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EXHIBIT 1

**June 8, 2023 DEA Acknowledgement of May 17, 2023 FOIA Request and Assignment of
Case # 23-00015-FP**



Kenneth White <kennethwhite99@gmail.com>

DEA FOIA/PA Case Number: 23-00015-FP

DEA.FOIA@dea.gov <DEA.FOIA@dea.gov>
To: white@bridgewest.com

Thu, Jun 8, 2023 at 1:11 PM

Dear Kenneth White:

This e-mail responds to your Freedom of Information Act/Privacy Act (FOIA/PA) request dated May 17, 2023, received by the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), FOIA/PA Unit, seeking access to information related to Carlos Arturo Rey Soto, Gustavo Adolfo Rey Soto(deceased), and Taca Limitada. Your request has been opened and assigned the following case number: 23-00015-FP. Please include this case number when communicating with this office.

Before my office can move forward and search for records related to Gustavo Adolfo Rey Soto, please provide proof of death.

With regard to information related to Carlos Arturo Rey Soto and Taca Limitada, the records you seek require searches in another office or offices, and so your request falls within "unusual circumstances." See 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(6)(B)(i)-(iii). Because of these unusual circumstances, we are extending the time limit to respond to your request beyond the ten additional days provided by the statute. We have not yet completed a search to determine whether there are records within the scope of your request. The time needed to process your request will necessarily depend on the complexity of our records search and on the volume and complexity of any records located. For your information, this office assigns incoming requests to one of three tracks: simple, complex, or expedited. Each request is then handled on a first-in, first-out basis in relation to other requests in the same track. Simple requests usually receive a response in approximately one month, whereas complex requests take longer than a month to complete. At this time, your request has been assigned to the complex track. You may wish to narrow the scope of your request to limit the number of potentially responsive records or agree to an alternative time frame for processing, should records be located; or you may wish to await the completion of our records search to discuss either of these options.

We regret the necessity of this delay, but please be assured that your request will be processed as soon as possible. If you have any questions or wish to discuss reformulation or an alternative time frame for the processing of your request, you may contact our FOIA Requester Service Center at (571) 776-2300 or e-mail your correspondence to DEA.FOIA@dea.gov.

In addition, you may wish to visit our website at www.dea.gov to determine if the information you are requesting is already available to the public. You may contact our FOIA Public Liaison at (571) 776-2300 for any further assistance and to discuss any aspect of your request. 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, [Room 2510, 8601 Adelphi Road, College Park, Maryland 20740-6001](#); e-mail at ogis@nara.gov; telephone at (202) 741-5770; toll free at 1-877-684-6448; or facsimile at (202) 741-5769.

Sincerely,

Yvette D. Davis, Chief
Intake Sub-Unit
FOIA/PA Unit
Drug Enforcement Administration
Telephone: (571) 776-2300
E-mail: DEA.FOIA@dea.gov

PRIVACY ACT NOTICE: This e-mail (including any attachments herein) may contain personal and privileged information that requires protection in compliance with the Privacy Act of 1974 (5 U.S.C. § 552a). Any use of this information by anyone other than the intended recipient is prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please immediately delete all copies of this information and notify me by e-mail. The use, dissemination, distribution, or reproduction of this communication by unintended recipients is not authorized and may be unlawful.

components that receives the largest number of FOIA/PA requests per year. DEA received 1,603 requests in Fiscal Year 2022, and we have limited personnel resources to process such requests. See Department of Justice Annual FOIA Reports available at <https://www.justice.gov/oip/reports-1>. We are experiencing a backlog of approximately 2,000 requests, which has impacted our ability to process your request in a timelier manner. Please be advised, your request is 1,826 pending requests in our complex processing queue.

Notwithstanding, your request is being handled as expeditiously as possible. We anticipate completion by approximately December 31, 2024.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, you may contact a FOIA/PA Unit representative at (571) 776-2300 or via e-mail at DEA.FOIA@dea.gov.

Sincerely,

Deshelia Wallace

FOIA/PA Specialist

FOIA/PA Unit

Drug Enforcement Administration

Telephone: (571) 776-2300

E-mail: DEA.FOIA@dea.gov

[Quoted text hidden]



Kenneth White <kennethwhite99@gmail.com>

DEA FOIA - Gustavo Adolfo REY SOTO ([REDACTED] , Deceased Citizen of Colombia)

DEA.FOIA <DEA.FOIA@dea.gov>
To: Kenneth White <white@bridgewest.com>

Thu, Jun 8, 2023 at 1:13 PM

Mr. White,

Please disregard my last email regarding the proof of death for Mr. Rey Soto. I will add this email to your FOIA request 23-00015-FP and have my team complete the search.

V/r

Yvette Davis

Chief – Intake Sub-Unit

Freedom of Information and Privacy Act Unit

FOIA and Information Law Section

Drug Enforcement Administration

[8701 Morrissette Drive](#)

[Springfield, VA 22152](#)

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EXHIBIT 2

**August 3, September 12, November 9, and December 8, 2023 Correspondence with DEA
regarding the FOIA request**



Kenneth White <kennethwhite99@gmail.com>

pending since May 2023 - 23-00015-FP - Carlos Arturo REY SOTO, Gustavo Adolfo REY SOTO, Taca Limitada

2 messages

Kenneth White <white@bridgewest.com>

Tue, Sep 12, 2023 at 4:49 PM

To: DEA.FOIA@dea.gov, "DEA.FOIA" <dea.foia@usdoj.gov>

Dear DEA FOIA Officer,

Mr. Rey Soto's request has now been pending with your office for nearly 4 months. Can you advise of an ECD for this request?

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Ken White

White & Associates

21550 Oxnard Street, Ste. 300

Woodland Hills, Los Angeles, CA 91367

(t) 818-730-3540 (f) 509-694-9786

WhatsApp: +1 818 730 3540; Skype: bridgewesthome

www.visarefusal.com, www.bridgewest.com, www.e-b-5.com

Admitted to PA and DC Bars; DC and 9th Circuits

Practice Limited to Immigration and Nationality Law

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

From: **Kenneth White** <white@bridgewest.com>

Date: Thu, Aug 3, 2023 at 8:27 AM

Subject: 23-00015-FP - Carlos Arturo REY SOTO, Gustavo Adolfo REY SOTO, Taca Limitada

To: <DEA.FOIA@dea.gov>

Hi, Ms. Davis,

Thought that I would check in with you on this request. Are you able to provide an estimated completion date? Thank you in advance.

Sincerely,

Ken White

White & Associates

21550 Oxnard Street, Ste. 300

Woodland Hills, Los Angeles, CA 91367

(t) 818-730-3540 (f) 509-694-9786

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

From: **DEA.FOIA** <DEA.FOIA@dea.gov>

Date: Thu, Jun 8, 2023 at 1:13 PM

Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] DEA FOIA - Gustavo Adolfo REY SOTO ([REDACTED] Deceased Citizen of Colombia)

To: Kenneth White <white@bridgewest.com>



Kenneth White <kennethwhite99@gmail.com>

REPLY: [EXTERNAL] pending since May 2023 - 23-00015-FP - Carlos Arturo REY SOTO, Taca Limitada

DEA.FOIA <DEA.FOIA@dea.gov>
To: Kenneth White <white@bridgewest.com>

Fri, Dec 8, 2023 at 4:53 PM

Dear Kenneth White:

This e-mail responds to your request below for a status update regarding your Freedom of Information Act/Privacy Act (FOIA/PA) request dated May 17, 2023, received by the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), FOIA/PA Unit, seeking access to DEA records.

Please be advised that due to the large number of requests received by DEA for disclosure of records pursuant to the Acts, and due to the limited resources available to process such requests, DEA has adopted a "first-in, first-out" practice of processing all incoming requests. This policy complies with the decision in Open America v. Watergate Special Prosecution Force, 547 F.2d 605, (D.C. Cir. 1976), citing 5 U.S.C. 552 (a)(6)(C) and is applied consistently by DEA.

We apologize for the delay in responding to your request. DEA is among the top six of all Department of Justice components that receives the largest number of FOIA/PA requests per year. DEA received 1,640 requests in Fiscal Year 2023, and we have limited personnel resources to process such requests. See Department of Justice Annual FOIA Reports available at <https://www.justice.gov/oip/reports-1>. We are experiencing a backlog of approximately 2,000 requests, which has impacted our ability to process your request in a timelier manner. Please be advised, your request is number 1,526 pending in our complex processing queue.

Notwithstanding your request is being handled as expeditiously as possible. Your patience in this matter is greatly appreciated.

If you have any questions regarding this e-mail, you may contact me.

Sincerely,
Deshelia Wallace
FOIA/PA Unit
571-776-2300
DEA.FOIA@dea.gov

From: Kenneth White <white@bridgewest.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 9, 2023 5:39 PM
To: DEA.FOIA <DEA.FOIA@dea.gov>; DEA.FOIA <DEA.FOIA@dea.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] pending since May 2023 - 23-00015-FP - Carlos Arturo REY SOTO, Taca Limitada

Dear DEA Officer,

This Request has been pending with your office for nearly 6 months, well beyond the statutory limit. Can you please advise on the status of this Request? Thank you in advance.

Sincerely,

Ken White

White & Associates

21550 Oxnard Street, Ste. 300

Woodland Hills, Los Angeles, CA 91367

(t) 818-730-3540 (f) 509-694-9786

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