

**U.S. District Court
Southern District of New York (Foley Square)
CIVIL DOCKET FOR CASE #: 1:23-cv-08790-VF**

International Refugee Assistance Project, Inc. v. United States
Citizenship and Immigration Services et al
Assigned to: Magistrate Judge Valerie Figueredo
Cause: 05:552 Freedom of Information Act

Date Filed: 10/06/2023
Jury Demand: None
Nature of Suit: 895 Freedom of
Information Act
Jurisdiction: U.S. Government Defendant

Plaintiff

**International Refugee Assistance
Project, Inc.**

represented by **Mariko Hirose**
Americans United for Separation of
Church and State
1310 L Street NW
Suite 200
Washington D.C., DC 20005
202-898-2140
Email: mhirose@refugeerights.org
TERMINATED: 05/14/2024

Mevlude Amina Akay Alp
International Refugee Assistance Project
One Battery Park Plaza, 33rd Floor
New York, NY 10004
518-596-4274
Email: makayalp@refugeerights.org
ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED

V.

Defendant

**United States Citizenship and
Immigration Services**

represented by **Mary Ellen Brennan**
U.S. Attorney's Office, SDNY
86 Chambers Street
New York, NY 10007
(212) 637-2652
Fax: (212) 637-2750
Email: maryellen.brennan@usdoj.gov
ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED

Defendant

United States Department of State

represented by **Mary Ellen Brennan**
(See above for address)
ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED

Date Filed	#	Docket Text
10/06/2023	<u>1</u>	COMPLAINT against United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, United States Department of State. (Filing Fee \$ 402.00, Receipt Number ANYSDC-28391728) Document filed by International Refugee Assistance Project, Inc.. (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Exhibit Ex A USCIS FOIA, # <u>2</u> Exhibit Ex B USCIS Letter, # <u>3</u> Exhibit Ex C DOS FOIA).(Akay Alp, Mevlude) (Entered: 10/06/2023)
10/06/2023	<u>2</u>	CIVIL COVER SHEET filed..(Akay Alp, Mevlude) (Entered: 10/06/2023)
10/06/2023	<u>3</u>	RULE 7.1 CORPORATE DISCLOSURE STATEMENT. No Corporate Parent. Document filed by International Refugee Assistance Project, Inc...(Akay Alp, Mevlude) (Entered: 10/06/2023)

10/06/2023	<u>4</u>	FILING ERROR – SUMMONS REQUEST PDF ERROR – REQUEST FOR ISSUANCE OF SUMMONS as to United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, re: <u>1</u> Complaint,. Document filed by International Refugee Assistance Project, Inc...(Akay Alp, Mevlude) Modified on 10/10/2023 (jgo). (Entered: 10/06/2023)
10/06/2023	<u>5</u>	FILING ERROR – SUMMONS REQUEST PDF ERROR – REQUEST FOR ISSUANCE OF SUMMONS as to United States Department of State, re: <u>1</u> Complaint,. Document filed by International Refugee Assistance Project, Inc...(Akay Alp, Mevlude) Modified on 10/10/2023 (jgo). (Entered: 10/06/2023)
10/10/2023		CASE OPENING INITIAL ASSIGNMENT NOTICE: The above–entitled action is assigned to Judge Valerie E. Caproni. Please download and review the Individual Practices of the assigned District Judge, located at https://nysd.uscourts.gov/judges/district–judges . Attorneys are responsible for providing courtesy copies to judges where their Individual Practices require such. Please download and review the ECF Rules and Instructions, located at https://nysd.uscourts.gov/rules/ecf–related–instructions.. (jgo) (Entered: 10/10/2023)
10/10/2023		Magistrate Judge Valerie Figueredo is so designated. Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. Section 636(c) and Fed. R. Civ. P. 73(b)(1) parties are notified that they may consent to proceed before a United States Magistrate Judge. Parties who wish to consent may access the necessary form at the following link: https://nysd.uscourts.gov/sites/default/files/2018–06/AO–3.pdf . (jgo) (Entered: 10/10/2023)
10/10/2023		Case Designated ECF. (jgo) (Entered: 10/10/2023)
10/10/2023		***NOTICE TO ATTORNEY REGARDING DEFICIENT REQUEST FOR ISSUANCE OF SUMMONS. Notice to Attorney Mevlude Amina Akay Alp to RE–FILE Document No. <u>5</u> Request for Issuance of Summons, <u>4</u> Request for Issuance of Summons,. The filing is deficient for the following reason(s): the PDF attached to the docket entry for the issuance of summons is not correct; use the Freedom of Information Act summons form;. Re–file the document using the event type Request for Issuance of Summons found under the event list Service of Process – select the correct filer/filers – and attach the correct summons form PDF. (jgo) (Entered: 10/10/2023)
10/10/2023	<u>6</u>	REQUEST FOR ISSUANCE OF SUMMONS as to United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, re: <u>1</u> Complaint,. Document filed by International Refugee Assistance Project, Inc...(Akay Alp, Mevlude) (Entered: 10/10/2023)
10/10/2023	<u>7</u>	REQUEST FOR ISSUANCE OF SUMMONS as to United States Department of State, re: <u>1</u> Complaint,. Document filed by International Refugee Assistance Project, Inc...(Akay Alp, Mevlude) (Entered: 10/10/2023)
10/11/2023	<u>8</u>	ELECTRONIC SUMMONS ISSUED as to United States Citizenship and Immigration Services. (sj) (Entered: 10/11/2023)
10/11/2023	<u>9</u>	ELECTRONIC SUMMONS ISSUED as to United States Department of State. (sj) (Entered: 10/11/2023)
10/11/2023	<u>10</u>	NOTICE OF INITIAL PRETRIAL CONFERENCE: Initial Conference set for 12/15/2023 at 10:00 AM in Courtroom 443, 40 Centre Street, New York, NY 10007 before Judge Valerie E. Caproni. (Signed by Judge Valerie E. Caproni on 10/11/2023) (tg) (Entered: 10/11/2023)
10/13/2023	<u>11</u>	NOTICE OF APPEARANCE by Mariko Hirose on behalf of International Refugee Assistance Project, Inc...(Hirose, Mariko) (Entered: 10/13/2023)
10/26/2023	<u>12</u>	SUMMONS RETURNED EXECUTED. United States Citizenship and Immigration Services served on 10/19/2023, answer due 11/9/2023; United States Department of State served on 10/20/2023, answer due 11/13/2023. Service was made by Mail. Document filed by International Refugee Assistance Project, Inc.. (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Exhibit Summons Returned Executed as to United States Department of State).(Akay Alp, Mevlude) (Entered: 10/26/2023)

11/15/2023	<u>13</u>	NOTICE OF APPEARANCE by Mary Ellen Brennan on behalf of United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, United States Department of State..(Brennan, Mary) (Entered: 11/15/2023)
11/15/2023	<u>14</u>	CONSENT LETTER MOTION for Extension of Time <i>to answer or otherwise respond to the complaint</i> addressed to Judge Valerie E. Caproni from Mary Ellen Brennan dated November 15, 2023. Document filed by United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, United States Department of State..(Brennan, Mary) (Entered: 11/15/2023)
11/16/2023	<u>15</u>	ORDER: granting <u>14</u> Letter Motion for Extension of Time. Application GRANTED. The Government's response to the complaint must be filed no later than December 18, 2023. SO ORDERED. (Signed by Judge Valerie E. Caproni on 11/16/2023) (ama) (Entered: 11/16/2023)
11/16/2023		Set/Reset Deadlines: United States Citizenship and Immigration Services answer due 12/18/2023; United States Department of State answer due 12/18/2023. (ama) (Entered: 11/16/2023)
12/07/2023	<u>16</u>	LETTER addressed to Judge Valerie E. Caproni from Mevlude Akay Alp dated 12/7/2023 re: Joint Letter IRAP v. USCIS et al.. Document filed by International Refugee Assistance Project, Inc.. (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Proposed Order civil case management plan).(Akay Alp, Mevlude) (Entered: 12/07/2023)
12/08/2023	<u>17</u>	PROPOSED CONSENT TO JURISDICTION BY US MAGISTRATE JUDGE by International Refugee Assistance Project, Inc.. Document filed by International Refugee Assistance Project, Inc...(Akay Alp, Mevlude) (Entered: 12/08/2023)
12/08/2023	<u>18</u>	MEMO ENDORSEMENT on re: <u>16</u> Letter, filed by International Refugee Assistance Project, Inc. ENDORSEMENT: Application GRANTED. The initial pretrial conference scheduled for December 15, 2023 is CANCELLED. The Reference to a Magistrate Judge will be entered separately. SO ORDERED. (Signed by Judge Valerie E. Caproni on 12/8/2023) (tg) (Entered: 12/08/2023)
12/08/2023	<u>19</u>	CONSENT TO JURISDICTION BY A US MAGISTRATE JUDGE by International Refugee Assistance Project, Inc., United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, United States Department of State. (Case No Longer Referred to Magistrate Judge) CASE ASSIGNED to Magistrate Judge Valerie Figueredo. (Signed by Judge Valerie E. Caproni on 12/8/2023).(tg) (Entered: 12/08/2023)
12/18/2023	<u>20</u>	CONSENT LETTER MOTION for Extension of Time <i>to respond to the complaint</i> addressed to Magistrate Judge Valerie Figueredo from Mary Ellen Brennan dated December 18, 2023. Document filed by United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, United States Department of State..(Brennan, Mary) (Entered: 12/18/2023)
12/20/2023	<u>21</u>	ORDER: granting <u>20</u> Letter Motion for Extension of Time. Application Granted. The Clerk of Court is directed to terminate the motion at ECF No. 20. (Signed by Magistrate Judge Valerie Figueredo on 12/20/2023) (ama) (Entered: 12/20/2023)
12/20/2023		Set/Reset Deadlines: United States Citizenship and Immigration Services answer due 1/17/2024; United States Department of State answer due 1/17/2024. (ama) (Entered: 12/20/2023)
01/17/2024	<u>22</u>	ANSWER to <u>1</u> Complaint,. Document filed by United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, United States Department of State..(Brennan, Mary) (Entered: 01/17/2024)
01/23/2024	<u>23</u>	INITIAL CASE MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE ORDER: This action is scheduled for an Initial Case Management Conference in accordance with Rule 16(b) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure on Tuesday, February 27, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. Counsel for the parties are directed to call Judge Figueredo's AT&T conference line at the scheduled time. Please dial (888) 808-6929; access code 9781335 . Initial Conference set for 2/27/2024 at 10:00 AM before Magistrate Judge Valerie Figueredo. (Signed by Magistrate Judge Valerie Figueredo on 1/23/2024) (rro) (Entered: 01/23/2024)
02/20/2024	<u>24</u>	JOINT LETTER addressed to Magistrate Judge Valerie Figueredo from Mary Ellen Brennan dated February 20, 2024 re: next week's initial conference, and attaching

		Report of Rule 26(f) Meeting and Proposed Case Management Plan. Document filed by United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, United States Department of State. (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Proposed Order Report of Rule 26(f) Conference and Proposed Case Management Plan).(Brennan, Mary) (Entered: 02/20/2024)
02/23/2024	<u>25</u>	MEMO ENDORSEMENT: on re: <u>24</u> Letter, filed by United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, United States Department of State. ENDORSEMENT: Given the representations in this letter, the initial case management conference scheduled for Tuesday, February 27, 2024, is hereby canceled. The parties are directed to submit a status update by no later than March 14, 2024. (Signed by Magistrate Judge Valerie Figueredo on 2/23/2024) (ama) (Entered: 02/23/2024)
03/14/2024	<u>26</u>	STATUS REPORT. Document filed by United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, United States Department of State..(Brennan, Mary) (Entered: 03/14/2024)
03/15/2024	<u>27</u>	MEMO ENDORSEMENT on re: <u>26</u> Status Report filed by United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, United States Department of State. ENDORSEMENT: The parties are directed to submit another status update by no later than May 13, 2024. (Signed by Magistrate Judge Valerie Figueredo on 3/15/2024) (rro) (Entered: 03/15/2024)
04/25/2024	<u>28</u>	CONSENT MOTION for Mariko Hirose to Withdraw as Attorney . Document filed by International Refugee Assistance Project, Inc.. (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Proposed Order Granting Consent Motion to Withdraw Appearance of Mariko Hirose).(Hirose, Mariko) (Entered: 04/25/2024)
05/13/2024	<u>29</u>	STATUS REPORT. Document filed by United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, United States Department of State..(Brennan, Mary) (Entered: 05/13/2024)
05/14/2024	<u>30</u>	ORDER GRANTING CONSENT MOTION TO WITHDRAW APPEARANCE OF MARIKO HIROSE granting <u>28</u> Motion to Withdraw as Attorney. Plaintiff's Consent Motion to Withdraw Appearance of Mariko Hirose is hereby GRANTED. The Clerk of Court is respectfully directed to terminate the motion at ECF No. 28. Attorney Mariko Hirose terminated. (Signed by Magistrate Judge Valerie Figueredo on 5/14/2024) (tg) (Entered: 05/14/2024)
05/16/2024	<u>31</u>	MEMO ENDORSEMENT on re: <u>29</u> Status Report filed by United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, United States Department of State. ENDORSEMENT: The parties are directed to submit another status update by July 12, 2024. (Signed by Magistrate Judge Valerie Figueredo on 5/16/2024) (rro) (Entered: 05/16/2024)
07/12/2024	<u>32</u>	STATUS REPORT. Document filed by United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, United States Department of State..(Brennan, Mary) (Entered: 07/12/2024)
07/15/2024	<u>33</u>	MEMO ENDORSEMENT on re: <u>32</u> Status Report filed by United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, United States Department of State. ENDORSEMENT: The parties are directed to submit another status update by August 12, 2024. (Signed by Magistrate Judge Valerie Figueredo on 7/15/2024) (rro) (Entered: 07/15/2024)
08/12/2024	<u>34</u>	JOINT LETTER addressed to Magistrate Judge Valerie Figueredo from Mary Ellen Brennan dated August 12, 2024 re: Status Update. Document filed by United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, United States Department of State..(Brennan, Mary) (Entered: 08/12/2024)
08/14/2024	<u>35</u>	MEMO ENDORSEMENT on re: <u>34</u> Letter filed by United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, United States Department of State. ENDORSEMENT: The parties are directed to file another joint status report on or before Thursday, September 12, 2024. (Signed by Magistrate Judge Valerie Figueredo on 8/14/2024) (mml) (Entered: 08/14/2024)
09/12/2024	<u>36</u>	STATUS REPORT. Document filed by United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, United States Department of State..(Brennan, Mary) (Entered: 09/12/2024)
09/13/2024	<u>37</u>	MEMO ENDORSEMENT on re: <u>36</u> Status Report filed by United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, United States Department of State. ENDORSEMENT: The parties are directed to file a joint status update on or before Tuesday, November 12, 2024. (Signed by Magistrate Judge Valerie Figueredo on 9/13/2024) (sgz) (Entered: 09/13/2024)