

**U.S. District Court
Southern District of New York (Foley Square)
CIVIL DOCKET FOR CASE #: 1:20-cv-04728-JPO**

International Refugee Assistance Project, Inc. v. United States
Department of State
Assigned to: Judge J. Paul Oetken
Cause: 05:552 Freedom of Information Act

Date Filed: 06/19/2020
Jury Demand: None
Nature of Suit: 895 Freedom of
Information Act
Jurisdiction: U.S. Government Defendant

Plaintiff

**International Refugee Assistance
Project, Inc.**

represented by **Victor S Leung**
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TERMINATED: 02/22/2021

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V.

Defendant

United States Department of State

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Date Filed	#	Docket Text
06/19/2020	<u>1</u>	COMPLAINT against United States Department of State. (Filing Fee \$ 400.00, Receipt Number ANYSDC-20339707) Document filed by International Refugee Assistance Project, Inc.. (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Exhibit A – May 23, 2017 FOIA Request to State Department, # <u>2</u> Exhibit B – December 13, 2019 FOIA Request to State Department).(Christensen, Evert) (Entered: 06/19/2020)

06/19/2020	<u>2</u>	CIVIL COVER SHEET filed..(Christensen, Evert) (Entered: 06/19/2020)
06/19/2020	<u>3</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...(Christensen, Evert) (Entered: 06/19/2020)
06/19/2020	<u>4</u>	NOTICE OF APPEARANCE OF PRO BONO COUNSEL by Victor Sean Leung on behalf of International Refugee Assistance Project, Inc..(Leung, Victor) (Entered: 06/19/2020)
06/22/2020		CASE OPENING INITIAL ASSIGNMENT NOTICE: The above-entitled action is assigned to Judge J. Paul Oetken. 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: 06/22/2020)
06/22/2020		Magistrate Judge Stewart D. Aaron 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: 06/22/2020)
06/22/2020		Case Designated ECF. (jgo) (Entered: 06/22/2020)
06/22/2020	<u>5</u>	ELECTRONIC SUMMONS ISSUED as to United States Department of State..(jgo) (Entered: 06/22/2020)
07/01/2020	<u>6</u>	NOTICE OF APPEARANCE by Tomoko Onozawa on behalf of United States Department of State..(Onozawa, Tomoko) (Entered: 07/01/2020)
07/20/2020	<u>7</u>	AFFIDAVIT OF SERVICE of Summons and Complaint,. United States Department of State served on 6/22/2020, answer due 7/13/2020. Service was made by Certified Mail. Document filed by International Refugee Assistance Project, Inc...(Christensen, Evert) (Entered: 07/20/2020)
07/24/2020	<u>8</u>	NOTICE OF APPEARANCE by Christopher Kendrick Connolly on behalf of United States Department of State..(Connolly, Christopher) (Entered: 07/24/2020)
07/24/2020	<u>9</u>	ANSWER to <u>1</u> Complaint,. Document filed by United States Department of State..(Connolly, Christopher) (Entered: 07/24/2020)
07/28/2020	<u>10</u>	ORDER: This case arises under the Freedom of Information Act, Title 5, United States Code, Section 552. It is hereby ORDERED that counsel for all parties appear for a telephonic initial status conference with the Court on August 26, 2020 at 11:00 a.m. Counsel for the parties should dial (888) 557-8511 at the scheduled time. The access code is 9300838. Interested members of the public may dial in but are asked to mute their phones. So Ordered. (Initial Conference set for 8/26/2020 at 11:00 AM before Judge J. Paul Oetken.) (Signed by Judge J. Paul Oetken on 7/27/2020) (js) (Entered: 07/28/2020)
08/14/2020	<u>11</u>	AMENDED ANSWER to <u>1</u> Complaint,. Document filed by United States Department of State..(Connolly, Christopher) (Entered: 08/14/2020)
08/20/2020	<u>12</u>	ORDER: IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT THE TELEPHONIC INITIAL STATUS CONFERENCE PREVIOUSLY SCHEDULED FOR 11:00 A.M. ON AUGUST 26, 2020, IS RESCHEDULED TO 2:30 P.M. OF THE SAME DAY. COUNSEL FOR THE PARTIES SHOULD DIAL (888) 557-8511 AT THE RESCHEDULED TIME. THE ACCESS CODE IS 9300838. INTERESTED MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC MAY DIAL IN BUT ARE ASKED TO MUTE THEIR PHONES. (HEREBY ORDERED by Judge J. Paul Oetken)(kye)(Text Only Order) (Entered: 08/20/2020)
08/21/2020	<u>13</u>	LETTER MOTION to Adjourn Conference addressed to Judge J. Paul Oetken from AUSA Christopher Connolly dated August 21, 2020. Document filed by United States Department of State..(Connolly, Christopher) (Entered: 08/21/2020)

08/21/2020	14	ORDER granting <u>13</u> Letter Motion to Adjourn Conference. GRANTED. THE TELEPHONIC INITIAL STATUS CONFERENCE IS ADJOURNED UNTIL 2:30 P.M. ON SEPTEMBER 25, 2020. THE DIAL-IN INFORMATION IS THE SAME AS DESCRIBED IN THE COURTS PREVIOUS ORDERS. (HEREBY ORDERED by Judge J. Paul Oetken)(kye)(Text Only Order) (Entered: 08/21/2020)
09/22/2020	<u>15</u>	LETTER MOTION to Adjourn Conference addressed to Judge J. Paul Oetken from AUSA Christopher Connolly dated September 22, 2020. Document filed by United States Department of State..(Connolly, Christopher) (Entered: 09/22/2020)
09/23/2020	16	ORDER granting <u>15</u> Letter Motion to Adjourn Conference. GRANTED. THE TELEPHONIC INITIAL STATUS CONFERENCE IS ADJOURNED UNTIL 11:00 A.M. ON OCTOBER 23, 2020. THE DIAL-IN INFORMATION IS THE SAME AS DESCRIBED IN THE COURTS PREVIOUS ORDERS. (HEREBY ORDERED by Judge J. Paul Oetken)(Text Only Order) (bh) (Entered: 09/23/2020)
10/20/2020	<u>17</u>	LETTER MOTION to Adjourn Conference addressed to Judge J. Paul Oetken from AUSA Christopher Connolly dated October 20, 2020. Document filed by United States Department of State..(Connolly, Christopher) (Entered: 10/20/2020)
10/21/2020	18	ORDER granting <u>17</u> Letter Motion to Adjourn Conference. GRANTED. THE TELEPHONIC INITIAL STATUS CONFERENCE IS ADJOURNED UNTIL 10:00 A.M. ON DECEMBER 4, 2020. THE DIAL-IN INFORMATION IS THE SAME AS DESCRIBED IN THE COURTS PREVIOUS ORDERS. (HEREBY ORDERED by Judge J. Paul Oetken)(Text Only Order) (bh) (Entered: 10/21/2020)
12/01/2020	<u>19</u>	LETTER MOTION to Adjourn Conference addressed to Judge J. Paul Oetken from Evert Christensen dated December 1, 2020. Document filed by International Refugee Assistance Project, Inc...(Christensen, Evert) (Entered: 12/01/2020)
12/02/2020	20	ORDER granting <u>19</u> Letter Motion to Adjourn Conference: GRANTED. THE TELEPHONIC INITIAL STATUS CONFERENCE IS ADJOURNED UNTIL 11:00 A.M. ON DECEMBER 21, 2020. THE DIAL-IN INFORMATION IS THE SAME AS DESCRIBED IN THE COURTS PREVIOUS ORDERS. (HEREBY ORDERED by Judge J. Paul Oetken)(Text Only Order) (Oetken, J.) (Entered: 12/02/2020)
12/15/2020	<u>21</u>	LETTER MOTION to Adjourn Conference addressed to Judge J. Paul Oetken from AUSA Christopher Connolly dated December 15, 2020. Document filed by United States Department of State..(Connolly, Christopher) (Entered: 12/15/2020)
12/16/2020	22	ORDER granting <u>21</u> Letter Motion to Adjourn Conference: GRANTED. THE TELEPHONIC INITIAL STATUS CONFERENCE IS ADJOURNED SINE DIE. THE PARTIES SHALL SUBMIT A JOINT STATUS LETTER ON OR BEFORE FEBRUARY 9, 2021. (HEREBY ORDERED by Judge J. Paul Oetken)(Text Only Order) (Oetken, J.) (Entered: 12/16/2020)
02/09/2021	<u>23</u>	STATUS REPORT. Document filed by United States Department of State..(Connolly, Christopher) (Entered: 02/09/2021)
02/10/2021	24	ORDER: GRANTED. THE PARTIES SHALL SUBMIT A JOINT STATUS LETTER ON OR BEFORE MARCH 12, 2021. (HEREBY ORDERED by Judge J. Paul Oetken)(kye)(Text Only Order) (Entered: 02/10/2021)
02/19/2021	<u>25</u>	NOTICE of of Withdrawal of Appearance of Victor S. Leung and Proposed Order. Document filed by International Refugee Assistance Project, Inc...(Christensen, Evert) (Entered: 02/19/2021)
02/22/2021	<u>26</u>	MEMO ENDORSEMENT on Notice of withdrawal of Appearance of Victor S. Leung and Order re: <u>25</u> Notice (Other) filed by International Refugee Assistance Project, Inc. ENDORSEMENT: So Ordered. Attorney Victor S Leung terminated. (Signed by Judge J. Paul Oetken on 2/22/2021) (js) (Entered: 02/22/2021)
03/12/2021	<u>27</u>	STATUS REPORT. Document filed by United States Department of State..(Connolly, Christopher) (Entered: 03/12/2021)
03/16/2021	28	ORDER: GRANTED. THE PARTIES SHALL SUBMIT A JOINT STATUS LETTER ON OR BEFORE APRIL 16, 2021. (HEREBY ORDERED by Judge J. Paul Oetken)(kye)(Text Only Order) (Entered: 03/16/2021)

04/15/2021	<u>29</u>	STATUS REPORT. Document filed by United States Department of State..(Connolly, Christopher) (Entered: 04/15/2021)
04/16/2021	30	ORDER: GRANTED. THE PARTIES SHALL SUBMIT A JOINT STATUS LETTER ON OR BEFORE MAY 14, 2021. (HEREBY ORDERED by Judge J. Paul Oetken)(kye)(Text Only Order) (Entered: 04/16/2021)
04/22/2021	<u>31</u>	JOINT LETTER addressed to Judge J. Paul Oetken from Evert J. Christensen, Jr. dated April 22, 2021 re: Local Rule 1.6(a) Notification from all parties. Document filed by International Refugee Assistance Project, Inc...(Christensen, Evert) (Entered: 04/22/2021)
05/13/2021	<u>32</u>	STATUS REPORT. Document filed by United States Department of State..(Connolly, Christopher) (Entered: 05/13/2021)
06/11/2021	<u>33</u>	STATUS REPORT. Document filed by United States Department of State..(Connolly, Christopher) (Entered: 06/11/2021)
08/10/2021	<u>34</u>	STATUS REPORT. Document filed by United States Department of State..(Connolly, Christopher) (Entered: 08/10/2021)
08/30/2021	<u>35</u>	JOINT LETTER addressed to Judge J. Paul Oetken from AUSA Christopher Connolly dated August 30, 2021 re: follow-up on the parties' April 22, 2021 joint letter. Document filed by United States Department of State..(Connolly, Christopher) (Entered: 08/30/2021)
10/12/2021	<u>36</u>	STATUS REPORT. Document filed by United States Department of State..(Connolly, Christopher) (Entered: 10/12/2021)
10/13/2021	37	ORDER: THE PARTIES SHALL SUBMIT A JOINT STATUS REPORT ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 13, 2021. (HEREBY ORDERED by Judge J. Paul Oetken) (Text Only Order) (Oetken, J.) (Entered: 10/13/2021)
12/13/2021	<u>38</u>	STATUS REPORT. Document filed by United States Department of State..(Connolly, Christopher) (Entered: 12/13/2021)
01/21/2022		ORDER: THE LETTER REQUEST AT <u>38</u> IS GRANTED. THE PARTIES SHALL SUBMIT A JOINT STATUS LETTER ON OR BEFORE 2/16/2022. (HEREBY ORDERED by Judge J. Paul Oetken) (Text Only Order) (brl) (Entered: 01/21/2022)
02/16/2022	<u>39</u>	STATUS REPORT. Document filed by United States Department of State..(Connolly, Christopher) (Entered: 02/16/2022)
02/17/2022		ORDER: THE LETTER REQUEST IN <u>39</u> IS GRANTED. THE PARTIES SHALL SUBMIT A FURTHER STATUS REPORT ON OR BEFORE 4/18/2022. (HEREBY ORDERED by Judge J. Paul Oetken) (Text Only Order) (brl) (Entered: 02/17/2022)
04/18/2022	<u>40</u>	STATUS REPORT. Document filed by United States Department of State..(Connolly, Christopher) (Entered: 04/18/2022)
04/19/2022		ORDER: THE LETTER REQUEST AT <u>40</u> IS GRANTED. THE PARTIES SHALL SUBMIT A FURTHER STATUS REPORT ON OR BEFORE 6/13/22. (HEREBY ORDERED by Judge J. Paul Oetken) (Text Only Order) (brl) (Entered: 04/19/2022)
06/13/2022	<u>41</u>	STATUS REPORT. Document filed by United States Department of State..(Connolly, Christopher) (Entered: 06/13/2022)
08/10/2022	<u>42</u>	STATUS REPORT. Document filed by United States Department of State..(Connolly, Christopher) (Entered: 08/10/2022)
08/11/2022	43	ORDER: THE LETTER REQUEST AT <u>42</u> IS GRANTED. THE PARTIES SHALL SUBMIT A FURTHER STATUS REPORT ON OR BEFORE OCTOBER 12, 2022. (HEREBY ORDERED by Judge J. Paul Oetken) (Text Only Order) (lar) (Entered: 08/11/2022)
10/12/2022	<u>44</u>	STATUS REPORT. Document filed by United States Department of State..(Connolly, Christopher) (Entered: 10/12/2022)
10/13/2022	45	ORDER: THE PARTIES SHALL SUBMIT A FURTHER STATUS LETTER ON OR BY NOVEMBER 16, 2022. (HEREBY ORDERED by Judge J. Paul Oetken) (Text

		Only Order) (lar) (Entered: 10/13/2022)
11/16/2022	<u>46</u>	STATUS REPORT. Document filed by United States Department of State..(Connolly, Christopher) (Entered: 11/16/2022)
11/17/2022	47	ORDER: THE PARTIES SHALL SUBMIT A FURTHER STATUS REPORT ON OR BY DECEMBER 14, 2022. SO ORDERED. (HEREBY ORDERED by Judge J. Paul Oetken) (Text Only Order) (lar) (Entered: 11/17/2022)
12/14/2022	<u>48</u>	STATUS REPORT. Document filed by United States Department of State..(Connolly, Christopher) (Entered: 12/14/2022)
12/15/2022	49	ORDER: THE PARTIES SHALL SUBMIT A FURTHER STATUS REPORT ON OR BY JANUARY 18, 2023. SO ORDERED. (HEREBY ORDERED by Judge J. Paul Oetken) (Text Only Order) (lar) (Entered: 12/15/2022)
01/18/2023	<u>50</u>	STATUS REPORT. Document filed by United States Department of State..(Connolly, Christopher) (Entered: 01/18/2023)
01/23/2023	51	ORDER: THE PARTIES SHALL FILE A FURTHER STATUS UPDATE ON OR BY MARCH 15, 2023. SO ORDERED. (HEREBY ORDERED by Judge J. Paul Oetken) (Text Only Order) (lar) (Entered: 01/23/2023)
03/15/2023	<u>52</u>	STATUS REPORT. Document filed by United States Department of State..(Connolly, Christopher) (Entered: 03/15/2023)
03/16/2023	53	ORDER: The parties shall file a further status update on or before May 15, 2023. So ordered. (HEREBY ORDERED by Judge J. Paul Oetken) (Text Only Order) (lar) (Entered: 03/16/2023)
05/16/2023	<u>54</u>	STATUS REPORT. Document filed by United States Department of State..(Connolly, Christopher) (Entered: 05/16/2023)
05/18/2023	55	ORDER: The parties shall file a further status update on or by July 21, 2023. So ordered. (HEREBY ORDERED by Judge J. Paul Oetken) (Text Only Order) (lar) (Entered: 05/18/2023)
07/21/2023	<u>56</u>	STATUS REPORT. Document filed by United States Department of State..(Connolly, Christopher) (Entered: 07/21/2023)
07/24/2023	57	ORDER: The parties shall file a further status update by September 19, 2023. SO ORDERED. (HEREBY ORDERED by Judge J. Paul Oetken) (Text Only Order) (nhb) (Entered: 07/24/2023)
09/19/2023	<u>58</u>	STATUS REPORT. Document filed by United States Department of State..(Connolly, Christopher) (Entered: 09/19/2023)
09/20/2023	59	ORDER: The parties shall submit a further status report on or before November 17, 2023. So ordered. (HEREBY ORDERED by Judge J. Paul Oetken) (Text Only Order) (nhb) (Entered: 09/20/2023)
11/17/2023	<u>60</u>	STATUS REPORT. Document filed by United States Department of State..(Connolly, Christopher) (Entered: 11/17/2023)
11/20/2023	61	ORDER: The parties shall submit a further status report on or before January 17, 2024. So ordered. (HEREBY ORDERED by Judge J. Paul Oetken) (Text Only Order) (nhb) (Entered: 11/20/2023)
01/17/2024	<u>62</u>	STATUS REPORT. Document filed by United States Department of State..(Connolly, Christopher) (Entered: 01/17/2024)
01/18/2024	63	ORDER: The parties shall submit a further status report on or before March 13, 2024. So ordered. (HEREBY ORDERED by Judge J. Paul Oetken) (Text Only Order) (nhb) (Entered: 01/18/2024)
03/13/2024	<u>64</u>	STATUS REPORT. Document filed by United States Department of State..(Connolly, Christopher) (Entered: 03/13/2024)
03/14/2024	65	ORDER: The parties shall submit a further joint status report on or before May 15, 2024. So ordered. (HEREBY ORDERED by Judge J. Paul Oetken) (Text Only Order)

		(nhb) (Entered: 03/14/2024)
05/14/2024	<u>66</u>	STATUS REPORT. Document filed by United States Department of State..(Connolly, Christopher) (Entered: 05/14/2024)
05/15/2024	67	ORDER: The parties shall submit a further joint status report on or before July 17, 2024. So ordered. (HEREBY ORDERED by Judge J. Paul Oetken) (Text Only Order) (nhb) (Entered: 05/15/2024)
07/17/2024	<u>68</u>	STATUS REPORT. Document filed by United States Department of State..(Connolly, Christopher) (Entered: 07/17/2024)
07/19/2024	69	ORDER: The parties shall submit a further joint status report on or before September 16, 2024. So ordered. (HEREBY ORDERED by Judge J. Paul Oetken) (Text Only Order) (nhb) (Entered: 07/19/2024)
09/16/2024	<u>70</u>	STATUS REPORT. Document filed by United States Department of State..(Connolly, Christopher) (Entered: 09/16/2024)
09/19/2024	71	ORDER: The parties shall submit a further joint status report on or before October 16, 2024. So ordered. (HEREBY ORDERED by Judge J. Paul Oetken) (Text Only Order) (djh) (Entered: 09/19/2024)