

Sunday, July 23, 2023 at 12:14:46 Pacific Daylight Time

Subject: Fwd: Ref: F-2023-06816, Freedom of Information Act Acknowledgement
Date: Thursday, May 25, 2023 at 9:04:18 AM Pacific Daylight Time
From: Muhammad Hassan
To: Curtis Morrison

----- Forwarded message -----

From: <A_FOIAacknowledgement@groups.state.gov>
Date: Thu, Apr 6, 2023 at 12:54PM
Subject: Ref: F-2023-06816, Freedom of Information Act Acknowledgement
To: <hmuham8@vt.edu>

****THIS EMAIL BOX IS NOT MONITORED, PLEASE DO NOT REPLY TO THIS EMAIL.****

Mr. Hassan:

This email acknowledges receipt of your April 3, 2023, 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 April 3, 2023, regarding email correspondence between US Embassy Islamabad, National Visa Center and the Bureau of Consular affairs discussing the Immigrant visa backlog at the embassy in Islamabad, to include discussion of officials on the size of the backlog, public impact of the backlog, steps being taken to resolve the backlog, estimated timeframes on resolution, how staffing decisions have impacted the backlog, the impact of the afghan withdrawal on the backlog and any other pertinent information on policy decisions that may have impacted this issue (Date Range for Record Search: From 8/19/2022 To 4/3/2023). 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).

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 determination, you may administratively appeal by writing to: Appeals Officer, Office of Information Programs and Services (A/GIS/IPS), Room B-266, U.S. Department of State, 2201 C Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20520; by fax to (202) 485-1718; or by email to FOIAAppeals@state.gov. Your appeal must be postmarked or electronically transmitted within 90 days of the date of this email. Please include a copy of this correspondence with your written appeal and clearly state why you disagree with the determinations set forth in this response.

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-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,

K. B. for
Brooke Nicholas
Branch Chief
Requester Communications Branch
Requester Liaison Division
Office of Information Programs and Services
U.S. Department of State

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