



**United States Department of State**

***Washington, D.C. 20520***

December 28, 2022

Case No. FL-2022-00031

Reed Rubinstein  
America First Legal Foundation  
600 14<sup>th</sup> Street NW, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Washington, D.C. 20005

Dear Mr. Rubinstein:

As we noted in our letter dated November 28, 2022, we are processing your request for material under the Freedom of Information Act (“FOIA”), 5 U.S.C. § 552. The Department of State has processed more than 300 pages of potentially responsive material since its last release and has identified an additional 6 responsive records subject to the FOIA. We have determined three records may be released in part and three records must be withheld in their entirety.

An enclosure explains the FOIA exemptions and other grounds for withholding material. Where we have made redactions, the applicable FOIA exemptions are marked on each record. The records withheld in full are exempt from release pursuant to FOIA Exemption 5, 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(5). All non-exempt material that is reasonably segregable from the exempt material has been released and is enclosed.

We will keep you informed as your case progresses. If you have any questions, your attorney may contact Stephen DeGenaro, Assistant U.S. Attorney, at [Stephen.DeGenaro@usdoj.gov](mailto:Stephen.DeGenaro@usdoj.gov) and/or (202) 252-7229. Please refer to the case number, FL-2022-00031, and the civil action number, 21-cv-02832, in all correspondence about this case.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Diamonece Hickson', written in a cursive style.

Diamonece Hickson  
Chief, Litigation and Appeals Branch  
Office of Information Programs and Services

Enclosures: As stated.

## The Freedom of Information Act (5 USC 552)

### FOIA Exemptions

- (b)(1) Information specifically authorized by an executive order to be kept secret in the interest of national defense or foreign policy. Executive Order 13526 includes the following classification categories:
- 1.4(a) Military plans, systems, or operations
  - 1.4(b) Foreign government information
  - 1.4(c) Intelligence activities, sources or methods, or cryptology
  - 1.4(d) Foreign relations or foreign activities of the US, including confidential sources
  - 1.4(e) Scientific, technological, or economic matters relating to national security, including defense against transnational terrorism
  - 1.4(f) U.S. Government programs for safeguarding nuclear materials or facilities
  - 1.4(g) Vulnerabilities or capabilities of systems, installations, infrastructures, projects, plans, or protection services relating to US national security, including defense against transnational terrorism
  - 1.4(h) Weapons of mass destruction
- (b)(2) Related solely to the internal personnel rules and practices of an agency
- (b)(3) Specifically exempted from disclosure by statute (other than 5 USC 552), for example:
- |                |   |
|----------------|---|
| ARMSEXP        | Arms Export Control Act, 50a USC 2411(c)                    |
| CIA PERS/ORG   | Central Intelligence Agency Act of 1949, 50 USC 403(g)      |
| EXPORT CONTROL | Export Administration Act of 1979, 50 USC App. Sec. 2411(c) |
| FS ACT         | Foreign Service Act of 1980, 22 USC 4004                    |
| INA            | Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 USC 1202(f), Sec. 222(f) |
| IRAN           | Iran Claims Settlement Act, Public Law 99-99, Sec. 505      |
- (b)(4) Trade secrets and confidential commercial or financial information
- (b)(5) Interagency or intra-agency communications forming part of the deliberative process, attorney-client privilege, or attorney work product
- (b)(6) Personal privacy information
- (b)(7) Law enforcement information whose disclosure would:
- (A) interfere with enforcement proceedings
  - (B) deprive a person of a fair trial
  - (C) constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy
  - (D) disclose confidential sources
  - (E) disclose investigation techniques
  - (F) endanger life or physical safety of an individual
- (b)(8) Prepared by or for a government agency regulating or supervising financial institutions
- (b)(9) Geological and geophysical information and data, including maps, concerning wells

### Other Grounds for Withholding

- NR Material not responsive to a FOIA request excised with the agreement of the requester

Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(5)

Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(5)

Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(5)

<b>From:</b>	(b)(6)
<b>To:</b>	(b)(6)
<b>Subject:</b>	RE: FINAL: AM to D for PLOCCA Report
<b>Date:</b>	Fri, 16 Oct 2020 19:41:47 +0000

Huzzah! Great work (b)(6)

~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~

**From:** (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Friday, October 16, 2020 3:31 PM  
**To:** (b)(6)  
**Cc:** (b)(6)  
**Subject:** RE: FINAL: AM to D for PLOCCA Report

Thanks much (b)(6)

(b)(6) Director / Office of Israel and Palestinian Affairs (NEA/IPA) / U.S. Department of State / O: +1  
 (b)(6) DRSN (b)(6) / M: (b)(6) / npr (b)(6) / sipr:  
 (b)(6)

~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~

**From:** (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Friday, October 16, 2020 3:22 PM  
**To:** NEA-Staff-Assistants-DL <NEA-Staff-Assistants-DL@state.gov>  
**Cc:** NEA-IPA-DL <NEA-IPA-DL@state.gov>  
**Subject:** FINAL: AM to D for PLOCCA Report

Colleagues,

Happy Friday!

Please find attached the final AM to D package for the latest PLOCCA report. DAS Chris Hodges has cleared and so has the H/FO.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Best,

(b)(6)

Political Officer  
 Office of Israel and Palestinian Affairs (NEA/IPA)  
 Bureau of Near East Affairs

Washington, D.C.

Cell: (b)(6)

(b)(6)

~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~

<b>Sender:</b>	(b)(6)	
<b>Recipient:</b>		

**From:** (b)(6)  
**To:** [Redacted]  
**Subject:** RE: CLEARANCE: AM to D on PLOCCA/MEPCA Report; Clear by 6/2 at 3 p.m.  
**Date:** Fri, 4 Jun 2021 18:41:46 +0000

Thanks, (b)(6) Best, (b)(6)

~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~

**From:** (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Friday, June 4, 2021 2:41 PM  
**To:** (b)(6)  
**Subject:** RE: CLEARANCE: AM to D on PLOCCA/MEPCA Report; Clear by 6/2 at 3 p.m.

(b)(5)

(b)(6)

~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~

**From:** (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Friday, June 4, 2021 11:34 AM  
**To:** (b)(6)  
**Subject:** RE: CLEARANCE: AM to D on PLOCCA/MEPCA Report; Clear by 6/2 at 3 p.m.  
**Importance:** High

Hi, (b)(6) (b)(5)  
(b)(5) Thank you. (b)(6)

(b)(6)

Political Officer  
Office of Israel and Palestinian Affairs (NEA/IPA)  
Bureau of Near East Affairs  
Washington, D.C.

(b)(6)

~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~

**From:** (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 3, 2021 2:15 PM



**To:** NEA-Staff-Assistants-DL <NEA-Staff-Assistants-DL@state.gov> (b)(6)  
**Subject:** RE: CLEARANCE: AM to D on PLOCCA/MEPCA Report; Clear by 6/2 at 3 p.m.

(b)(5) (b)(6)

(b)(6)

Staff Assistant  
(H) Bureau of Legislative Affairs  
HST 7805

(b)(6)

~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~

**From:** (b)(6)

**Sent:** Tuesday, June 1, 2021 3:57 PM

**To:** C\_Special Assistants <C\_SpecialAssistants@state.gov>; P/NEA Duty Officer <P-NEADuty@state.gov>;

(b)(6); SP\_NEA <SP\_NEA@state.gov>; R\_Clearances <R\_Clearances@state.gov>; GPA Clearances <GPA\_Clearances@state.gov>; D-MR\_StaffAssistants <D-MR\_StaffAssistants@state.gov>; CT\_SCAN\_NEA <CT\_SCAN\_NEA@state.gov>; NEA-Egypt <NEA-Egypt@state.gov>; NEA-Jordan-DL <NEA-Jordan-DL@state.gov>; H\_Staffers <H\_Staffers@state.gov>

**Subject:** CLEARANCE: AM to D on PLOCCA/MEPCA Report; Clear by 6/2 at 3 p.m.

**Importance:** High

Colleagues,

(b)(5)

Thank you.

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

Political Officer  
Office of Israel and Palestinian Affairs (IPA)  
Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs (NEA)  
U.S. Department of State  
Washington, D.C.

(b)(6)

~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~

<b>Sender:</b>	(b)(6)	
<b>Recipient:</b>		

**From:** (b)(6)  
**To:** (b)(6)  
**Subject:** RE: (b)(6) Thanks again for your help with this. (b)(5)  
(b)(5)  
**Date:** Thu, 19 Mar 2020 08:33:28 +0000

(b)(5)

Thanks

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**From:** (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 19, 2020 10:29 AM  
**To:** (b)(6)  
**Subject:** (b)(6) - Thanks again for your help with this. I think we need to make sure the agreed verbiage.....

(b)(5)

Best,

(b)(6)

Special Assistant to U.S. Ambassador to Israel David Friedman  
U.S Embassy in Jerusalem, Israel

Mobile: (b)(6)

**Sender:** (b)(6)  
**Recipient:** (b)(6)