

April 26, 2019

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Arnetta Mallory
Government Information Specialist
National Security Division
Department of Justice
3 Constitution Square
175 N Street N.E., 12th Floor
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Ms. Mallory:

Pursuant to the federal Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. § 552, I request copies of any records in the National Security Division (NSD) that mention Amir Mohamed Meshal, a U.S. citizen formerly of Tinton Falls, New Jersey and at the time a constituent of then-Rep. Rush Holt (D-NJ) and who was held by both Kenyan and Ethiopian government entities in 2006-2007.

In order to help to determine my status to assess fees, you should know that I am a policy analyst and scholar at the Cato Institute, an IRS-recognized 501(c)(3) nonprofit educational and public interest organization. As I am employed by an educational or noncommercial scientific institution, this request is made for a scholarly or scientific purpose and not for a commercial use. **I request a waiver of all fees for this request.**

Disclosure of the requested information to me is in the public interest because it is likely to contribute significantly to public understanding of the operations or activities of the government and is not primarily in my commercial interest.

Whenever possible, please provide the requested information in electronic Portable Document Format (PDF).

If my request is denied in whole or part, I ask that you justify all deletions by reference to specific exemptions of the act. I will also expect you to release all segregable portions of otherwise exempt material. I, of course, reserve the right to appeal your decision to withhold any information or to deny a waiver of fees.

I would appreciate your communicating with me by email or telephone, rather than by mail. My email address is peddington@cato.org and my cell number is 571-215-3468.

Please provide expedited processing of this request which concerns a matter of urgency. As a civil liberties policy analyst, I am primarily engaged in disseminating information. The public has an urgent need for information about the Meshal case due to the fact that as a result of the federal court ruling in *Meshal v. Higgenbotham*, No. 14-5194 (D.C. Cir. 2015) it appears the FBI has the ability to detain and question American citizens overseas in the absence of an actual legitimate criminal predicate. American travelers and American

Exhibit A

expatriates living abroad should be made aware that as a result of the court's decision in the Meshal case, they are at significantly increased risk of such detention and questioning by the FBI. Accordingly, NSD's records in the Meshal case are thus critical to help Americans understand how their 1st, 4th, and 5th Amendment rights while overseas have been placed in jeopardy. I certify that my statements concerning the need for expedited processing are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

I look forward to your determination regarding my request for expedited processing within 10 calendar days, as the statute requires.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patrick G. Eddington". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Patrick" being the most prominent.

Patrick G. Eddington
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