

Subject: FOIA Request Letter

From: State Department FOIA - To: peddington@cato.org - Cc: - Date: April 26, 2019 at 3:41 PM

Thank you for filing your FOIA request online on 4/26/2019. Here is a review of your request.

The records I request can be described as follows:

Any Department of State documents 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.

The time period of my request is from 01/01/2006 to 12/31/2007

I am affiliated with an educational or noncommercial scientific institution seeking information for a scholarly or scientific purpose and not for commercial use.

Additional documentation will be required.

I am willing to pay \$25 for my request.

I request a waiver of all fees for this request.

Reason: 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. My publications page can be found at the following URL: <https://www.cato.org/people/patrick-g-eddington>

I have a compelling need for expeditious handling:

- An urgency to inform the public concerning actual or alleged Federal Government activity exists.

This option available for **ONLY PERSONS PRIMARILY ENGAGED IN DISSEMINATING INFORMATION.**

- In order to help to determine my status to assess fees, you should know that I am a research fellow 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 State Department's conduct in the handling of the Meshal episode, particularly in light of the fact that existing federal court rulings appear to permit federal authorities to detain and question American citizens overseas (see Meshal v. Higgenbotham, No. 14-5194 (D.C. Cir. 2015)). I certify that my statements concerning the need for expedited processing are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

My additional comments are as follows:

N/A

Contact Information

Exhibit B

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