



**United States Department of State**

*Washington, D.C. 20520*

February 28, 2023

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 January 30, 2023, 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 six responsive records subject to the FOIA. We have determined all six records may be released in part.

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. 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", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Diamonece Hickson  
Chief, Litigations 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

<b>From:</b>	(b)(6)
<b>To:</b>	(b)(6)
<b>Subject:</b>	Re: Two Congressional Reports for FO Clearance
<b>Date:</b>	Tue, 24 Mar 2020 14:23:15 +0000

Shoot I am sorry. I meant to send earlier. I thought you were just showing him PLOCCA today. They are minor though so hopefully not a problem.

(b)(6)

Special Assistant to U.S. Ambassador to Israel David Friedman  
U.S Embassy in Jerusalem, Israel  
Mobile: (b)(6)

<b>From:</b>	(b)(6)
<b>Sent:</b>	Tuesday, March 24, 2020 4:22 PM
<b>To:</b>	(b)(6)
<b>Subject:</b>	Re: Two Congressional Reports for FO Clearance

Erg ok - he has it already. No worries, I'll flag the changes and get them incorporated.

(b)(6) Staff Assistant | U.S. Embassy Jerusalem

(b)(6) [EmbassyJerusalemSA@state.gov](mailto:EmbassyJerusalemSA@state.gov) (b)(6)

<b>From:</b>	(b)(6)
<b>Sent:</b>	Tuesday, March 24, 2020 3:20 AM
<b>To:</b>	(b)(6)
<b>Subject:</b>	Re: Two Congressional Reports for FO Clearance

(b)(6)

Please use this version of the Incitement report when sending to (b)(6) if you have not sent it to him yet. (b)(6) has seen these small tweaks after (b)(6) approved. I flagged it for him yesterday. Please tell (b)(6) (b)(5)

(b)(5)

Best,

(b)(6)

Special Assistant to U.S. Ambassador to Israel David Friedman  
U.S Embassy in Jerusalem, Israel  
Mobile: (b)(6)

<b>From:</b>	(b)(6)
<b>Sent:</b>	Tuesday, March 24, 2020 1:17 PM
<b>To:</b>	(b)(6)
<b>Subject:</b>	Re: Two Congressional Reports for FO Clearance

of course, will do.

(b)(6) | Staff Assistant | U.S. Embassy Jerusalem

(b)(6) | EmbassyJerusalemSA@state.gov | (b)(6)

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

**Sent:** Monday, March 23, 2020 4:44 AM

**To:** (b)(6)

**Subject:** Fw: Two Congressional Reports for FO Clearance

Thank you, (b)(6)

Can you let me know once the DCM approves and before we send to the Amb?

Best,

(b)(6)

Special Assistant to U.S. Ambassador to Israel David Friedman

U.S Embassy in Jerusalem, Israel

Mobile: (b)(6)

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

**Sent:** Monday, March 23, 2020 5:14 PM

**To:** (b)(6) Embassy Jerusalem SA

<EmbassyJerusalemSA@state.gov>

**Cc:** (b)(6)

(b)(6)

**Subject:** Re: Two Congressional Reports for FO Clearance

Thanks (b)(6) received; I'll ask DCM to review asap.

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

**Sent:** Monday, March 23, 2020 3:52 AM

**To:** (b)(6) Embassy Jerusalem SA

<EmbassyJerusalemSA@state.gov>

**Cc:** (b)(6)

(b)(6)

**Subject:** Two Congressional Reports for FO Clearance

(b)(6)

Hope it's going well over there in Tel Aviv. We have two reports heading to the Desk for your clearance that we'd love to pass back their way by the end of the week. The first is the semi-annual PLOCCA report (attached). The second is the annual incitement report (also attached). We've cleared through PAU here (b)(5) so don't think we need an EBO clearance apart from the Front Office team there. (b)(6) (cc'd) did yeoman's work pulling together a lot of the examples, so if you have any questions on the reports, just let us know.

Many thanks and all the best,

(b)(6)

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

<b>From:</b>	(b)(6)
<b>To:</b>	(b)(6)
<b>CC:</b>	(b)(6)
<b>Subject:</b>	RE: Connecting Next Week - Congressional Reports
<b>Date:</b>	Tue, 10 Mar 2020 13:37:14 +0000

Thanks (b)(6) unlike the other annual reports, I don't believe this one has a specific reporting period. Simply a "90 days after passage." So I basically tried to take anything since the last time the report went forward, which was May 2019.

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**From:** (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 10, 2020 2:01 PM  
**To:** (b)(6)  
**Cc:** (b)(6)  
**Subject:** Re: Connecting Next Week - Congressional Reports

Thank you! Will review today and tomorrow, and then send back to you. (b)(6)

(b)(6)

Do you know what time frame we are dealing with for the incitement report? From when to when?

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**From:** (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Monday, March 9, 2020 6:04 PM  
**To:** (b)(6)  
**Cc:** (b)(6)  
**Subject:** RE: Connecting Next Week - Congressional Reports

(b)(6)

Here we go. Thanks for connecting today. I made edits based on your feedback. One outstanding question is (b)(5)

(b)(5)

(b)(5) Otherwise, I think we're good. Once we receive your edits this can go to (b)(6) and the Front Office.

Many thanks for the help. Working on the PLOCCA too and hope to have that your way.

Grateful,

(b)(6)

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**From:** (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Monday, March 9, 2020 1:48 PM  
**To:** (b)(6)  
**Cc:** (b)(6)  
**Subject:** Re: Connecting Next Week - Congressional Reports

Thank you. I just read all the materials over. It is good but have some suggested changes. Happy to discuss later today.

Best,

(b)(6)

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**From:** (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Monday, March 9, 2020 12:37 PM  
**To:** (b)(6)  
**Cc:** (b)(6)  
**Subject:** RE: Connecting Next Week - Congressional Reports

(b)(6)

Sounds good – just sent you an invite. (b)(6) and I will call from the courtyard and we can talk through it all this afternoon. I'm working to get the PLOCCA report transferred to the low side so we can both work on it – I'm too worried I'll be sent home here depending on the new restrictions.

Attached is the draft Incitement report. (b)(5)

(b)(5)

Look forward to your help and thoughts on this. And if I can get the PLOCCA on the low side, that'd be great so we can move that forward too and look at them in tandem.

All the best,

(b)(6)

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**From:** (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Monday, March 9, 2020 12:15 PM  
**To:** (b)(6)  
**Cc:** (b)(6)  
**Subject:** Re: Connecting Next Week - Congressional Reports

Unfortunately, I will have to be home this week as per Israel requirements.

Happy to speak after 4:30 pm. Can we do a conference call?

Best,

(b)(6)

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**From:** (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 8, 2020 7:48 PM  
**To:** (b)(6)  
**Cc:** (b)(6)  
**Subject:** Re: Connecting Next Week - Congressional Reports

(b)(6)

Understandable. If the Israelis go with what (b)(6) suggested in his email today, I think I'd also fall into the quarantine list for the week - so I'd be in good company then with you and half the embassy.

They haven't issued it yet, so I'm still planning to go through with a long list of meetings I have on Monday, but would be free at 4:30pm if that might work for you (or anytime thereafter). I looked at (b)(6) calendar and she's free too and might like to join.

Happy to connect Tuesday as well if that might be easier as I'm pretty open then too. Thankfully at least the incitement report is on the low-side, so I'll send that your way tomorrow for our conversation.

Hoping we all avoid this coronavirus,

(b)(6)

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**From:** (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 7, 2020 2:10 PM  
**To:** (b)(6)  
**Cc:** (b)(6)  
**Subject:** Re: Connecting Next Week - Congressional Reports

Happy to discuss! I just received word that I need to self-quarantine after being in the U.S. but can we do a call on Monday? What time works best?

Best,

(b)(6)

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**From:** (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Friday, March 6, 2020 4:53 PM



**To:** (b)(6)  
**Cc:** (b)(6)  
**Subject:** Connecting Next Week - Congressional Reports

(b)(6)

Just got back from two weeks in the U.S. and am turning to the many things we've got ahead of us and would love to sit down with you to run through the two Congressional reports we need to move forward pursuant to the PLO Commitments Compliance Act (PLOCCA) and the Steps Taken by the Palestinian Authority to Counter Incitement report.

Will you be in the office here in Jerusalem on Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday next week? Looking at my calendar (and (b)(6)) we're generally free in the afternoon of Tuesday (March 9) and Wednesday from 11-12 and 1-2 if any of those times might work.

Would love to go through where we're at and what more we need to do.

Looking forward to finding a time.

Thanks,

(b)(6)

(b)(6) U.S. Embassy Jerusalem – Palestinian Affairs Unit  
+(b)(6) (Mobile) | (b)(6) (Office)

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

<b>From:</b>	(b)(6)
<b>To:</b>	(b)(6)
<b>Subject:</b>	Re: Andrew - Hope you had a good weekend. Have you had a chance to send the incitement and PLOCCA report up the chain? Best, (b)(6)
<b>Date:</b>	Mon, 23 Mar 2020 10:16:33 +0000

Sounds good, will do.

Get Outlook for iOS

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

**Sent:** Monday, March 23, 2020 11:33:01 AM

**To:** (b)(6)

**Subject:** Re: (b)(6) - Hope you had a good weekend. Have you had a chance to send the incitement and PLOCCA report up the chain? Best, (b)(6)

Sounds good, thank you! Keep me posted. Can you CC me when you send to the FO?

Best,

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

Special Assistant to U.S. Ambassador to Israel (b)(6)

U.S Embassy in Jerusalem, Israel

Mobile: (b)(6)

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

**Sent:** Monday, March 23, 2020 11:21 AM

**To:** (b)(6)

**Subject:** Re: (b)(6) - Hope you had a good weekend. Have you had a chance to send the incitement and PLOCCA report up the chain? Best, (b)(6)

(b)(6)

Yes! Thanks for checking in. Yes, both are with (b)(6) now and as soon as I get them back I'll move them to the FO.

(b)(5)

Otherwise, looked really good to me.

Will hopefully have it up to the FO soon as I'd love to get both back to DC by the end of the week.

Get Outlook for iOS

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

**Sent:** Monday, March 23, 2020 10:50:16 AM

**To:** (b)(6)

**Subject:** (b)(6) - Hope you had a good weekend. Have you had a chance to send the incitement and PLOCCA report up the chain? Best, (b)(6)

(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)

<b>From:</b>	(b)(6)
<b>To:</b>	(b)(6)
<b>Subject:</b>	RE: 2020-2-27 NEA-IPA Daily Update
<b>Date:</b>	Thu, 27 Feb 2020 14:12:45 +0000

Perfect ! Thank You

**Best,**

(b)(6)

Office Management Specialist  
Office of Israel and Palestinian Affairs  
Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs

Cherokee Nations Contractor

Phone: (b)(6)

~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~

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**From:** (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 27, 2020 9:08 AM  
**To:** (b)(6)  
**Subject:** FW: 2020-2-27 NEA-IPA Daily Update

Here is the second from me

EMBASSY Jerusalem and Branch Office Tel Aviv closed for marathon and national elections:

- On February 28, The Tel Aviv Samsung Marathon will be held. Organizers have prohibited further foreign participants in the marathon from competing though Israeli Health Ministry director general "has approved the participation of international runners who are already in the country, diplomats, and other foreign residents."
- On March 2, Embassy Jerusalem will be closed as the Israeli national elections will be held for the third time in one year.

(b)(6)

Foreign Affairs Officer  
Office of Israeli and Palestinian Affairs (NEA/IPA)

~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~

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**From:** (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 27, 2020 8:36 AM  
**To:** NEA-IPA-DL <NEA-IPA-DL@state.gov>  
**Subject:** FW: 2020-2-27 NEA-IPA Daily Update

Sorry – meant to send to all.

(b)(6) / Director / Office of Israeli and Palestinian Affairs (NEA/IPA) / U.S. Department of State / O: (b)(6)  
(b)(6) DRSN: (b)(6) M: (b)(6) / nipr: (b)(6) / sipr:  
(b)(6)

~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~

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**From:** (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 27, 2020 8:36 AM  
**To:** (b)(6)  
(b)(6)  
**Subject:** FW: 2020-2-27 NEA-IPA Daily Update

Could I get also get an update on:

- the latest elections shenanigans and polls (b)(6)
- COVID-19 in Israel (b)(6)
- Status of CT, HRR, PLOCCA-MEPCA and any other report we are currently working (b)(6)
- A note that the Embassy is closed tomorrow for the marathon (which apparently foreigners cannot participate in b/c of COVID-19) and the elections Monday (b)(6)
- A anodyne readout of yesterday's/ (b)(6) (b)(6) and Friedman briefing. (b)(6)

Thanks.

- (b)(6)

(b)(6) / Director / Office of Israeli and Palestinian Affairs (NEA/IPA) / U.S. Department of State / O: (b)(6)  
(b)(6) DRSN: (b)(6) M: (b)(6) / nipr: (b)(6) / sipr:  
(b)(6)

~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~

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**From:** (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 27, 2020 8:10 AM  
**To:** (b)(6)  
**Cc:** (b)(6)  
**Subject:** 2020-2-27 NEA-IPA Daily Update

Morning (b)(6)

Attached is the today's daily for your review and clearance.

**Best,**

(b)(6)

Office Management Specialist  
Office of Israel and Palestinian Affairs  
Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs

Cherokee Nations Contractor

Phone (b)(6)

~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~

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

**From:** (b)(6)  
**To:** (b)(6)  
**Subject:** Fw: For Approval: PLOCCA October Report  
**Date:** Tue, 29 Sep 2020 19:16:23 +0000

Hey! Thanks for your help with this.

In the future can you also CC me when you send things to the Amb for his approval?

Thank you :)

Best,

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

Special Assistant to U.S. Ambassador to Israel David Friedman

U.S Embassy in Jerusalem, Israel

Mobile (b)(6)

**From:** Friedman, David M (b)(6)

**Sent:** Tuesday, September 29, 2020 12:50 PM

**To:** (b)(6)

**Cc:** (b)(6)

(b)(6)

**Subject:** Re: For Approval: PLOCCA October Report

+ (b)(6)

Clear. Thanks

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

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

**Sent:** Tuesday, September 29, 2020 11:59 AM

**To:** Friedman, David M

**Cc:** (b)(6)

**Subject:** For Approval: PLOCCA October Report

Sir:

The PAU POL team compiled the PLOCCA October report for your final approval. Both DCM (b)(6) and

(b)(6) cleared this report.

Best,

(b)(6)

Front Office Staff Assistant

US Embassy Jerusalem

Ext: (b)(6) Cell: (b)(6)

**Report Pursuant to Section 804 of the Palestine Liberation Organization Commitments  
Compliance Act of 1989 ("PLOCCA") (Title VIII, P.L. 101-246) and  
Sections 603-604 and 699 of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act,  
FY 2003 ("the Act") (Public Law 107-228) (P.L. 107-228)**

(b)(5)



Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(5)

(b)(5)

~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~

**Sender:** (b)(5)

**Recipient:** (b)(5)

<b>From:</b>	(b)(6)
<b>To:</b>	(b)(6)
<b>Subject:</b>	Fw: CLEARANCE: AM to D on PLOCCA Report; Clear by Tuesday, October 13, 1 p.m.
<b>Date:</b>	Wed, 14 Oct 2020 21:26:17 +0000

(b)(6)

Egypt Desk

Cell: (b)(6)

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

**Sent:** Friday, October 9, 2020 3:52 PM

**To:** (b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6) SP\_NEA <SP\_NEA@state.gov>; GPA-Specials <GPA-Specials@state.gov>

**Subject:** RE: CLEARANCE: AM to D on PLOCCA Report; Clear by Tuesday, October 13, 1 p.m.

(b)(6)

Please see comments to be addressed in the attached before D can clear. Separately, I know this is co-signed by H, but is this being reviewed outside the H/FO in the lateral process? If so, please list those clearers on the clearance page as well.

OK for D pending resolution of comments and outstanding clearances – please revert and I'll take a quick look.

Thanks,

(b)(6)

Special Assistant

Office of the Deputy Secretary of State

Tel: (b)(6) Mob: (b)(6) (b)(6)

~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~

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

**Sent:** Friday, October 9, 2020 3:46 PM

**To:** (b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6) SP\_NEA <SP\_NEA@state.gov>; GPA-Specials <GPA-Specials@state.gov>

**Subject:** Re: CLEARANCE: AM to D on PLOCCA Report; Clear by Tuesday, October 13, 1 p.m.

Clear for the Jordan Desk.

--

(b)(6)

Jordan and Lebanon Desk Officer

NEA/LEV

Department of State

Desk: (b)(6)

Cell: (b)(6)

---

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

**Sent:** Friday, October 9, 2020 3:16 PM

**To:** (b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

SP\_NEA <SP\_NEA@state.gov>; GPA-Specials  
<GPA-Specials@state.gov>

**Subject:** Re: CLEARANCE: AM to D on PLOCCA Report; Clear by Tuesday, October 13, 1 p.m.

Clear for Egypt

(b)(6)

Egypt Desk

Cell: (b)(6)

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

**Sent:** Friday, October 9, 2020 2:56 PM

**To:** (b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

SP\_NEA <SP\_NEA@state.gov>; GPA-Specials  
<GPA-Specials@state.gov>

**Subject:** CLEARANCE: AM to D on PLOCCA Report; Clear by Tuesday, October 13, 1 p.m.

Colleagues,

Please find for your clearance the AM to D for the PLOCCA report. L/AN has cleared as well as post.  
Please provide your clearance by **Tuesday, October 13 at 1 p.m.**

Thank you.

(b)(6)

(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>	(b)(6)	
	(b)(6)	