
From: Dan Vergano <dan.vergano@buzzfeed.com>
Sent: Monday, April 13, 2020 11:28 AM
To: FOIA Status <FOIAStatus@state.gov>
Cc: ogis@nara.gov <ogis@nara.gov>; Christopher Hickman <chris.hickman@buzzfeed.com>
Subject: Appeal of denial of expedited processing RE: Ref: F-2020-05086, Freedom of Information Act Acknowledgement

I'm writing to appeal the denial of expedited processing decided in this State Department communication, as these are the avenues of appeal offered. 22 CFR § 171.11(f)(2) says requesters "shall" receive expedited processing for either when "the information is urgently needed by an individual primarily engaged in disseminating information in order to inform the public concerning actual or alleged Federal government activity; or failure to release the information would impair substantial due process rights or harm substantial humanitarian interests."

As a reporter producing public news reports on the federal coronavirus task force run by Dr. Bix, which is addressing a crisis right now killing thousands of citizens daily, I fulfill the former condition, and failure to release the information on estimates used by the federal government to estimate these tragic losses will cause both harms described in the latter one. It is impossible to argue a crisis estimated to kill more than 100,000 taxpayers in these projections doesn't carry substantial humanitarian interest.

Please let me know if there is a separate avenue for appeals not listed by the department in their communication, and I will redirect the appeal there, if necessary.

Thank you for your time,

Dan Vergano
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cc: C. Hickman, BuzzFeed News Legal Department

Exhibit B