

EXHIBIT B

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



U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

COW2019500891

August 9, 2019

Richard Caldarone
Tahirih Justice Center
6402 Arlington Blvd.
Ste. 300
Falls Church, VA 22042

Handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Richard Caldarone".

Dear Richard Caldarone:

We received your request for information relating to USCIS's decision to give priority to the most recently filed affirmative asylum applications when scheduling asylum interviews and the consequences of that decision. Specifically you are requesting:

(i) the reasons for the scheduling priorities that took effect on January 29, 2018; (ii) the reasons for departing from the prior set of scheduling priorities; (iii) any concerns, practical, legal, or otherwise, with the new scheduling priorities that took effect on January 29, 2018; (iv) the purpose of the revised scheduling priorities; (v) the extent of any backlog of petitions filed before the revised scheduling priorities took effect; (vi) any efforts by USCIS to eliminate that backlog and adjudicate all pending affirmative asylum applications; (vii) the time it will take to adjudicate any or all pending affirmative asylum applications; and (viii) the date of the earliest-filed affirmative asylum applications that remained pending at any time.

Your request was received in this office July 5, 2019. We may need to contact you at a later date to discuss the scope of your request.

Your request is being handled under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. § 552). It has been assigned the following control number: COW2019500891. Please cite this number in all future correspondence about your request.

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).

Your request for a fee waiver has been granted.

Consistent with 6 C.F.R. § 5.5(a) of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) FOIA regulations, USCIS processes FOIA requests according to their order of receipt. Although USCIS' goal is to respond within 20 business days of receipt of your request, FOIA does permit a 10-day extension of this time period in certain circumstances. Due to the increasing number of FOIA requests received by this office, we may encounter some delay in processing your request. Additionally, due to the scope and nature of your request, USCIS will need to locate, compile, and review responsive records from multiple offices, both at headquarters and in the field. USCIS may also need to consult with another agency or other component of the Department of Homeland Security that have a substantial interest in the responsive information. Due to these unusual circumstances, USCIS will invoke a 10-day extension for your request pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(6)(B). Please contact our office if you would like to limit the scope of your request or to agree on a different timetable for the processing of your request. We will make every effort to comply with your request in a timely manner.

This office now offers an online delivery option. If you would like to receive the requested records online, you will need to register this request at first.uscis.gov. If you do not already have a MyUSCIS account

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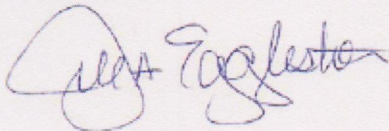
you will be prompted to create one. Once logged on, click the "Register Request" link where you will be asked to enter your control number COW2019500891 and the following six digit PIN: 912191. If you do not wish to take advantage of this option, we will be providing your records on a Compact Disc (CD) for use on your personal computer. 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 (802) 860-6908.

The National Records Center (NRC) has the responsibility to ensure that personally identifiable information (PII) pertaining to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) clients is protected. In our efforts to safeguard this information, we may request that additional information be provided to facilitate and correctly identify records responsive to your request. Though submission of this information is voluntary, without this information, your request may be delayed while additional steps are taken to ensure the correct responsive records are located and processed. Further, if we are unable to positively identify the subject of the record we may be unable to provide records responsive to your FOIA request.

You may check the status of your FOIA request online at www.uscis.gov/FOIA. Click the "Check Status of Request" button in the middle of the web page or "FOIA Request Status Check & Average Processing Times" on the left side under "Freedom of Information and Privacy Act (FOIA)." Then click "FOIA Check Status of Request" at the bottom of the page and follow the instructions given. If you have any questions concerning your pending FOIA/PA request, or to check the status of a pending application or petition, please call The National Customer Service Center at (800) 375-5283. 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, emailed to USCIS.FOIA@uscis.dhs.gov, or sent by fax to (802) 860-6908. You may also submit FOIA/PA related questions to our email address at FOIAPAQuestions@uscis.dhs.gov.

Sincerely,



Jill A. Eggleston
Director, FOIA Operations