expedited treatment is hereby denied.

Under the DHS FOIA regulations, expedited processing of a FOIA request is warranted if the request involves "circumstances in which the lack of expedited treatment could reasonably be expected to pose an imminent threat to the life or physical safety of an individual," 6 C.F.R. § 5.5(d)(1)(i), or "an urgency to inform the public about an actual or alleged federal government activity, if made by a person primarily engaged in disseminating information," 6 C.F.R. § 5.5(d)(1)(ii). Requesters seeking expedited processing must submit a statement explaining in detail the basis for the request, and that statement must be certified by the requester to be true and correct. 6 C.F.R. § 5.5(d)(3).

Your request for expedited processing is denied because you do not qualify for either category under 6 C.F.R. § 5.5(d)(1). You failed to demonstrate a particular urgency to inform the public about the government activity involved in the request beyond the public's right to know about government activity generally. Your letter was conclusory in nature and did not present any facts to justify a grant of expedited processing under the applicable standards.

Due to the increasing number of FOIA requests received by this office, we may encounter some delay in processing your request. Per Section 5.5(a) of the DHS FOIA regulations, 6 C.F.R. Part 5, ICE processes FOIA requests according to their order of receipt. Although ICE's goal is to respond within 20 business days of receipt of your request, the FOIA does permit a 10-day extension of this time period. As your request seeks numerous documents that will necessitate a thorough and wide-ranging search, ICE will invoke a 10-day extension for your request, as

allowed by Title 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(6)(B). If you care to narrow the scope of your request, please contact our office. We will make every effort to comply with your request in a timely manner.

Provisions of the FOIA allow us to recover part of the cost of complying with your request. We shall charge you for records in accordance with the DHS Interim FOIA regulations as they apply to non-commercial requesters. As a non-commercial requester, you will be charged 10 cents per page for duplication; the first 100 pages are free, as are the first two hours of search time, after which you will pay the per quarter-hour rate (\$4.00 for clerical personnel, \$7.00 for professional personnel, \$10.25 for managerial personnel) of the searcher. We will construe the submission of your request as an agreement to pay up to \$25.00. You will be contacted before any further fees are accrued.

If you deem the decision to deny expedited treatment of your request an adverse determination, you may exercise your appeal rights. Should you wish to do so, please send your appeal following the procedures outlined in the DHS regulations at 6 Code of Federal Regulations § 5.9 and a copy of this letter to:

U.S. Immigration Customs Enforcement
Office of Principal Legal Advisor
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Freedom of Information Office
500 12th Street, S.W., Stop 5009
Washington, D.C. 20536-5009

Your appeal must be received within 60 days of the date of this letter. Your envelope and letter should be marked "FOIA Appeal." Copies of the FOIA and DHS regulations are available at www.dhs.gov/foia.

ICE has queried the appropriate program offices within ICE for responsive records. If any responsive records are located, they will be reviewed for determination of releasability. Please be assured that one of the processors in our office will respond to your request as expeditiously as possible. We appreciate your patience as we proceed with your request.

Your request has been assigned reference number **2014-ICFO-04325**. Please refer to this identifier in any future correspondence. You may contact this office at (866) 633-1182. Our mailing address is 500 12th Street, S.W., Stop 5009, Washington, D.C. 20536-5009.

Sincerely,



Catrina M. Pavlik-Keenan
FOIA Officer

EXHIBIT K



COMMITTEE FOR THE AMERICAN CENTER • IMMIGRATION POLICY CENTER • INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE CENTER • LEGAL ACTION CENTER

September 19, 2014

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement
Office of Principal Legal Advisor
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Freedom of Information Act Office
500 12th Street SW, Stop 5009
Washington, D.C. 20536-5009

**Re: Freedom of Information Act Appeal
ICE - 2014-ICFO-04325**

Dear FOIA Appeals Officer:

On July 29, 2014, the American Immigration Council (“Immigration Council”), the National Immigration Project of the National Lawyers Guild (“NIPNLG”), and American Civil Liberties Union Foundation, Immigrants’ Rights Project (“ACLU-IRP”) (“Requestors”) submitted a request under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) for disclosure of agency records that contain, discuss, refer, or relate to policies, regulations, practices, procedures, recommendations, and guidelines with respect to the implementation of § 235(b) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1225(b) (“expedited removal”) since June 1, 2014 (Exhibit A).

By letters dated August 8, 2014, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (“ICE”) denied our request for expedited processing, invoked the statutory 10-day extension for responding to our request, and conditionally granted our fee waiver request (Exhibit B).

Please consider this letter an appeal of the agency’s denial of expedited processing.¹ This appeal is timely filed within 60 days of the August 8, 2014 denial. 6 C.F.R. § 5.9.

The agency asserted that the expedited processing request did not present “circumstances in which the lack of expedited treatment could reasonably be expected to pose an imminent threat to the life or physical safety of an individual,” 6 C.F.R. § 5.5(d)(1)(i), or “an urgency to inform the public about an actual or alleged federal government activity, if made by a person primarily engaged in disseminating information,” 6 C.F.R. § 5.5(d)(1)(ii). The agency denied the request because the requestors did not “qualify for either category under 6 C.F.R. § 5.5(d)(1).”

Contrary to the agency’s assessment, requestors meet both the statutory and regulatory criteria for expedited processing.² Requestors have demonstrated an “an urgency to inform the public

¹ This is the second administrative appeal submitted to ICE in conjunction with this FOIA request. On September 5, 2014, Requestors submitted an administrative appeal of the agency’s constructive denial of the FOIA request.

about an actual or alleged federal government activity” by organizations “primarily engaged in disseminating information.” 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(6)(E)(v)(II). The D.C. Circuit has looked to several criteria when determining whether there is an “urgency to inform,” and a resulting “compelling need”: “(1) whether the request concerns a matter of current exigency to the American public; (2) whether the consequences of delaying a response would compromise a significant recognized interest; and (3) whether the request concerns federal government activity.” *Al-Fayed v. CIA*, 254 F.3d 300, 310 (D.C. Cir. 2001); *see also Long v. Dep’t of Homeland Sec.*, 436 F. Supp. 2d 38, 42 (D.D.C. 2006) (applying the criteria to an expedited FOIA request to the Department of Homeland Security).

This request plainly meets these criteria. First, there is “an urgency to inform the public” about this government activity. The government’s policies, procedures and practices related to implementation of the expedited removal process, including the application of this process to families with minor children apprehended or detained by DHS in Artesia, New Mexico, have been repeatedly raised and discussed by members of Congress, the news media, and the public in recent weeks. *See, e.g.*, Julia Preston, *As U.S. Speeds the Path to Deportation, Distress Fills New Family Detention Centers*, New York Times, Aug. 5, 2014, available at http://www.nytimes.com/2014/08/06/us/seeking-to-stop-migrants-from-risking-trip-us-speeds-the-path-to-deportation-for-families.html?_r=0 (last visited Sep. 18, 2014). Furthermore, early reports about expedited removal processing in Artesia raise serious due process concerns.³

² Though the Department of Homeland Security has promulgated its own regulations addressing when expedited treatment is appropriate, the statutory criteria for expedited processing is not limited by these regulations. The FOIA statute directs agencies to allow “for expedited processing, not only ‘in cases in which the person requesting the records demonstrates a compelling need,’ but also ‘in other cases *determined by the agency.*’” *Al-Fayed v. CIA*, 254 F.3d 300, 307 n.7 (D.C. Cir. 2001) (quoting 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(6)(E)(i)) (emphasis in original). This provision allows an agency “‘latitude to expand the criteria for expedited access’ beyond cases of ‘compelling need.’” *Id.* (quoting H.R. Rep. No. 104-795, at 26).

³ Hannah Rappleye and Lisa Riordan Seville, *Flood of Immigrant Families at Border Revives Dormant Detention Program*, NBC News, July 25, 2014, available at <http://www.nbcnews.com/storyline/immigration-border-crisis/flood-immigrant-families-border-revives-dormant-detention-program-n164461> (last visited Sep. 18, 2014); Michael Oleaga, *Immigrants’ Rights Groups Discuss Conditions of Detained Mothers and Children at Artesia Family Detention Center*, Latin News, July 24, 2014, available at <http://www.latinpost.com/articles/17895/20140724/immigrants-rights-groups-artesia-family-detention-center.htm> (last visited Sep. 18, 2014); Benjamin Goad, *Groups Cite “Horrorific” Conditions at Immigrant Detention Center*, The Hill, July 24, 2014, available at <http://thehill.com/regulation/administration/213264-groups-cite-horrific-conditions-for-immigrant-detainees> (last visited Sep. 18, 2014); Cindy Carcamo, *Child’s Detention Despite Citizenship Reveals Immigration Case Woes*, Los Angeles Times, Aug. 14, 2014, available at <http://www.latimes.com/world/mexico-americas/la-na-citizen-detained-20140815-story.html> (last visited Sep. 18, 2014); *New Family Detention Centers Hold Immigrant Women and Children Without Bond as Asylum Claims Pend*, Democracy Now, Aug. 14, 2014, available at http://www.democracynow.org/2014/8/14/new_family_detention_centers_hold_immigrant (last visited Sep. 18, 2014).

Second, a delayed response would compromise individuals' due process interests in significant ways. Attorneys and other service providers need to understand the relevant policies, procedures, and practices to serve the population of individuals in that facility more effectively and to raise challenges to those procedures in a timely manner. *See* 8 U.S.C. § 1252(e)(3)(B) (providing for challenge within 60 days of implementation of challenged directive, guideline or procedure). Moreover, a delay in public disclosure and discussion of these policies, procedures, and practices will likely allow problematic practices to persist longer than they otherwise would. Third, this request obviously "concerns federal government activity" because both the proceedings and the detention facilities are federal.

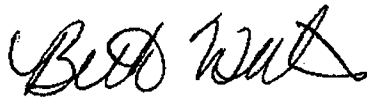
We remind you that reporters and other media outlets are not the only entities primarily engaged in disseminating information. For example, a district court found the non-media entity Leadership Conference on Civil Rights to be "primarily engaged" in information dissemination. *Leadership Conference on Civil Rights v. Gonzales*, 404 F. Supp. 2d 246, 260 (D.D.C. 2005). The court reasoned that the "Conference's mission [was] to serve as the site of record for relevant and up-to-the minute civil rights news and information" and that it "disseminat[ed] information regarding civil rights and voting rights to educate the public, promote effective civil rights laws, and ensure their enforcement by the Department of Justice." *Id.* Just as the Leadership Conference was focused on civil rights news, the American Immigration Council is a non-profit organization established to increase public understanding of immigration law and policy. The Council advocates for the fair and just administration of our immigration laws, protects the legal rights of noncitizens, and educates the public about the enduring contributions of America's immigrants. The Council's policy department researches issues related to immigration and provides up-to-the-minute information to leaders on Capitol Hill, the media, and the general public. NIPNLG, another of the Requestors, is also engaged in disseminating information. For over forty years, the National Immigration Project has promoted justice and equality of treatment in all areas of immigration law, the criminal justice system, and social policies related to immigration. NIPNLG staff members often speak publicly and publish practice advisories and related written materials for the public and organizational members. Both the Council and NIPNLG make information provided through FOIA responses available on the organizations' websites, accessible by any member of the public. Finally, both the Council and NIPNLG have frequent contact with national print and news media and plan to share information from FOIA disclosures with interested media.

Separately, the request meets the regulatory criteria for expedited processing because denial of expedited processing could reasonably be expected to pose an imminent threat to the life or physical safety of an individual. *See* 6 C.F.R. § 5.5(d)(1)(i). The FOIA request seeks information about the expedited removal process as applied to individuals in Artesia. A key part of the expedited removal process is the "credible fear" interview for individuals who intend to seek asylum or who otherwise express a fear of persecution. 8 U.S.C. § 1225(b)(1)(A)(ii); 8 C.F.R. § 235.3(b)(4); 8 U.S.C. § 1225(b)(1)(B). The credible fear interview is designed "to elicit all relevant and useful information bearing on whether the applicant has a credible fear of persecution or torture." 8 C.F.R. § 208.30(d). Numerous news articles have raised questions about whether the women and children detained at Artesia are receiving fair credible fear

interviews.⁴ Adding to the urgency, DHS currently is deporting individuals from Artesia.⁵ Thus, there is an imminent threat to the life or physical safety of these women and children.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this appeal. If you have any questions regarding this appeal, please do not hesitate to contact Beth Werlin at bwlerin@immcouncil.org or 202-507-7522.

Sincerely,



Beth Werlin
American Immigration Council
1331 G Street NW
Washington, DC 20005
(202) 507-7522
bwlerin@immcouncil.org

Trina Realmuto
National Immigration Project
of the National Lawyers Guild
14 Beacon St., Suite 602
Boston, MA 02108
(617) 227-9727 ext. 8
trina@nlpnl.org

Omar C. Jadwat
American Civil Liberties Union Foundation
Immigrants' Rights Project
125 Broad Street, 18th Fl.
New York, NY 10004
ojadwat@aclu.org

⁴ See, e.g., David McCumber and Susan Carroll, *Immigrant Detention Centers Decried by Advocates as 'Deportation Factories,'* Houston Chronicle, Aug. 13, 2014, available at <http://www.houstonchronicle.com/news/article/Immigrant-detention-centers-decried-by-critics-as-5684471.php> (last visited Sep. 18, 2014); Melissa del Bosque, *At New Detention Facility It's 'Hurry Up and Deport' Central Americans,* The Texas Observer, July 23, 2014, available at <http://www.texasobserver.org/new-facility-hurry-deport-central-americans/> (last visited Sep. 18, 2014); Jason Buch, *Advocates Say Deportation May Disrupt Due Process,* Houston Chronicle, July 19, 2014, available at <http://www.houstonchronicle.com/news/houston-texas/houston/article/jbuch-express-news-netTwitter-jlbuch-5633398.php> (last visited Sep. 18, 2014).

⁵ See Russell Contreras and Susan Montoya Bryan, Associated Press, Aug. 2014, available at <http://www.abqjournal.com/448772/news/ice-resumes-deportations-from-artesia-center.html> (last visited Sep. 18, 2014).

Exhibit A



COMMUNITY EDUCATION CENTER • IMMIGRATION POLICY CENTER • INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE CENTER • LEGAL ACTION CENTER

July 29, 2014

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

U.S. Department of Homeland Security
FOIA/PA
The Privacy Office
245 Murray Lane SW
STOP-0655
Washington, DC 20528-0655
foia@hq.dhs.gov

Office of Civil Rights and Civil Liberties
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Washington, DC 20528
CRCL@dhs.gov

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement
Freedom of Information Act Office
500 12th Street, SW, Stop 5009
Washington, DC 20536-5009
ICE-FOIA@dhs.gov

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services
National Records Center, FOIA/PA Office
P. O. Box 648010
Lee's Summit, MO 64064-8010
uscis.foia@dhs.gov

U.S. Customs and Border Protection
FOIA Officer
90 K Street NE, 9th Floor
Washington, DC 20229-1181
FOIA Officer/Public Liaison: Sabrina Burroughs
CBPFOIA@cbp.dhs.gov

Re: Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Request

Dear FOIA Officers:

The American Immigration Council (“Immigration Council”), the National Immigration Project of the National Lawyers Guild (“NIPNLG”), and American Civil Liberties Union Foundation, Immigrants’ Rights Project (“ACLU-IRP”) (“Requestors”) submit this letter as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), 5 U.S.C. § 552, *et seq.* We ask that this request be expedited pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(6)(E) and that we be granted a fee waiver.

Request for Information

The Requestors request disclosure of the following records¹ that were prepared, received, transmitted, collected and/or maintained by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), the Office of Civil Rights and Civil Liberties (CRCL), U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), and/or U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS)² that contain, discuss, refer, or relate to policies, regulations, practices, procedures, recommendations, and guidelines with respect to the implementation of INA § 235(b) (“expedited removal”) since June 1, 2014. Such records shall include, but are not limited to, all policies, regulations, practices, procedures, recommendations and guidelines that address:

- When to apply INA § 235(b) and related regulations to families with minor children.

¹ The term “records” as used herein includes all records or communications preserved in electronic or written form, including but not limited to correspondence, regulations, directives, documents, data, videotapes, audiotapes, e-mails, faxes, files, guidance, guidelines, standards, evaluations, instructions, analyses, memoranda, agreements, notes, orders, policies, procedures, protocols, reports, rules, manuals, technical specifications, training materials or studies, including records kept in written form, or electronic format on computers and/or other electronic storage devices, electronic communications and/or videotapes, as well as any reproductions thereof that differ in any way from any other reproduction, such as copies containing marginal notations.

² The term “CBP” means CBP Headquarters offices, including any divisions, subdivisions or sections therein; CBP field operations offices, including any divisions, subdivisions or sections therein; CBP offices at ports of entry, including any divisions, subdivisions or sections therein; and/or any other CBP organizational structures. The term “ICE” means ICE Headquarters offices (including but not limited to the Office of the Assistant Secretary (OAS), Enforcement and Removal Operations (ERO), Homeland Security Investigations (HIS), Management and Administration, Office of the Principal Legal Advisor (OPLA), and the Office of Detention Policy and Planning (ODPP), including any divisions, subdivisions or sections therein); ICE field offices, including any divisions, subdivisions or sections therein; local Offices of Chief Counsel; and any other ICE organizational structure. The term “USCIS” means USCIS Headquarters offices, regional offices, district offices, field offices and/or any other organizational structure.

- Application of 8 C.F.R. § 235.3(b)(2) to families with minor children.
- Detention of families with minor children who are potentially subject to expedited removal.
- When ICE or CBP officers must refer individuals for credible fear interviews, including individuals apprehended and/or detained by DHS in Artesia, New Mexico.
- Whether individuals apprehended and/or detained by DHS in Artesia, New Mexico, will have credible fear interviews.
- Resources that are available or needed to conduct expedited removal, including the credible fear interviews, for individuals apprehended and/or detained in Artesia, New Mexico, including the extent and configuration of physical space, communications resources, child care, interpretation, training, and staff.
- Procedures for conducting credible fear interviews for individuals apprehended and/or detained by DHS in Artesia, New Mexico.
- Timing and/or scheduling of credible fear interviews for individuals apprehended and/or detained by DHS in Artesia, New Mexico.
- Standards applicable in credible fear determinations, including with respect to individuals apprehended and/or detained by DHS in Artesia, New Mexico.
- Creation of a written or videotaped record during the expedited removal process, including the credible fear process, including with respect to individuals apprehended and/or detained by DHS in Artesia, New Mexico.
- The review process for credible fear determinations for individuals apprehended and/or detained by DHS in Artesia, New Mexico, including submission of the case to the Executive Office for Immigration Review and/or notice of a hearing before an immigration judge.
- Access to counsel, including advising individuals of their right to counsel, during the expedited removal process, including during the credible fear interview, including with respect to individuals apprehended and/or detained by DHS in Artesia, New Mexico.
- Access to interpreters during the expedited removal process, including with respect to individuals apprehended and/or detained by DHS in Artesia, New Mexico.
- Access to interpreters for other purposes for individuals apprehended and/or detained by DHS in Artesia, New Mexico.

- Public, media, and/or NGO access to the facility in Artesia, New Mexico at which DHS is detaining families with minor children, and to proceedings (including credible fear review proceedings and removal proceedings) at the facility.
- Access to individuals detained in Artesia, New Mexico, including access to counsel, procedures to receive and/or send mail, access to phones and other communications equipment, and/or access to medical attention.
- Issuance of expedited removal orders (I-860) to individuals apprehended and/or detained in Artesia, New Mexico.
- The physical removal of individuals detained in Artesia, New Mexico, including any processes or procedures leading to their removal.
- Handbooks, rules, manuals, or other written documents (excluding those that pertain specifically to an individual's case) provided to individuals detained in Artesia, New Mexico or to staff at the detention center.

Request for Expedited Processing

Expedited processing is warranted because there is “an urgency to inform the public about an actual or alleged federal government activity” by organizations “primarily engaged in disseminating information.” 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(6)(E)(v)(II). This request implicates a matter of urgent public concern, namely, government policies, procedures and practices related to implementation of the expedited removal process in Artesia, New Mexico.

There is “an urgency to inform the public” about this government activity because early reports about expedited removal processing and detention conditions raise serious due process concerns.³ Further, attorneys and other service providers need to understand the relevant policies, procedures, and practices to serve the population of individuals in that facility more effectively and raise any potential challenges to those procedures in a timely manner. *See* 8 U.S.C. § 1252(e)(3)(B) (expedited removal process may be challenged within 60 days of implementation of challenged directive, guideline or procedure). Accordingly, the failure to expedite processing of this request would prejudice Requestors’ right to seek judicial review by this statutory deadline.

Request for Waiver of Fees

³ *See, e.g.,* Hannah Rappleye and Lisa Riordan Seville, *Flood of Immigrant Families at Border Revives Dormant Detention Program*, *NBC News*, available at: <http://www.nbcnews.com/storyline/immigration-border-crisis/flood-immigrant-families-border-revives-dormant-detention-program-n164461> (last visited July 28, 2014); Michael Oleaga, *Immigrants' Rights Groups Discuss Conditions of Detained Mothers and Children at Artesia Family Detention Center*, *Latin News*, available at: <http://www.latinpost.com/articles/17895/20140724/immigrants-rights-groups-artesia-family-detention-center.htm> (last visited July 28, 2014).

Requestors ask that all fees associated with this FOIA request be waived. We are entitled to a waiver of all costs because disclosure of the information is "...likely to contribute significantly to public understanding of the operations or activities of the government and is not primarily in the commercial interest of the requester." 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A)(iii). *See also* 6 C.F.R. § 5.11(k) (records furnished without charge or at a reduced rate if the information is in the public interest, and disclosure is not in commercial interest of institution). In addition, the Requestors have the ability to widely disseminate the requested information. *See Judicial Watch v. Rossotti*, 326 F.3d 1309 (D.C. Cir. 2003) (finding a fee waiver appropriate when the requester explained, in detailed and non-conclusory terms, how and to whom it would disseminate the information it received).

A. Disclosure of the Information Is in the Public Interest

Disclosure of the requested information will contribute significantly to public understanding of government operations and activities related to expedited removal processing for families. Such information is of great public interest given the thousands of individuals who may be subject to expedited removal each year.⁴

Requestors have the capacity and intent to disseminate widely the requested information to the public.

The Immigration Council is a non-profit organization established to increase public understanding of immigration law and policy, advocate for the fair and just administration of our immigration laws, protect the legal rights of noncitizens, and educate the public about the enduring contributions of America's immigrants. Our policy department researches issues related to immigration, and regularly provides information to leaders on Capitol Hill, the media, and the general public. Our legal department works with other immigrants' rights organizations and immigration attorneys across the United States to advance the fair administration of immigration laws, including those relating to the removal process.

NIPNLG is a national non-profit that provides technical and litigation support to immigrant communities, legal practitioners, and all advocates seeking to advance the rights of noncitizens. The NIPNLG provides training to the bar and the bench on immigration consequences of criminal conduct, and is the author of four treatises on immigration law published by Thomson Reuters. In addition, NIPNLG staff present, and regularly publish practice advisories, on immigration law topics, which are disseminated to its members as well as to a large public audience through its website, www.nationalimmigrationproject.org.

The ACLU is a nationwide, nonprofit, and nonpartisan organization dedicated to protecting civil rights and civil liberties in the United States. It is the largest civil liberties organization in the

⁴ In FY 2013, ICE deported about 101,000 people through the expedited removal process. U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, *FY 2013 ICE Immigration Removals*, December 2013, p. 4, *available at* : <https://www.ice.gov/doclib/about/offices/ero/pdf/2013-ice-immigration-removals.pdf> (last visited July 28, 2014).

country, with offices in the fifty states and over 500,000 members. It publishes newsletters, news briefings, right-to-know handbooks, and other materials that are widely disseminated to the public. These materials are made available to everyone—including tax-exempt organizations, non-profit groups, and law students and law faculty—for either no cost or for a nominal fee through its public education department.

The ACLU also disseminates information through its high-traffic website, <http://www.aclu.org>. The website provides in-depth information on a range of civil liberties issues, addresses civil liberties issues that are currently in the news, and contains hundreds of documents relating to the ACLU's work. The website specifically features information obtained through FOIA. *See, e.g.*, <http://www.aclu.org/safefree/torture/torturefoia.html>; http://www.aclu.org/patriot_foia/index.html. The ACLU also publishes an electronic newsletter distributed to subscribers via email; airs regular podcasts; maintains a blog, <http://blog.aclu.org>; releases information via social media platforms such as Facebook and Twitter; and produces a television series on civil liberties issues.

One or more of the Requestors will post the information obtained through this FOIA on its publicly accessible website. The Requestors' websites collectively receive millions of page views per year—for example, the Immigration Council's website has received 1.2 million page views this year and likely will receive 2 million by the end of the year. One or more of the Requestors also will publish a summary of the information received and will disseminate that summary. Finally, the Requestors have regular contact with national print and news media and plan to share information gleaned from FOIA disclosures with interested media.

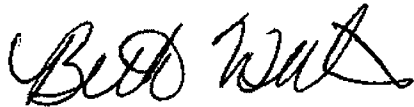
B. Disclosure of the Information Is Not Primarily in the Commercial Interest of the Requester

The Immigration Council, ACLU, and NIPNLG are not-for-profit organizations. The Requestors seek the requested information for the purpose of disseminating it to members of the public who have access to our public websites and other free publications, and not for the purpose of commercial gain.

* * *

Thank you for your prompt attention to this request. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us by telephone or email.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Beth Werlin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Beth" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Werlin".

Beth Werlin
Deputy Director, Legal Action Center
American Immigration Council
1331 G Street NW
Washington, DC 20005
(202) 507-7522
bwerlin@immcouncil.org

Trina Realmuto
National Immigration Project
of the National Lawyers Guild
14 Beacon St., Suite 602
Boston, MA 02108
(617) 227-9727 ext. 8
trina@nipnlg.org

Omar C. Jadwat
American Civil Liberties Union Foundation
Immigrants' Rights Project
125 Broad Street, 18th Fl.
New York, NY 10004
ojadwat@aclu.org

Exhibit B

Freedom of Information Act Office

U.S. Department of Homeland Security
500 12th St SW, Stop 5009
Washington, DC 20536



**U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement**

August 08, 2014

Beth Werlin
American Immigration Council
1331 G Street NW
Washington, DC 20005

RE: ICE FOIA Case Number 2014-ICFO-04325

Dear Ms. Werlin:

This acknowledges receipt of your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), dated July 29, 2014, and to your request for a waiver of all assessable FOIA fees. Your request was received in this office on August 08, 2014. Specifically, you requested disclosure of records that contain, discuss, refer or relate to policies, regulations, practices, procedures, recommendations, and guidelines with respect to the implementation of INA 235(b) expedited removal since June 1, 2014.

Due to the increasing number of FOIA requests received by this office, we may encounter some delay in processing your request. Per Section 5.5(a) of the DHS FOIA regulations, 6 C.F.R. Part 5, ICE processes FOIA requests according to their order of receipt. Although ICE's goal is to respond within 20 business days of receipt of your request, the FOIA does permit a 10- day extension of this time period. As your request seeks numerous documents that will necessitate a thorough and wide-ranging search, DHS will invoke a 10-day extension for your request, as allowed by Title 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(6)(B). If you care to narrow the scope of your request, please contact our office. We will make every effort to comply with your request in a timely manner.

You have requested a fee waiver. The DHS FOIA Regulations at 6 CFR § 5.11(k)(2) set forth six factors ICE must evaluate to determine whether the applicable legal standard for a fee waiver has been met: (1) Whether the subject of the requested records concerns "the operations or activities of the government," (2) Whether the disclosure is "likely to contribute" to an understanding of government operations or activities, (3) Whether disclosure of the requested information will contribute to the understanding of the public at large, as opposed to the individual understanding of the requester or a narrow segment of interested persons, (4) Whether the contribution to public understanding of government operations or activities will be "significant," (5) Whether the requester has a commercial interest that would be furthered by the requested disclosure, and (6) Whether the magnitude of any identified commercial interest to the requester is sufficiently large in comparison with the public interest in disclosure, that disclosure is primarily in the commercial interest of the requester.

Upon review of the subject matter of your request, and an evaluation of the six factors identified above, ICE has determined that it will conditionally grant your request for a fee waiver. The fee

waiver determination will be based upon a sampling of the responsive documents received from the various ICE program offices as a result of the searches conducted in response to your FOIA request. ICE will, pursuant to DHS regulations applicable to non-commercial requesters, process the first 100 pages. If upon review of these documents, ICE determines that the disclosure of the information contained in those documents does not meet the factors permitting ICE to waive the fees, then ICE will at that time either deny your request for a fee waiver entirely, or will allow for a percentage reduction in the amount of the fees corresponding to the amount of relevant material found that meets the factors allowing for a fee waiver. In either case, ICE will promptly notify you of its final decision regarding your request for a fee waiver and provide you with the responsive records as required by applicable law.

In the event that your fee waiver is denied, and you determine that you still want the records, provisions of the FOIA allow us to recover part of the cost of complying with your request. We shall charge you for records in accordance with the DHS Interim FOIA regulations as they apply to non-commercial requestors. As a non-commercial requester you will be charged for any search time and duplication beyond the free two hours and 100 pages mentioned in the previous paragraph. You will be charged 10 cents per page for duplication and search time at the per quarter-hour rate (\$4.00 for clerical personnel, \$7.00 for professional personnel, \$10.25 for managerial personnel) of the searcher. In the event that your fee waiver is denied, we will construe the submission of your request as an agreement to pay up to \$25.00. This office will contact you before accruing any additional fees.

ICE has queried the appropriate program offices within ICE for responsive records. If any responsive records are located, they will be reviewed for determination of releasability. Please be assured that one of the processors in our office will respond to your request as expeditiously as possible. We appreciate your patience as we proceed with your request.

Your request has been assigned reference number **2014-ICFO-04325**. Please refer to this identifier in any future correspondence. You may contact this office at (866) 633-1182. Our mailing address is 500 12th Street, S.W., Stop 5009, Washington, D.C. 20536-5009.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "T. Fuss for".

Catrina M. Pavlik-Keenan
FOIA Officer

Freedom of Information Act Office

U.S. Department of Homeland Security
500 12th St SW, Stop 5009
Washington, DC 20536



**U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement**

August 08, 2014

Beth Werlin
American Immigration Council
1331 G Street NW
Washington, DC 20005

RE: ICE FOIA Case Number 2014-ICFO-04325

Dear Ms. Werlin:

This acknowledges receipt of your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), dated July 29, 2014, and to your request for expedited treatment. Your request was received in this office on August 08, 2014. Specifically, you requested disclosure of records that contain, discuss, refer or relate to policies, regulations, practices, procedures, recommendations, and guidelines with respect to the implementation of INA 235(b) expedited removal since June 1, 2014.

Your request for expedited treatment is hereby denied.

Under the DHS FOIA regulations, expedited processing of a FOIA request is warranted if the request involves "circumstances in which the lack of expedited treatment could reasonably be expected to pose an imminent threat to the life or physical safety of an individual," 6 C.F.R. § 5.5(d)(1)(i), or "an urgency to inform the public about an actual or alleged federal government activity, if made by a person primarily engaged in disseminating information," 6 C.F.R. § 5.5(d)(1)(ii). Requesters seeking expedited processing must submit a statement explaining in detail the basis for the request, and that statement must be certified by the requester to be true and correct. 6 C.F.R. § 5.5(d)(3).

Your request for expedited processing is denied because you do not qualify for either category under 6 C.F.R. § 5.5(d)(1). You failed to demonstrate a particular urgency to inform the public about the government activity involved in the request beyond the public's right to know about government activity generally. Your letter was conclusory in nature and did not present any facts to justify a grant of expedited processing under the applicable standards.

Due to the increasing number of FOIA requests received by this office, we may encounter some delay in processing your request. Per Section 5.5(a) of the DHS FOIA regulations, 6 C.F.R. Part 5, ICE processes FOIA requests according to their order of receipt. Although ICE's goal is to respond within 20 business days of receipt of your request, the FOIA does permit a 10-day extension of this time period. As your request seeks numerous documents that will necessitate a thorough and wide-ranging search, ICE will invoke a 10-day extension for your request, as

allowed by Title 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(6)(B). If you care to narrow the scope of your request, please contact our office. We will make every effort to comply with your request in a timely manner.

Provisions of the FOIA allow us to recover part of the cost of complying with your request. We shall charge you for records in accordance with the DHS Interim FOIA regulations as they apply to non-commercial requesters. As a non-commercial requester, you will be charged 10 cents per page for duplication; the first 100 pages are free, as are the first two hours of search time, after which you will pay the per quarter-hour rate (\$4.00 for clerical personnel, \$7.00 for professional personnel, \$10.25 for managerial personnel) of the searcher. We will construe the submission of your request as an agreement to pay up to \$25.00. You will be contacted before any further fees are accrued.

If you deem the decision to deny expedited treatment of your request an adverse determination, you may exercise your appeal rights. Should you wish to do so, please send your appeal following the procedures outlined in the DHS regulations at 6 Code of Federal Regulations § 5.9 and a copy of this letter to:

U.S. Immigration Customs Enforcement
Office of Principal Legal Advisor
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Freedom of Information Office
500 12th Street, S.W., Stop 5009
Washington, D.C. 20536-5009

Your appeal must be received within 60 days of the date of this letter. Your envelope and letter should be marked "FOIA Appeal." Copies of the FOIA and DHS regulations are available at www.dhs.gov/foia.

ICE has queried the appropriate program offices within ICE for responsive records. If any responsive records are located, they will be reviewed for determination of releasability. Please be assured that one of the processors in our office will respond to your request as expeditiously as possible. We appreciate your patience as we proceed with your request.

Your request has been assigned reference number **2014-ICFO-04325**. Please refer to this identifier in any future correspondence. You may contact this office at (866) 633-1182. Our mailing address is 500 12th Street, S.W., Stop 5009, Washington, D.C. 20536-5009.

Sincerely,



Catrina M. Pavlik-Keenan
FOIA Officer

EXHIBIT L

U.S. Department of Homeland Security
500 12th St. SW; STOP 5009
Washington, DC 20536-5009



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

October 7, 2014

Beth Werlin
American Immigration Council
1331 G Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005

RE: 2014-ICAP-00020, 2014-ICFO-04325

Dear Ms. Werlin:

This is in response to your letter dated September 5, 2014, and received on September 9, 2014, appealing the adverse determination of your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request by U.S. Immigration & Customs Enforcement (ICE) requesting the disclosure of agency records that contain, discuss, refer, or relate to policies, regulations, practices, procedures, recommendations and guidelines with respect to the implementation of § 235(b) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1225(b) ("expedited removal") since June 1, 2014. You have appealed the denial of expedited treatment, the denial of a full fee waiver, and the constructive denial of your FOIA request.

Expedited Treatment

You have appealed the denial of expedited treatment on your FOIA request. As was explained in a letter dated August 8, 2014, the ICE FOIA Office denied your request for expedited processing because expedited processing of a FOIA request is warranted only "if the request involves 'circumstances in which the lack of expedited treatment could reasonably be expected to pose an imminent threat to the life or physical safety of an individual,' 6 C.F.R. § 5.5(d)(1)(i), or 'an urgency to inform the public about an actual or alleged federal government activity, if made by a person primarily engaged in disseminating information,' 6 C.F.R. § 5.5(d)(1)(ii)."

Your August 21, 2014 letter, attached to your September 5, 2014 letter as (Exhibit F) states "First, there is 'an urgency to inform the public' about this government activity. The government's policies, procedures and practices related to implementation of the expedited removal process, including the application of this process to families with minor children apprehended or detained by DHS in Artesia, New Mexico, have been repeatedly raised and discussed by members of Congress, the news media, and the public in recent weeks...Furthermore, early reports about expedited removal processing in Artesia raise serious due process concerns. Second, a delayed response would compromise individuals' due process interests in significant ways. Attorneys and other service providers need to understand the relevant policies, procedures, and practices to serve the population of individuals in that facility more effectively and to raise any potential challenges to those procedures in a timely manner...Moreover, a delay in public disclosure and discussion of these policies, procedures, and practices will likely allow problematic practices to persist longer than they

Beth Werlin
Page 2 of 3

otherwise would. Third, this request obviously 'concerns federal government activity' because both the proceedings and the detention facilities are federal."

The reasons provided do not demonstrate that there is an urgency to inform the public about an actual or alleged Federal Government activity, which is "beyond the public's right to know about government activity generally." Inasmuch as there has not been a specific showing that the subject of this FOIA request is "a matter of current exigency to the American public" and "whether the consequences of delaying a response would compromise a significant recognized interest," the reasons provided do not qualify as an "urgency." *See Al-Fayed v. CIA*, 254 F.3d 300, 310 (D.C. Cir. 2001).

Consequently, ICE has determined that the denial of your request for expedited processing was proper in all respects and that you have not shown that you qualify for expedited processing as required under 6 C.F.R. §§ 5.5(d)(1)(i) or (ii).

Constructive Denial

You have appealed the constructive denial of your FOIA request based upon ICE FOIA's failure to provide you with a response to your FOIA request within the thirty (30) days provided by statute.

A high number of FOIA requests have been received by the Department. Accordingly, we have adopted the court-sanctioned practice of generally handling backlogged appeals on a first-in, first-out basis. Consequently, we are remanding your appeal to ICE FOIA so that they may complete their processing of these records and provide a direct response to you.

Fee Waiver

You have appealed the denial of a full fee waiver on your FOIA request. As was explained in a letter dated August 8, 2014, ICE FOIA conditionally granted your request for a fee waiver. ICE FOIA stated that "the fee waiver determination will be based upon a sampling of the responsive documents received from the various ICE program offices as a result of the searches conducted in response to your FOIA request. ICE will, pursuant to DHS regulations applicable to non-commercial requesters, process the first 100 pages. If upon review of these documents, ICE determines that the disclosure of the information contained in those documents does not meet the factors permitting ICE to waive the fees, then ICE will at that time either deny your request for a fee waiver entirely, or will allow for a percentage reduction in the amount of the fees corresponding to the amount of relevant material found that meets the factors allowing for a fee waiver. In either case, ICE will promptly notify you of its final decision regarding your request for a fee waiver and provide you with the responsive records as required by applicable law."

As we are remanding your appeal back to ICE FOIA so that they may complete their processing of these records, we will also remand your request for a fee waiver to ICE FOIA to make the fee waiver determination based upon a sampling of the responsive documents received from the various ICE program offices as a result of the searches conducted in response to your FOIA request.

Beth Werlin
Page 3 of 3

This decision is the final action of ICE concerning your FOIA request. Inasmuch as you consider this to be a denial of your appeal, you may obtain judicial review of this decision pursuant to the provisions of 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(B) in the United States District Court in the district in which you reside or have a principal place of business, or in which the agency records are situated, or in the District of Columbia.

The Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) also mediates disputes between FOIA requesters and Federal agencies as a non-exclusive alternative to litigation. If you are requesting access to your own records (which is considered a Privacy Act request), you should know that OGIS does not have the authority to handle requests made under the Privacy Act of 1974. If you wish to contact OGIS, you may email them at ogis@nara.gov or call 1-877-684-6448.

Should you have any questions regarding this appeal adjudication, please contact ICE at ice-foia@dhs.gov. In the subject line of the email, please include the word "appeal," your appeal number, which is 2014-ICAP-00020, and the FOIA case number, which is 2014-ICFO-04325.

Sincerely,


for

Debbie Seguin
Chief
Government Information Law Division
ICE Office of the Principal Legal Advisor
U.S. Department of Homeland Security

EXHIBIT M

From: CBPFOIA@cbp.dhs.gov [mailto:CBPFOIA@cbp.dhs.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, July 29, 2014 5:14 PM
To: Beth Werlin
Subject: FOIA Request CBP-2014-038899 Submitted

This message is to confirm your request submission to the FOIAonline application:
View

Request<<https://foiaonline.regulations.gov:443/foia/action/public/view/request?objectId=090004d280307f93>>. Request information is as follows:

- * Tracking Number: CBP-2014-038899
- * Requester Name: Beth Werlin
- * Date Submitted: 07/29/2014
- * Request Status: Submitted
- * Description: See attached.

EXHIBIT N

From: CBPFOIA@cbp.dhs.gov [mailto:CBPFOIA@cbp.dhs.gov]

Sent: Thursday, October 02, 2014 8:22 AM

To: Beth Werlin

Subject: FOIA Request Tracking Number Change for Request CBP-2014-038899 (to CBP-OBP-2014-038899)

The FOIA request CBP-2014-038899 has had its Tracking Number changed to CBP-OBP-2014-038899. This is normally due to the request being transferred to another agency (for example, EPA to Dept. of Commerce) or to a sub-agency to process it. Additional details for this request are as follows:

- Old Tracking Number: CBP-2014-038899
- New Tracking Number: CBP-OBP-2014-038899
- Requester Name: Beth Werlin
- Date Submitted: 07/29/2014

Long Description: See attached.

EXHIBIT O



U.S. Department of Justice
Office of Information Policy
Suite 11050
1425 New York Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Telephone: (202) 514-3642

September 24, 2014

Beth Werlin, Esq.
American Immigration Council
1331 G Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005
bwlerlin@immcouncil.org

Re: Appeal No. AP-2014-04322
Request No. 2014-22293
SRO:MTC

VIA: E-mail


Dear Ms. Werlin:

This is to advise you that your administrative appeal from the action of the Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR) was received in this Office on August 28, 2014. You appealed from EOIR's denial of your request for expedited treatment of your request.

The Director of Public Affairs considered your request for expedited processing under the fourth standard and determined that your request should be granted expedited processing because the subject of your request constitutes a "matter of widespread and exceptional media interest in which there exist possible questions about the government's integrity which affect public confidence." 28 C.F.R. § 16.5(d)(1)(iv) (2013). I concur in that determination. Accordingly, I am remanding your request to EOIR, which will process your request as quickly as practicable.

If you are dissatisfied with my action on your appeal for expedited treatment of your request, you may file a lawsuit in accordance with 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(6)(E)(iii).

Sincerely,



Sean R. O'Neill
Chief
Administrative Appeals Staff