

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

AMERICA FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION,

Plaintiff,

v.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF
STATE,

Defendant.

Civil Action No. 21-2832 (CJN)

JOINT STATUS REPORT

The parties, by and through counsel, file this Joint Status report pursuant to the Court's September 26, 2022 Minute Order, regarding the status of processing and production of responsive records. This is a Freedom of Information Act ("FOIA") matter involving a FOIA request that Plaintiff submitted to the United States Department of State (hereinafter "the Department") that seeks records of, referring to or regarding the Biden Administration's report to Congress concerning the Palestine Liberation Organization and the Palestinian Authority. Plaintiff filed the Complaint on October 26, 2021 (ECF No. 1) and the Department filed its Answer on January 7, 2022 (ECF No. 8).

STATUS OF PLAINTIFF'S FOIA REQUEST

Plaintiff's FOIA request contains seven different subparts that seek different categories of records from the Department.

As previously reported, on March 22, 2022, Plaintiff accepted the Department's proposal for an adequate search of records responsive to subparts A through B and E through G of Plaintiff's FOIA request.

The Department has nearly concluded its search for records potentially responsive to Parts A, B, E, and F of the request and previously identified approximately 4,800 potentially responsive records. The Department continues to conduct an initial relevancy review of these documents and will conduct a search and review of documents potentially responsive to the remaining part of the request as narrowed. Of the set of documents previously identified, the Department has narrowed the set of potentially responsive records to approximately 1,460 records on its unclassified system and approximately 992 records on the classified system.

Additionally, since the last Joint Status Report, on August 28, 2023 and September 28, 2023, the Department reported to Plaintiff that it had processed more than 600 pages of potentially responsive records and determined that seventeen records were responsive and could be released with partial redactions pursuant to Exemptions 5 and 6.

NEXT JOINT STATUS REPORT

Pursuant to this Court's September 26, 2022, Minute Order, the parties shall submit another Joint Status Report on December 19, 2023, to update the Court on the status of Plaintiff's FOIA request and proposed dates for processing and production.

* * *

Dated: October 20, 2023
Washington, DC

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Respectfully submitted,

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