U.S. Department of Homeland Security
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services
National Records Center
P.O. Box 648010

P.O. Box 648010 Lee's Summit, MO 64064-8010



July 20, 2022

Najib Aminy 1400 65th Street, Suite 200 Emeryville, CA 94608

## Dear Najib Aminy:

This is in response to your Freedom of Information Act/Privacy Act (FOIA/PA) request received in this office on February 17, 2022, regarding Afghan Evacuation and Post Evacuation Efforts. You specifically requested the following information.

- 1. The current database schema, data dictionary, or other reference document(s) regarding all databases used by USCIS to track Humanitarian Parole applications from Afghan Nationals.
- 2. Data (or other records) that show the number of Humanitarian Parole applications with all relevant fields from Afghan nationals that USCIS received between the period of January 1, 2021 to February 1, 2022.
- 3. Data (or other records) that show the number of Humanitarian Parole applications with all relevant fields from Afghan nationals that USCIS approved between the period of January 1, 2021 to February 1, 2022.
- 4. Data (or other records) that show the number of Humanitarian Parole applications with all relevant fields from Afghan nationals that USCIS rejected between the period of January 1, 2021 to February 1, 2022.
- 5. Data (or other records) that show the number of Humanitarian Parole applications with all relevant fields from Afghan nationals that USCIS "Administratively closed" between the period of January 1, 2021 to February 1, 2022.
- 6. Data (or other records) that show the number of Humanitarian Parole applications with all relevant fields from Afghan nationals that USCIS is processing and where the status of the application is pending between the period of January 1, 2021 to February 1, 2022.
- 7. Data (or other records) that show the demographic breakdown of Humanitarian Parole applications USCIS received from Afghan nationals from January 1, 2021 to February 1, 2022, including all relevant fields (including but not limited to: each applicant's gender, sex, age, family unit, children, marital status, applicant's home city, applicant's filing location).
- 8. Data (or other records) that show the number of Humanitarian Parole applications from Afghan nationals that USCIS denied with all relevant fields (including but not limited to date of denial, type of denial, when the application was received, when the ruling was made).
- 9. Data (or other records) that show the average response time, with all relevant fields, for USCIS in receiving, processing and responding to Humanitarian Parole applications from Afghan nationals from January 1, 2021 to February 1, 2022.
- 10. Data (or other records) that show the quickest response time, with all relevant fields, for USCIS in receiving, processing and responding to Humanitarian Parole applications from Afghan nationals from

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January 1, 2021 to February 1, 2022.

- 11. Data (or other records) that show the slowest response time, with all relevant fields, for USCIS in receiving, processing and responding to Humanitarian Parole applications from Afghan nationals from January 1, 2021 to February 1, 2022.
- 12. Data (or other records) that show the total number of fee waivers (FORM I-912) with all relevant fields that USCIS received, processed and responded to in relation to Humanitarian Parole applications from Afghan Nationals from January 1, 2021 to February 1, 2022.
- 13. Data (or other records) that show the response breakdown of fee waivers USCIS received from Afghan nationals from January 1, 2021 to February 1, 2022, including all relevant fields (including but not limited to accepted, denied, dates received and dates responded to).
- 14. Data (or other records) that show the total fees USCIS has collected with all relevant fields from Humanitarian Parole applications from Afghan Nationals from January 1, 2021 to February 1, 2022.
- 15. Data (or other records) with all relevant fields that show documents, training materials or rubrics that USCIS has provided to its own internal adjudicators to determine rulings specific to Humanitarian Parole applications (including but not limited to approvals, further evidence needed, administrative review, denials).

On May 23, 2022, you agreed to modify items 1-14 of your request to a search of the following search parameters, where possible within USCIS' databases, regarding humanitarian parole applications and fee waiver applications for Afghan nationals.

Date of application;

Decision (conditionally approved, denied, and closed);

Date of final decision;

Sex/Gender;

Year of Birth;

Country of Birth;

Country/Countries of Citizenship;

Country of Residence;

Marital status;

Number of Children;

U.S. Address:

Residence or Destination state;

Foreign Address state;

Through a conference call with the USCIS FOIA Office you clarified item 15 of your request. This item was clarified in that you were not seeking data but rather training materials that USCIS has provided to its own internal adjudicators to determine rulings specific to Humanitarian Parole applications (including but not limited to approvals, further evidence needed, administrative review, denials).

On July 15, 2022, USCIS provided one Excel spreadsheet as part of the second rolling release to your request. Upon further review, it was determined that a database query error caused the report to be

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incomplete. This error has been corrected and the enclosed Excel spreadsheet is being provided as a supplemental release to the second rolling release.

USCIS is unable to provide marital status and number of children. This information is not captured within USCIS databases. The enclosed records constitutes the third rolling release in response to the above-noted FOIA request.

We have completed the review of all documents and have identified one Excel document that is responsive to your request. One Excel document is being partially withheld. We have reviewed and have determined to release all information except those portions that are exempt pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 552 (b)(6) of the FOIA.

The following exemptions are applicable:

Exemption (b)(6) permits the government to withhold all information about individuals in personnel, medical and similar files where the disclosure of such information would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy. The types of documents and/or information that we have withheld may consist of birth certificates, naturalization certificates, drivers' licenses, social security numbers, home addresses, dates of birth, or various other documents and/or information belonging to a third party that are considered personal.

As a result of discussion between agency personnel and a member of our staff, as a matter of administrative discretion, we are releasing computer codes found on system screen prints previously withheld under exemption b(2). There may be additional documents that contain discretionary releases of exempt information. If made, these releases are specifically identified in the responsive record. These discretionary releases do not waive our ability to invoke applicable FOIA exemptions for similar or related information in the future.

The enclosed record consists of the best reproducible copies available. Certain pages contain marks that appear to be blacked-out information. The black marks were made prior to our receipt of the file and are not information we have withheld under the provisions of the FOIA or PA.

You have the right to file an administrative appeal within 90 days of the date of this letter. By filing an appeal, you preserve your rights under FOIA and give the agency a chance to review and reconsider your request and the agency's decision. You may file an administrative FOIA appeal to USCIS at: USCIS FOIA/PA Appeals Office, 150 Space Center Loop, Suite 500, Lee's Summit, MO 64064-2139. Both the letter and the envelope should be clearly marked "Freedom of Information Act Appeal."

If you would like to discuss our response before filing an appeal to attempt to resolve your dispute without going through the appeals process, you may contact our FOIA Public Liaison, Cynthia Munita, for assistance at:

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services National Records Center, FOIA/PA Office P.O. Box 648010 Lee's Summit, MO 64064-8010 Telephone: (816) 350-5510

E-Mail: FOIAPAQuestions@uscis.dhs.gov

A FOIA Public Liaison is an agency official to whom FOIA requesters can raise concerns about the service the requester has received from the agency's FOIA Office. FOIA Public Liaisons are responsible for assisting in reducing delays, increasing transparency and understanding of the status of requests, and assisting in the resolution of disputes.

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If you are unable to resolve your FOIA dispute through our FOIA Public Liaison, the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS), the Federal FOIA Ombudsman's office, offers mediation services to help resolve disputes between FOIA requesters and Federal Agencies. The OGIS does not have the authority to handle requests made under the Privacy Act of 1974. The contact information for OGIS is:

Office of Government Information Services National Archives and Records Administration 8601 Adelphi Road - OGIS College Park, MD 20740-6001

Telephone: (202) 741-5770 or (877) 684-6448

Email: OGIS@nara.gov Website: ogis.archives.gov

The National Records Center does not process petitions, applications or any other type of benefit under the Immigration and Nationality Act. If you have questions or wish to submit documentation relating to a matter pending with the bureau, you must address these issues with your nearest District Office.

All FOIA/PA related requests, including address changes, must be submitted in writing and be signed by the requester. Questions concerning this FOIA/PA request may be mailed to the FOIA/PA Officer at the PO Box listed at the top of the letterhead or emailed to <a href="FOIAPAQuestions@uscis.dhs.gov">FOIAPAQuestions@uscis.dhs.gov</a>. Please include the control number listed above on all correspondence with this office. You can now submit a new FOIA request online using our new Freedom of Information Act Records SysTem (FIRST). If you wish to submit a new FOIA/PA request, please visit <a href="https://www.uscis.gov/FOIA">www.uscis.gov/FOIA</a> for instructions and requirements.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Munita

Director, FOIA Operations

Enclosure(s)