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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT of JUSTICE



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Request summary

Request submitted on **January 26, 2021**.

The confirmation ID for your request is **189856**.

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Contact information

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Your request

We represent journalist Raymond Bonner, and make this request on his behalf. Mr. Bonner seeks: 1. The audio recording of the March 27, 2007 Combatant Status Review Tribunal for Abu Zubaydah (also known as Zayn Al Abidin Muhammad Husayn) that includes, at a minimum, all sections of that proceeding made public in the written transcript available at:

www.esd.whs.mil/Portals/54/Documents/FOID/Reading%20Room/Detainee_Related/15-L-1645_CSRT%20Transcript%20ISN%2010016_27-mar-07.pdf 2.

Any video recording and any photographic images of the March 27, 2007 Combatant Status Review Tribunal for Abu Zubaydah (also known as Zayn Al Abidin Muhammad Husayn).

Fees**What type of requester are you?**

media

Fee waiver

yes

Fee waiver justification

Mr. Bonner requests a waiver of search and review fees because he is a “representative of the news media.” 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A)(ii)(II). Mr. Bonner is a Pulitzer Prize-winning investigative journalist and author with over 35 years of professional experience. Throughout his career, he has reported and written

for major publications, including The New York Times, The New Yorker, The Atlantic, The New York Review of Books, and The New York Times Book Review. He is currently a contributing writer for ProPublica, an independent, non-profit, online newsroom based in New York. He has written extensively about international security, the U.S. War on Terror, the treatment of terrorist suspects in the aftermath of 9/11, and U.S. detention practices at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. ProPublica has published several of his articles regarding the detention of and legal proceedings involving Abu Zubaydah. He therefore meets the statutory definition of a “representative of the news media” as an individual who “gathers information of potential interest to a segment of the public, uses [his] editorial skills to turn the raw materials into a distinct work, and distributes that work to an audience.” 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A)(ii). Mr. Bonner’s role as a contributing writer for ProPublica, combined with his previous record of publication, make it clear that he “can demonstrate a solid basis for expecting publication through” ProPublica. 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A)(ii)(III). For these reasons, Mr. Bonner respectfully request that all fees related to the search, review, and duplication of the requested records be waived.

The amount of money you’re willing to pay in fees, if any

If a fee waiver is denied, please contact us before incurring fees in excess of \$100.00

Request expedited processing

Expedited processing

yes

Justification for expedited processing

Pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(6)(E), Mr. Bonner requests expedited processing for this request because of an urgent need to inform the public about a federal government activity. The treatment of detainees taken into American custody as part of the U.S War on Terror—in particular the fates of detainees who were captured in the aftermath of September 11 and remain in custody nearly two decades later—is a matter of ongoing and urgent public concern. The past treatment and current status of Abu Zubaydah remains a frequent subject of national and

international reporting. See, e.g., Peter Bergen, Exclusive: More drawings allege CIA's horrific treatment of Abu Zubaydah. CNN (February 13, 2020), <https://www.cnn.com/2020/02/12/opinions/bergen-more-drawings-allege-cias-horrific-treatment-of-abu-zubaydah/index.html>; Sheren Khaleel, Guantanamo parole board reviews case of 'forever prisoner' Abu Zubaydah, Middle East Eye (February 4, 2020), <https://www.middleeasteye.net/news/guantanamo-parole-board-reviews-case-forever-prisoner-abu-zubaydah>; Greg Myre, For Ex-FBI Interrogator Ali Soufan, Sept. 11 Still Frames His Life, WAMU (September 11, 2020), <https://wamu.org/story/20/09/11/for-ex-fbi-interrogator-ali-soufan-9-11-still-frames-his-life/>. Moreover, Mr. Bonner seeks this information for use in a documentary about Abu Zubaydah and his detention, the release of which will coincide with the 20th anniversary of the September 11 attacks this year. The records are needed as soon as possible for inclusion in the documentary. Mr. Bonner and his counsel certify that the information above is true and correct to the best of their knowledge, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(6)(E)(vi).



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