

The New York Times

620 Eighth Avenue
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10018

Federal Bureau of Investigation
Attn: FOI/PA Request
Record / Information
Dissemination Section
170 Marcel Drive
Winchester, VA 22602-4883
Fax: 540-868-4391/4997

Dear Coordinator -

This is a request for records under the Freedom of Information Act ("FOIA"), 5 U.S.C. § 552 and the Privacy Act, 5 U.S.C. § 552a. This request should be considered under both statutes to maximize the release of records.

REQUESTER INFORMATION

Name: Rukmini Callimachi

Affiliation: International Investigative Reporter, *The New York Times*

Address: 521 Highland Avenue, Montclair NJ 07043

Email: rukmini.callimachi@nytimes.com

Phone: 332-999-5734

RECORDS SOUGHT

I request disclosure of the following records:

Exhibit A

1. Any and all studies, memos, assessments, and intelligence products, mentioning or referring to **Mihail Horia Botez** (also known as "**Mihai Botez**") Romania's leading dissident during the Ceaucescu regime, and later Romania's ambassador to Washington in the country's first democratically elected government, who died under suspicious circumstances on July 11, 1995. He is my stepfather, and I am appending his death certificate as well as mine and my mother's birth and marriage certificates indicating the family relationship.
2. Any and all emails mentioning or referring to Mihai Botez, his dissidence, his exile in America or his death.
3. Any and all correspondence to or from a member of Congress or a Congressional Committee mentioning or referring to Mihai Botez, his dissidence, his exile in America or his death.
4. Any and all records sent to or received from the State Department or the CIA mentioning, or referring to Mihai Botez.

Reasonably Foreseeable Harm. The FOIA Improvement Act of 2016 amended the FOIA as follows (5 USC 552(a)(8)):

-

(A) An agency shall—

(i) withhold information under this section only if—

(I) the agency reasonably foresees that disclosure would harm an interest protected by an exemption described in subsection (b); or

(II) disclosure is prohibited by law; and

(ii) (I) consider whether partial disclosure of information is possible whenever the agency determines that a full disclosure of a requested record is not possible; and

(II) take reasonable steps necessary to segregate and release nonexempt information. . . .

The FBI should not fail to meet the requirements of Section 552(a)(8) when processing my request and release responsive records to me in full or at least in part.

-

INSTRUCTIONS REGARDING SEARCH

1. *Request for Public Records:*

Please search for any records even if they are already publicly available.

2. *Request for Electronic and Paper/Manual Searches:*

I request that searches of all electronic and paper/manual indices, filing systems, and locations for any and all records relating or referring to the subject of my request be conducted in its Central Records System. I further request that the agencies conduct a search of its "soft files" as well as files in its locked cabinets.

3. *Request regarding Photographs and other Visual Materials:*

I request that any photographs or other visual materials responsive to my request be released to me in their original or comparable forms, quality, and resolution. For example, if a photograph was taken digitally, or if the agencies maintains a photograph digitally, I request disclosure of the original digital image file, not a reduced resolution version of that image file nor a printout and scan of that image file. Likewise, if a photograph was originally taken as a color photograph, I request disclosure of that photograph as a color image, not a black and white image. Please contact me for any clarification on this point.

4. *Request for Duplicate Pages:*

I request disclosure of any and all supposedly "duplicate" pages. Scholars analyze records not only for the information available on any given page, but also for the relationships between that information and information on pages surrounding it. As such, the only way to properly analyze released information is to analyze that information within its proper context. Therefore, I request disclosure of all "duplicate" pages.

5. *Request to Search Emails:*

Please search for emails relating to the subject matter of my request.

6. *Request for Search of Records Transferred to Other Agencies:*

I request that in conducting its search, the agencies disclose releasable records even if they are available publicly through other sources outside the agencies, such as NARA.

FORMAT

I request that any releases stemming from this request be provided to me in digital format (soft-copy) on a compact disk or other like media.

FEE CATEGORY AND REQUEST FOR A FEE WAIVER

I am an international investigative reporter for *The New York Times*, and a four-time Pulitzer Prize Finalist in International Reporting.

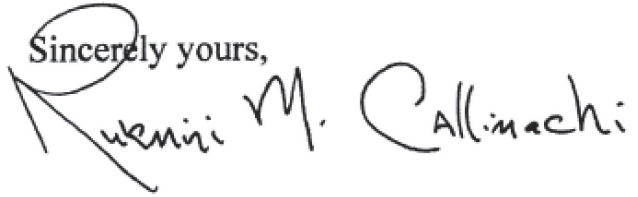
I request a complete waiver of all search and duplication fees. If my request for a waiver is denied, I request that I be considered a member of the news media for fee purposes.

Under 5 U.S.C. §552(a)(4)(A)(iii), "Documents shall be furnished without any charge ... if disclosure of the information 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 the commercial interest of the requester." Disclosure in this case meets the statutory criteria, as the records sought detail the operations and activities of government. This request is also not primarily in my commercial request, as I am seeking the records as a journalist to analyze and freely release to members of the public.

If I am not granted a complete fee waiver, I request to be considered a member of the news media for fee purposes. I am willing to pay all reasonable duplication expenses incurred in processing this FOIA request.

I will appeal any denial of my request for a waiver administratively and to the courts if necessary.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rukmini M. Callimachi". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "R" and a distinct "M".

Rukmini Maria Callimachi



U.S. Department of Justice

Federal Bureau of Investigation
 Washington, D.C. 20535

December 10, 2019

MS. RUKMINI CALLIMACHI
 THE NEW YORK TIMES
 521 HIGHLAND AVENUE
 MONTCLAIR, NJ 07043

FOIPA Request No.: 1453211-000
 Subject: BOTEZ, MIHAI HORIA

Dear Ms. Callimachi:

The enclosed 51 pages of records were determined to be responsive to your subject and were previously processed and released pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). Please see the selected paragraphs below for relevant information specific to your request as well as the enclosed FBI FOIPA Addendum for standard responses applicable to all requests.

- In an effort to provide you with responsive records as expeditiously as possible, we are releasing documents from previous requests regarding your subject. We consider your request fulfilled. Since we relied on previous results, additional records potentially responsive to your subject may exist. If this release of previously processed material does not satisfy your request, you may request an additional search for records. Submit your request by mail or fax to – Work Process Unit, 170 Marcel Drive, Winchester, VA 22602, fax number (540) 868-4997. Please cite the FOIPA Request Number in your correspondence.
- Please be advised that additional records responsive to your subject exist. If this release of previously processed material does not satisfy your request, you must advise us that you want the additional records processed. Please submit your response within thirty (30) days by mail or fax to—Work Processing Unit, 170 Marcel Drive, Winchester, VA 22602, fax number (540) 868-4997. Please cite the FOIPA Request Number in your correspondence. **If we do not receive your decision within thirty (30) days of the date of this notification, your request will be closed.**
- One or more of the enclosed records were transferred to the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). Although we retained a version of the records previously processed pursuant to the FOIA, the original records are no longer in our possession.

If this release of the previously processed material does not satisfy your request, you may file a FOIPA request with NARA at the following address:

National Archives and Records Administration
 Special Access and FOIA
 8601 Adelphi Road, Room 5500
 College Park, MD 20740-6001

- Records potentially responsive to your request were transferred to the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), and they were not previously processed pursuant to the FOIA. You may file a request with NARA using the address above.
- One or more of the enclosed records were destroyed. Although we retained a version of the records previously processed pursuant to the FOIA, the original records are no longer in our possession. Record retention and disposal is carried out under supervision of the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) , Title 44, United States Code,

Exhibit B

Section 3301 as implemented by Title 36, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 1228; Title 44, United States Code, Section 3310 as implemented by Title 36, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 1229.10.

- Records potentially responsive to your request were destroyed. Since this material could not be reviewed, it is not known if it was responsive to your request. Record retention and disposal is carried out under supervision of the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) according to Title 44 United States Code Section 3301, Title 36 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Chapter 12 Sub-chapter B Part 1228, and 36 CFR 1229.10.
- Documents or information referred to other Government agencies were not included in this release.

Please refer to the enclosed FBI FOIPA Addendum for additional standard responses applicable to your request. **“Part 1”** of the Addendum includes standard responses that apply to all requests. **“Part 2”** includes additional standard responses that apply to all requests for records about yourself or any third party individuals. **“Part 3”** includes general information about FBI records that you may find useful. Also enclosed is our Explanation of Exemptions.

For questions regarding our determinations, visit the www.fbi.gov/foia website under “Contact Us.” The FOIPA Request Number listed above has been assigned to your request. Please use this number in all correspondence concerning your request.

You may file an appeal by writing to the Director, Office of Information Policy (OIP), United States Department of Justice, Sixth Floor, 441 G Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20001, or you may submit an appeal through OIP's FOIA online portal by creating an account on the following website: <https://www.foiaonline.gov/foiaonline/action/public/home>. Your appeal must be postmarked or electronically transmitted within ninety (90) days from the date of this letter in order to be considered timely. If you submit your appeal by mail, both the letter and the envelope should be clearly marked “Freedom of Information Act Appeal.” Please cite the FOIPA Request Number assigned to your request so it may be easily identified.

You may seek dispute resolution services by contacting the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS). The contact information for OGIS is as follows: Office of Government Information Services, National Archives and Records Administration, 8601 Adelphi Road-OGIS, 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. Alternatively, you may contact the FBI's FOIA Public Liaison by emailing foipaquestions@fbi.gov. If you submit your dispute resolution correspondence by email, the subject heading should clearly state “Dispute Resolution Services.” Please also cite the FOIPA Request Number assigned to your request so it may be easily identified.

Sincerely,



David M. Hardy
Section Chief,
Record/Information
Dissemination Section
Information Management Division

Enclosure(s)

FBI FOIPA Addendum

As referenced in our letter responding to your Freedom of Information/Privacy Acts (FOIPA) request, the FBI FOIPA Addendum provides information applicable to your request. Part 1 of the Addendum includes standard responses that apply to all requests. Part 2 includes standard responses that apply to requests for records about individuals to the extent your request seeks the listed information. Part 3 includes general information about FBI records, searches, and programs.

Part 1: The standard responses below apply to all requests:

- (i) **5 U.S.C. § 552(c).** Congress excluded three categories of law enforcement and national security records from the requirements of the FOIPA [5 U.S.C. § 552(c)]. FBI responses are limited to those records subject to the requirements of the FOIPA. Additional information about the FBI and the FOIPA can be found on the www.fbi.gov/foia website.
- (ii) **Intelligence Records.** To the extent your request seeks records of intelligence sources, methods, or activities, the FBI can neither confirm nor deny the existence of records pursuant to FOIA exemptions (b)(1), (b)(3), and as applicable to requests for records about individuals, PA exemption (j)(2) [5 U.S.C. §§ 552/552a (b)(1), (b)(3), and (j)(2)]. The mere acknowledgment of the existence or nonexistence of such records is itself a classified fact protected by FOIA exemption (b)(1) and/or would reveal intelligence sources, methods, or activities protected by exemption (b)(3) [50 USC § 3024(i)(1)]. This is a standard response and should not be read to indicate that any such records do or do not exist.

Part 2: The standard responses below apply to all requests for records on individuals:

- (i) **Requests for Records about any Individual—Watch Lists.** The FBI can neither confirm nor deny the existence of any individual's name on a watch list pursuant to FOIA exemption (b)(7)(E) and PA exemption (j)(2) [5 U.S.C. §§ 552/552a (b)(7)(E), (j)(2)]. This is a standard response and should not be read to indicate that watch list records do or do not exist.
- (ii) **Requests for Records about any Individual—Witness Security Program Records.** The FBI can neither confirm nor deny the existence of records which could identify any participant in the Witness Security Program pursuant to FOIA exemption (b)(3) and PA exemption (j)(2) [5 U.S.C. §§ 552/552a (b)(3), 18 U.S.C. 3521, and (j)(2)]. This is a standard response and should not be read to indicate that such records do or do not exist.
- (iii) **Requests for Records for Incarcerated Individuals.** The FBI can neither confirm nor deny the existence of records which could reasonably be expected to endanger the life or physical safety of any incarcerated individual pursuant to FOIA exemptions (b)(7)(E), (b)(7)(F), and PA exemption (j)(2) [5 U.S.C. §§ 552/552a (b)(7)(E), (b)(7)(F), and (j)(2)]. This is a standard response and should not be read to indicate that such records do or do not exist.

Part 3: General Information:

- (i) **Record Searches.** The Record/Information Dissemination Section (RIDS) searches for reasonably described records by searching systems or locations where responsive records would reasonably be found. A standard search normally consists of a search for main files in the Central Records System (CRS), an extensive system of records consisting of applicant, investigative, intelligence, personnel, administrative, and general files compiled by the FBI per its law enforcement, intelligence, and administrative functions. The CRS spans the entire FBI organization, comprising records of FBI Headquarters, FBI Field Offices, and FBI Legal Attaché Offices (Legats) worldwide; Electronic Surveillance (ELSUR) records are included in the CRS. Unless specifically requested, a standard search does not include references, administrative records of previous FOIPA requests, or civil litigation files. For additional information about our record searches, visit www.fbi.gov/services/information-management/foipa/requesting-fbi-records.
- (ii) **FBI Records.** Founded in 1908, the FBI carries out a dual law enforcement and national security mission. As part of this dual mission, the FBI creates and maintains records on various subjects; however, the FBI does not maintain records on every person, subject, or entity.
- (iii) **Requests for Criminal History Records or Rap Sheets.** The Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) Division provides Identity History Summary Checks – often referred to as a criminal history record or rap sheet. These criminal history records are not the same as material in an investigative “FBI file.” An Identity History Summary Check is a listing of information taken from fingerprint cards and documents submitted to the FBI in connection with arrests, federal employment, naturalization, or military service. For a fee, individuals can request a copy of their Identity History Summary Check. Forms and directions can be accessed at www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/identity-history-summary-checks. Additionally, requests can be submitted electronically at www.edo.cjis.gov. For additional information, please contact CJIS directly at (304) 625-5590.
- (iv) **National Name Check Program (NNCP).** The mission of NNCP is to analyze and report information in response to name check requests received from federal agencies, for the purpose of protecting the United States from foreign and domestic threats to national security. Please be advised that this is a service provided to other federal agencies. Private Citizens cannot request a name check.

EXPLANATION OF EXEMPTIONS

SUBSECTIONS OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE, SECTION 552

- (b)(1) (A) specifically authorized under criteria established by an Executive order to be kept secret in the interest of national defense or foreign policy and (B) are in fact properly classified to such Executive order;
- (b)(2) related solely to the internal personnel rules and practices of an agency;
- (b)(3) specifically exempted from disclosure by statute (other than section 552b of this title), provided that such statute (A) requires that the matters be withheld from the public in such a manner as to leave no discretion on issue, or (B) establishes particular criteria for withholding or refers to particular types of matters to be withheld;
- (b)(4) trade secrets and commercial or financial information obtained from a person and privileged or confidential;
- (b)(5) inter-agency or intra-agency memorandums or letters which would not be available by law to a party other than an agency in litigation with the agency;
- (b)(6) personnel and medical files and similar files the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy;
- (b)(7) records or information compiled for law enforcement purposes, but only to the extent that the production of such law enforcement records or information (A) could reasonably be expected to interfere with enforcement proceedings, (B) would deprive a person of a right to a fair trial or an impartial adjudication, (C) could reasonably be expected to constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy, (D) could reasonably be expected to disclose the identity of confidential source, including a State, local, or foreign agency or authority or any private institution which furnished information on a confidential basis, and, in the case of record or information compiled by a criminal law enforcement authority in the course of a criminal investigation, or by an agency conducting a lawful national security intelligence investigation, information furnished by a confidential source, (E) would disclose techniques and procedures for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions, or would disclose guidelines for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions if such disclosure could reasonably be expected to risk circumvention of the law, or (F) could reasonably be expected to endanger the life or physical safety of any individual;
- (b)(8) contained in or related to examination, operating, or condition reports prepared by, on behalf of, or for the use of an agency responsible for the regulation or supervision of financial institutions; or
- (b)(9) geological and geophysical information and data, including maps, concerning wells.

SUBSECTIONS OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE, SECTION 552a

- (d)(5) information compiled in reasonable anticipation of a civil action proceeding;
- (j)(2) material reporting investigative efforts pertaining to the enforcement of criminal law including efforts to prevent, control, or reduce crime or apprehend criminals;
- (k)(1) information which is currently and properly classified pursuant to an Executive order in the interest of the national defense or foreign policy, for example, information involving intelligence sources or methods;
- (k)(2) investigatory material compiled for law enforcement purposes, other than criminal, which did not result in loss of a right, benefit or privilege under Federal programs, or which would identify a source who furnished information pursuant to a promise that his/her identity would be held in confidence;
- (k)(3) material maintained in connection with providing protective services to the President of the United States or any other individual pursuant to the authority of Title 18, United States Code, Section 3056;
- (k)(4) required by statute to be maintained and used solely as statistical records;
- (k)(5) investigatory material compiled solely for the purpose of determining suitability, eligibility, or qualifications for Federal civilian employment or for access to classified information, the disclosure of which would reveal the identity of the person who furnished information pursuant to a promise that his/her identity would be held in confidence;
- (k)(6) testing or examination material used to determine individual qualifications for appointment or promotion in Federal Government service the release of which would compromise the testing or examination process;
- (k)(7) material used to determine potential for promotion in the armed services, the disclosure of which would reveal the identity of the person who furnished the material pursuant to a promise that his/her identity would be held in confidence.

Appeal Confirmation

Original Request Information

Tracking Number	1453211-000	Request Status	Research Records
Requester Name	Rukmini Callimachi	Request Track	Expedited
Submitted Date	12/20/2019		

Appeal Information

Appeal Number	DOJ-AP-2020-001458	Date Appealed	12/20/2019
Requester Name	Ms. Rukmini M Callimachi	Basis for Appeal	Under Agency Review



Attn: FOIA APPEAL

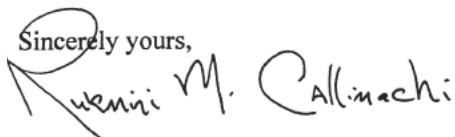
Director, Office of Information Policy (OIP)
United States Department of Justice
U.S. Department of Justice, Sixth Floor,
441 G Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001,

Dear Coordinator -

I am in receipt of the CD-ROM you sent me in response to my FOIA request to the FBI regarding former Romanian ambassador to the United States **Mihai Horia Botez** (sometimes spelled **Mihail Horia Botez**).

1. I am writing to stress that the FBI performed an inadequate search for records responsive to my request. This is in violation of the Freedom of Information law. I hereby appeal the FBI's inadequate search for records responsive to my request. I request OIP to compel the FBI to conduct a new, complete and thorough search for records relating, or referring to the referral made to the FBI and to disclose any responsive records to me. I wish to stress as I did in my initial letter to you that the subject of my inquiry, Mihai Horia Botez, is deceased since July 11, 1995. The records I am seeking are therefore nearly 25 years old.

2. I am also writing to request disclosure of all records in the FBI file labeled **1453211-0**, as well as any cross-reference files.

Sincerely yours,

Rukmini Maria Callimachi

(BELOW PLEASE FIND MY INITIAL FOIA AND YOUR LETTER IN RESPONSE)

This is a request for records under the Freedom of Information Act ("FOIA"), 5 U.S.C. § 552 and the Privacy Act, 5 U.S.C. § 552a. This request should be considered under both statutes to maximize the release of records.

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“**Mihai Botez**”) Romania’s leading dissident during the Ceaucescu regime, and later Romania’s ambassador to Washington in the country’s first democratically elected government, who died under suspicious circumstances on July 11, 1995. He is my stepfather, and I am appending his death certificate as well as mine and my mother’s birth and marriage certificates indicating the family relationship.

2. Any and all emails mentioning or referring to Mihai Botez, his dissidence, his exile in America or his death.
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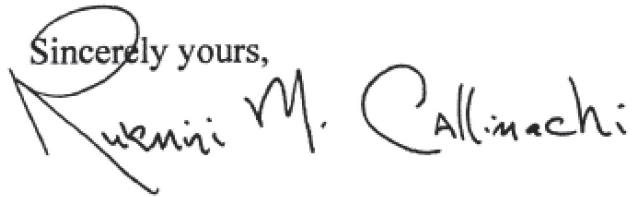
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I will appeal any denial of my request for a waiver administratively and to the courts if necessary.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rukmini M. Callimachi". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial "R" and a distinct "M." before the last name.

Rukmini Maria Callimachi



Callimachi, Rukmini <rukmini.callimachi@nytimes.com>

FOIA Expedited Processing Disposition Reached for DOJ-AP-2020-001458

admin@foiaonline.gov <admin@foiaonline.gov>
To: rukmini.callimachi@nytimes.com

Tue, Dec 24, 2019 at 10:38 AM

Your request for Expedited Processing for the FOIA request DOJ-AP-2020-001458 has been denied. Additional details for this request are as follows:

- Request Created on: 12/20/2019
- Request Description: I am in receipt of the CD-ROM you sent me in response to my FOIA request to the FBI regarding former Romanian ambassador to the United States Mihai Horia Botez (sometimes spelled Mihail Horia Botez).

1. I am writing to stress that the FBI performed an inadequate search for records responsive to my request. This is in violation of the Freedom of Information law. I hereby appeal the FBI's inadequate search for records responsive to my request. I request OIP to compel the FBI to conduct a new, complete and thorough search for records relating, or referring to the referral made to the FBI and to disclose any responsive records to me. I wish to stress as I did in my initial letter to you that the subject of my inquiry, Mihai Horia Botez, is deceased since July 11, 1995. The records I am seeking are therefore nearly 25 years old.

2. I am also writing to request disclosure of all records in the FBI file labeled 1453211-0, as well as any cross-reference files.

- Expedited Processing Original Justification: I am a member of the news media and my role is to disseminate information to the public.
- Expedited Processing Disposition Reason: This acknowledges receipt of your appeal to this Office. I note that your appeal has been assigned Appeal No. DOJ-AP-2020-001458. You should reference this number in any future communications with this Office regarding your appeal.

Your request for expedited handling of your appeal is denied. You have not provided a statement certified to be true and correct, nor have you explained which of the four expedited processing standards set forth in the Department of Justice regulations would apply to your appeal. See 28 C.F.R. 16.5(e)(3). Your appeal is currently being processed and this Office will respond to you once a final determination has been made on your appeal.

If you have any questions regarding the action this Office has taken on your appeal, you may contact this Office's FOIA Public Liaison for your appeal. Specifically, you may speak with Matthew Hurd by calling (202) 514-3642.

If you are dissatisfied with my action on your appeal for expedited treatment of your request, you may file a lawsuit in accordance with 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(6)(E)(iii).



U.S. Department of Justice
Office of Information Policy
Sixth Floor
441 G Street, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Telephone: (202) 514-3642

Rukmini M. Callimachi
The New York Times
521 Highland Avenue
Montclair, NJ 07043
rukmini.callimachi@nytimes.com

Re: Appeal No. DOJ-AP-2020-001458
Request No. 1453211
CDT:EMY

VIA: FOIAonline

Dear Rukmini Callimachi:

You appealed from the action of the Federal Bureau of Investigation on your Freedom of Information Act request for access to records concerning Mihai Horia Botez. I note that your appeal concerns the adequacy of the FBI's search.

After carefully considering your appeal, I am affirming the FBI's action on your request. By letter dated December 10, 2019, the FBI released to you fifty-one pages of responsive records in full and in part. I have determined that the FBI's response was correct and that it conducted an adequate, reasonable search for responsive records subject to the FOIA.¹

Regarding your request for a cross-reference search made for the first time on appeal, please be advised that you need to provide information sufficient to enable the FBI to determine with certainty that any cross-references it locates are identifiable to the subject of your request. This information may include the following:

- 1) the specific circumstances in which the subject of your request had contact with the FBI;
- 2) the date(s) of such contact;
- 3) the location(s) of such contact;
- 4) the full name (first, middle, and last) as well as any prior names or aliases used by the subject of your request;
- 5) Social Security number, date of birth, place of birth, and home address of the subject of your request;
- 6) names of associates of the subject of your request the mention of whom might aid in the identification of responsive records; and

¹ Please be advised that while the FBI's response indicated that other potentially responsive files may exist, the search the FBI conducted included a search for all main files.

- 2 -

- 7) other references to the subject of your request in media, such as books, articles, websites, etc.

You should provide this information to the FBI directly. While the FBI will make every effort to identify responsive cross references using any additional information that you provide, please note that the FBI may not be able to successfully identify such records even with additional information. You may appeal any future adverse determination made by the FBI.

Finally, I note that on appeal you seek various additional records that you did not originally request. You may not on appeal expand the scope of your initial request, which was limited to records related to Mihai Horia Botez. Accordingly, to the extent that you now seek the processing records for 1453211-000, you may wish to submit a new FOIA request to the FBI.

Please be advised that this Office's decision was made only after a full review of this matter. Your appeal was assigned to an attorney with this Office who thoroughly reviewed and analyzed your appeal, your underlying request, and the action of the FBI in response to your request.

If you are dissatisfied with my action on your appeal, the FOIA permits you to file a lawsuit in federal district court in accordance with 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(B).

For your information, the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) offers mediation services to resolve disputes between FOIA requesters and Federal agencies as a non-exclusive alternative to litigation. Using OGIS services does not affect your right to pursue litigation. 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; email at ogis@nara.gov; telephone at 202-741-5770; toll free at 1-877-684-6448; or facsimile at 202-741-5769. If you have any questions regarding the action this Office has taken on your appeal, you may contact this Office's FOIA Public Liaison for your appeal. Specifically, you may speak with the undersigned agency official by calling (202) 514-3642.

Sincerely,

4/8/2020

X 

Matthew W. Hurd
Acting Chief, Administrative Appeals Staff
Signed by: MATTHEW HURD