

EXHIBIT B



Stephen Poellot <spoellot@refugeerights.org>

Ref: F-2022-06699, Freedom of Information Act Acknowledgement

A_FOIAacknowledgement@groups.state.gov
<A_FOIAacknowledgement@groups.state.gov>
To: spoellot@refugeerights.org

Wed, Apr 6, 2022 at 12:26
PM

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Mr. Poellot:

This email acknowledges receipt of your March 31, 2022, Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) (5 U.S.C. § 552) request received by the U.S. Department of State, Office of Information Programs and Services on March 31, 2022, regarding "1. Any and all guidance, policies, directives, training materials, and similar documents issued after January 1, 2021 regarding the processing of Special Immigrant Visa applications of Afghan nationals, including but not limited to Chief of Mission application processing, Project Rabbit processing, and the transfer of visa applications following the fall of U.S. Embassy Kabul. 2. The processing of humanitarian parole applications and the issuance of boarding foils for Afghan nationals at U.S. embassies and consulates. 3. The processing of Afghans being referred to and applying for refugee resettlement through the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program, including but not limited to Afghan P-1 / P-2 referral processing. 4. Aggregate data or statistics related to the processing of Afghans being referred to and applying for refugee resettlement through the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program since January 1, 2021, including but not limited to any data or statistics on the number of refugee referrals applications received, approved, denied, and still pending, broken down by location of the applicant" (Date Range for Record Search: From 1/1/2021 To 3/31/2022). Unless you advise otherwise, we will treat as non-responsive any compilations of publicly available news reports and any publicly available documents not created by the U.S. government, such as mass-distribution emails from news media. This Office assigned your request the subject reference number and placed it in the complex processing track where it will be processed as quickly as possible. See 22 CFR § 171.11(h). This Office grants your request for a fee waiver.

Also, you requested expedited processing of this request. According to 22 CFR § 171.11(f), requests shall receive expedited processing when a requester demonstrates a "compelling need" for the information exists for one of the following reasons: (1) failure to obtain the requested information on an expedited basis could reasonably be expected to pose an imminent threat to the life or physical safety of an individual; (2) the information is urgently needed by an individual primarily engaged in disseminating information in order to inform the public concerning actual or alleged Federal government activity; or (3) failure to release the information would impair substantial due process rights or harm substantial humanitarian interests. Your request does not demonstrate a "compelling need" for the requested information. Therefore, this Office denies your request for expedited processing.

If you are not satisfied with this Office's determination in response to your request for expedited processing, you may administratively appeal to: Appeals Officer, Office of Information Programs and Services, U.S. Department of State, 2201 C Street, NW, Room B266, Washington, D.C. 20520; or facsimile at 202-485-1718. Your appeal must be postmarked or electronically transmitted within 90 days of the date of this email.

This Office will not be able to respond within the 20 days provided by the statute due to "unusual circumstances." See 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(6)(B)(i)-(iii). In this instance, the unusual circumstances include the need to search for and collect requested records from other Department offices or Foreign Service posts.

If you have any questions regarding your request, would like to narrow the scope or arrange an alternative time frame to speed its processing, or would like an estimated date of completion, please contact our FOIA Requester Service Center or our FOIA Public Liaison by email at FOIAstatus@state.gov or telephone at 202-261-8484. Additionally, you may contact the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) at the National Archives and Records Administration to inquire about the FOIA mediation services they offer. The contact information for OGIS is as follows: Office of Government Information Services, National Archives and Records Administration, [8601 Adelphi Road](https://www.ogis.gov)-OGIS, College Park, Maryland 20740-6001, email at ogis@nara.gov; telephone at 202-741-5770; toll free at 1-877-684-6448; or facsimile at 202-741-5769.

Sincerely,

/s/ W. Evans, for
Kellie N. Robinson
Chief, Requester Liaison Division (Acting)
FOIA Program Manager/FOIA Public Liaison
U.S. Department of State
Office of Information Programs and Services

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