



**United States Department of State**

*Washington, D.C. 20520*

June 30, 2023

Case No. FL-2023-00036

Reed Rubinstein  
America First Legal  
611 Pennsylvania Avenue, SE #231  
Washington, DC 20003

Dear Mr. Rubinstein:

As we noted in our letter dated May 31, 2023, we are processing your request for material under the Freedom of Information Act ("FOIA"), 5 U.S.C. § 552. The Department of State ("Department") has identified an additional 24 responsive records subject to the FOIA. We have determined all 24 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. Where applicable, the Department has considered the foreseeable harm standard when reviewing these records and applying FOIA exemptions. 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 Assistant United States Attorney Jeremy Simon at [Jeremy.simon@usdoj.gov](mailto:Jeremy.simon@usdoj.gov). Please refer to the case

number, FL-2023-00036, and the civil action number, 23-cv-00419, in all correspondence about this case.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeanne Miller". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "J" and "M".

Jeanne Miller  
Chief, Programs and Policies Division  
Office of Information Programs and Services

Enclosures: As stated.

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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

**Questions for the Record submitted to  
Undersecretary for Civilian Security, Democracy and Human Rights, Hon. Uzra Zeya, by  
Senator Ted Cruz (No. 1 to No. 4),  
U. S. Senate Committee on Foreign Relations,  
March 15, 2022**

On February 11, the State Department's Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor (DRL) issued funding opportunity number SFOP0008613, a Notice of Funding Opportunity for "Strengthening Human Rights and Accountability in Israel and the West Bank and Gaza." The notice solicits projects in which organizations would boost the capacity of civil organizations to "collect, archive, and maintain human rights documentation to support justice and accountability... which may include documentation of legal or security sector violations and housing, land, and property rights." The notice is explicit that proposals may include investigations into "activities in... Israel." The total funding ceiling is \$987,654.

The grant was broadly criticized as procedurally unprecedented and substantively hostile to our Israeli allies, and more specifically as a subsidy for the international campaign by non-governmental organizations to demonize and isolate Israel. These campaigns then serve as a basis for anti-Semitic efforts to boycott and wage economic warfare against Israeli Jews. A report in the Washington Free Beacon conveyed speculation that "the Biden administration is filled with people who spent decades getting paid to try to make Israel into an international pariah. They failed, but now they're using the State Department to try to do it."

You oversee DRL. Please answer the following –

**Question 1: J, clear with NEA**

To what extent has DRL previously issued notices for projects aimed at documenting human rights violations occurring in Israel? Please explicitly cite and convey any notices you believe are precedents for or similar to SFOP0008613 in that context.

**Question 2: J, clear with NEA and L**

What "legal or security sector violations and housing, land, and property rights" violations that have occurred or are occurring in Israel that you believe are relevant to projects described by SFOP0008613?

**Question 3: J, clear with NEA**

What sorts of products or deliverables you envision receiving from projects described by SFOP0008613?

**Question 4: J, clear with NEA**

What proposals have already been submitted for projects described by SFOP0008613?

## Department of State Congressional Correspondence Tasker

IPS Control #H20220524-005 Responsible Bureau: DRL Date: 2022-05-20  
IPS:

Document Type: Substantive Correspondence  
Image entire document.

Bureau:  
Bureau action requested: Respond to CCU by 2022-05-31.  
Reply for signature by: Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs

For guidance/information on formatting congressionals, see Diplopedia  
\*\*\*\*Bureaus must make transfers of action directly with receiving bureau via the tasker system\*\*\*\*

**Due Date:** 2022-05-31

Additional Instructions:

\_\_Please clear with NSC prior to submission to H

Multi-Signer Letter: Cassidy , Bill, Blackburn, Marsha, Blunt, Roy, Braun, Mike, Grassley, Chuck, Daines, Steve, Scott, Rick, Cotton, Tom, Hagerty, Bill, Ernst, Joni, Hawley, Josh

Special Instructions: CCU: email final response to: ricardo\_pita@cruz.senate.gov

**From:** (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**To:** (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**CC:** (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Subject:** Ready to Post: SFOP0008613 Israel/WB/Gaza NOFO  
**Date:** Fri, 11 Feb 2022 19:33:00 +0000

Hi (b)(6)

Reaching out for your assistance in posting **SFOP0008613** to SAMS Domestic and grants.gov. If posted today, this will be live for 61 days (set to close at 11:59p EST on Wednesday 4/13). As the Passover holiday begins on Friday 4/15, it is slightly urgent that this be posted today to ensure it can meet the 60 threshold without falling over a large holiday break in Israel.

The attached NOFO has been uploaded to SD in PDF format. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns, and apologies for the rushed request on a Friday afternoon. The holiday schedule didn't dawn on me until I was going through the calendar to find the 60-days-from-now date.

Thanks,

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

Office of Global Programs  
Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor  
U.S. Department of State

(b)(6)

\* Contracted by Contracting Resources Group

Click to follow and like @StateDRL: 

**Sender:** (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Recipient:** (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>

OBTAINED BY AMERICAN FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION THROUGH LITIGATION

<b>From:</b>	(b)(6)@state.gov
<b>To:</b>	Zach, Gabriella <gabriella.zach@mail.house.gov>; robert.marcus@mail.house.gov <robert.marcus@mail.house.gov>
<b>CC:</b>	Kustin, Casey <Casey.Kustin@mail.house.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov; Finkel, Matt <Matt.Finkel@mail.house.gov>
<b>Subject:</b>	Re: US offering \$1 million to report on Israeli human rights violations
<b>Date:</b>	Tue, 3 May 2022 21:02:20 +0000

Colleagues,  
 Per the call, see attached.  
 Let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks,

(b)(6)

**From:** (b)(6)@state.gov

**Sent:** Thursday, April 28, 2022 14:08

**To:** Zach, Gabriella <gabriella.zach@mail.house.gov>; robert.marcus@mail.house.gov <robert.marcus@mail.house.gov>

**Cc:** Kustin, Casey <Casey.Kustin@mail.house.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov; Finkel, Matt <Matt.Finkel@mail.house.gov>

**Subject:** Re: US offering \$1 million to report on Israeli human rights violations

Yes. Confirmed. call-in information below.

## Microsoft Teams meeting

**Join on your computer or mobile app**

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

### Or call in (audio only)

(b)(7)(E) United States, Spokane

Phone Conference ID: (b)(7)(E)

**From:** Zach, Gabriella <Gabriella.Zach@mail.house.gov>

**Sent:** Thursday, April 28, 2022 10:34

**To:** (b)(6)@state.gov; robert.marcus@mail.house.gov <robert.marcus@mail.house.gov>

**Cc:** Kustin, Casey <Casey.Kustin@mail.house.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov; Finkel, Matt <Matt.Finkel@mail.house.gov>

**Subject:** RE: US offering \$1 million to report on Israeli human rights violations

Are we confirmed for 5/3 at 4pm?

**From:** (b)(6)@state.gov

**Sent:** Wednesday, April 27, 2022 10:52 AM

**To:** Zach, Gabriella <Gabriella.Zach@mail.house.gov>; Marcus, Robert <Robert.Marcus@mail.house.gov>

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**Cc:** Kustin, Casey <Casey.Kustin@mail.house.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov; Finkel, Matt <Matt.Finkel@mail.house.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: US offering \$1 million to report on Israeli human rights violations

Do any of these times work?

- Tuesday, 5/3:** 4-5 PM
- Wednesday, 5/4:** 12-5 PM
- Thursday, 5/5:** 10-5 PM
- Friday, 5/6:** 11-1 PM; 2-5 PM

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**From:** Zach, Gabriella <Gabriella.Zach@mail.house.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 25, 2022 5:49 PM  
**To:** robert.marcus@mail.house.gov; (b)(6)@state.gov  
**Cc:** Kustin, Casey <Casey.Kustin@mail.house.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov; Finkel, Matt <Matt.Finkel@mail.house.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: US offering \$1 million to report on Israeli human rights violations

Many thanks.

---

**From:** Marcus, Robert <Robert.Marcus@mail.house.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 25, 2022 5:47 PM  
**To:** (b)(6)@state.gov  
**Cc:** Kustin, Casey <Casey.Kustin@mail.house.gov>; Zach, Gabriella <Gabriella.Zach@mail.house.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov; Finkel, Matt <Matt.Finkel@mail.house.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: US offering \$1 million to report on Israeli human rights violations

Roger. Thank you.

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 25, 2022, at 5:30 PM, (b)(6)@state.gov wrote:

Colleagues,

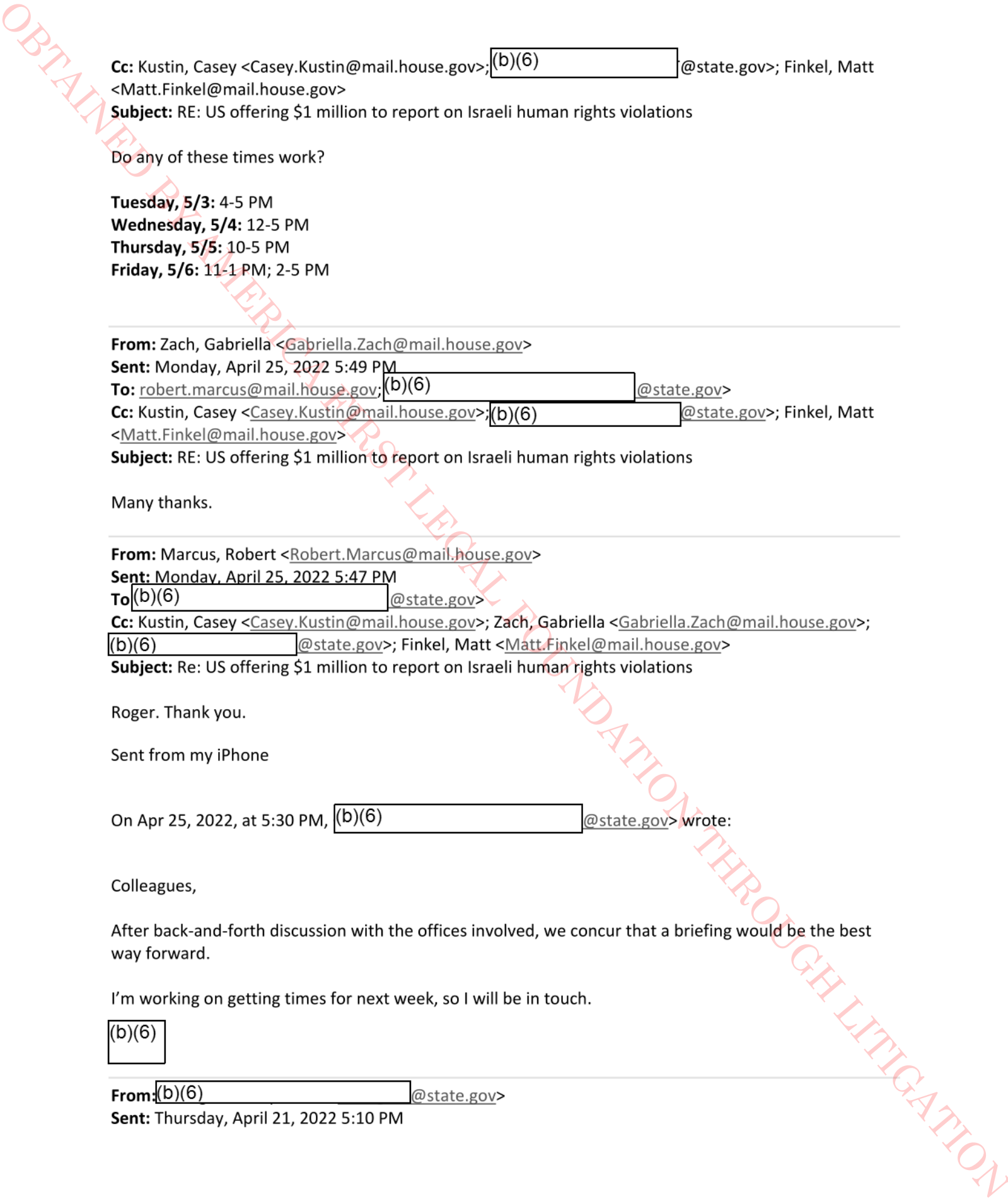
After back-and-forth discussion with the offices involved, we concur that a briefing would be the best way forward.

I'm working on getting times for next week, so I will be in touch.

(b)(6)

---

**From:** (b)(6)@state.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 21, 2022 5:10 PM





**To:** robert.marcus@mail.house.gov; Kustin, Casey <Casey.Kustin@mail.house.gov>; Zach, Gabriella <gabriella.zach@mail.house.gov>  
**Cc:** (b)(6)@state.gov; Finkel, Matt <Matt.Finkel@mail.house.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: US offering \$1 million to report on Israeli human rights violations

Following up. Apologies for the delay.

---

**From:** (b)(6)@state.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 21, 2022 14:20  
**To:** robert.marcus@mail.house.gov <robert.marcus@mail.house.gov>; Kustin, Casey <Casey.Kustin@mail.house.gov>; Zach, Gabriella <gabriella.zach@mail.house.gov>  
**Cc:** (b)(6)@state.gov; Finkel, Matt <Matt.Finkel@mail.house.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: US offering \$1 million to report on Israeli human rights violations

I'm following up.

---

**From:** Marcus, Robert <Robert.Marcus@mail.house.gov>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 21, 2022 14:11  
**To:** Kustin, Casey <Casey.Kustin@mail.house.gov>; Zach, Gabriella <gabriella.zach@mail.house.gov>  
**Cc:** (b)(6)@state.gov; (b)(6)@state.gov; Finkel, Matt <Matt.Finkel@mail.house.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: US offering \$1 million to report on Israeli human rights violations

Further echoing. I owe several key offices feedback on this issue.

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**From:** Kustin, Casey <Casey.Kustin@mail.house.gov>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 21, 2022 11:26 AM  
**To:** Zach, Gabriella <Gabriella.Zach@mail.house.gov>  
**Cc:** (b)(6)@state.gov; Marcus, Robert <Robert.Marcus@mail.house.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov; Finkel, Matt <Matt.Finkel@mail.house.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: US offering \$1 million to report on Israeli human rights violations

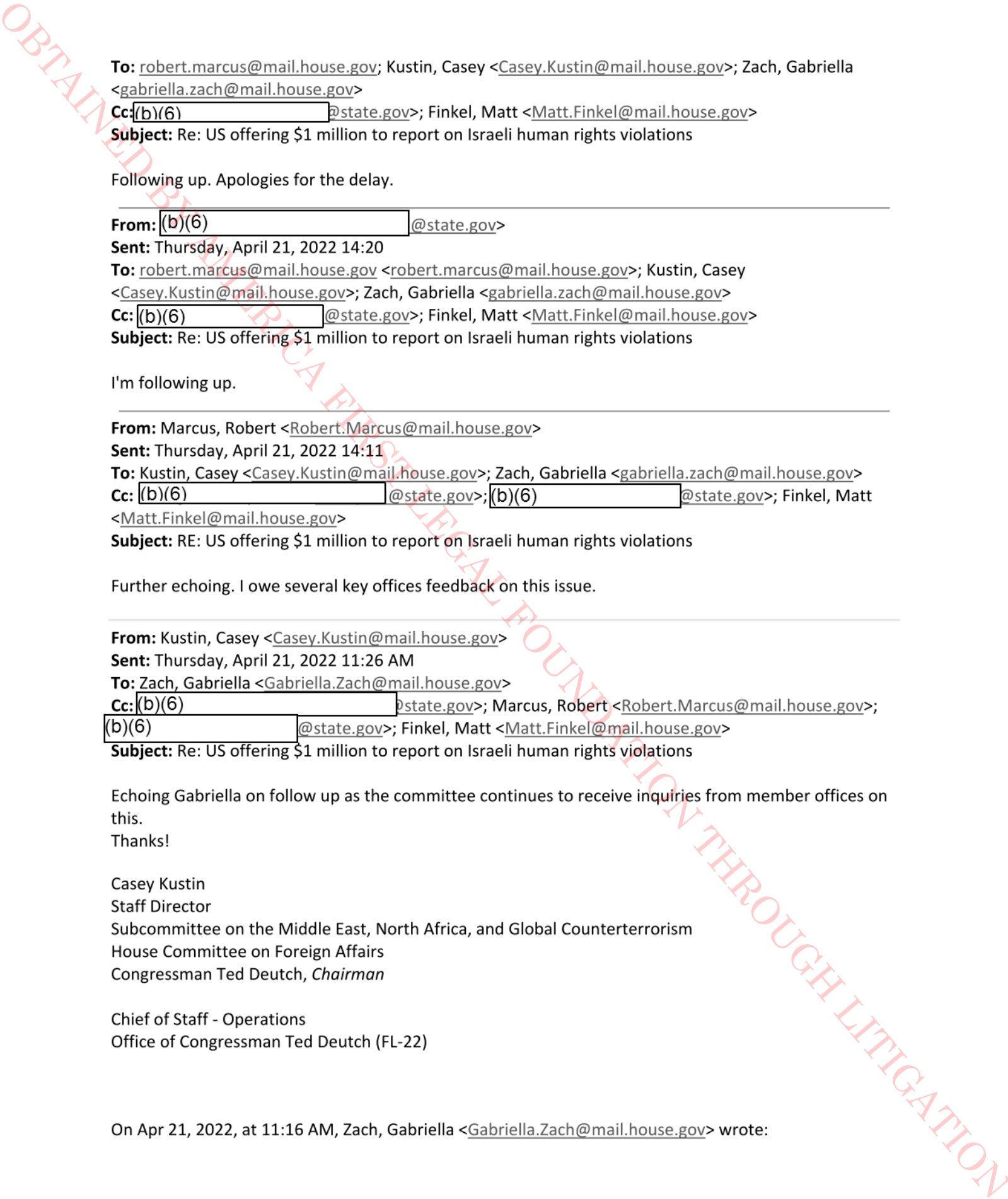
Echoing Gabriella on follow up as the committee continues to receive inquiries from member offices on this.

Thanks!

Casey Kustin  
Staff Director  
Subcommittee on the Middle East, North Africa, and Global Counterterrorism  
House Committee on Foreign Affairs  
Congressman Ted Deutch, *Chairman*

Chief of Staff - Operations  
Office of Congressman Ted Deutch (FL-22)

On Apr 21, 2022, at 11:16 AM, Zach, Gabriella <Gabriella.Zach@mail.house.gov> wrote:



Just following up on this question again – perhaps a briefing would be easier if a written response is difficult to obtain? Thanks.

**From:** Zach, Gabriella  
**Sent:** Monday, April 4, 2022 11:05 AM  
**To:** (b)(6)@state.gov; Marcus, Robert <Robert.Marcus@mail.house.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov  
**Cc:** Finkel, Matt <Matt.Finkel@mail.house.gov>; Kustin, Casey <Casey.Kustin@mail.house.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: US offering \$1 million to report on Israeli human rights violations

Just following up on this – thanks.

Can you provide more information about DRL’s thinking as to why USG funding was necessary in this space, which already receives ample funding from other donors and attention from international NGOs (and much of which is problematic, by the Department’s own admission). Which is to say, why was this program put into solicitation in the first place, rather than using the resources differently.

**From:** (b)(6)@state.gov  
**Sent:** Friday, March 25, 2022 4:38 PM  
**To:** Marcus, Robert <Robert.Marcus@mail.house.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov; Zach, Gabriella <Gabriella.Zach@mail.house.gov>  
**Cc:** Finkel, Matt <Matt.Finkel@mail.house.gov>; Kustin, Casey <Casey.Kustin@mail.house.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: US offering \$1 million to report on Israeli human rights violations

Let met get back to everyone.

**From:** Marcus, Robert <Robert.Marcus@mail.house.gov>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 25, 2022 13:54  
**To:** (b)(6)@state.gov; Zach, Gabriella <gabriella.zach@mail.house.gov>  
**Cc:** Finkel, Matt <Matt.Finkel@mail.house.gov>; Kustin, Casey <Casey.Kustin@mail.house.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov  
**Subject:** RE: US offering \$1 million to report on Israeli human rights violations

Thank you, everyone. I agree with Gabriella’s follow up, which Casey and I would have asked as well in order to try to provide a better response to these offices.

**From:** (b)(6)@state.gov  
**Sent:** Friday, March 25, 2022 1:50 PM  
**To:** Zach, Gabriella <Gabriella.Zach@mail.house.gov>; Marcus, Robert <Robert.Marcus@mail.house.gov>  
**Cc:** Finkel, Matt <Matt.Finkel@mail.house.gov>; Kustin, Casey <Casey.Kustin@mail.house.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov  
**Subject:** Re: US offering \$1 million to report on Israeli human rights violations

Adding (b)(6) who covers DRL

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**From:** Zach, Gabriella <Gabriella.Zach@mail.house.gov>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 25, 2022 1:46 PM  
**To:** (b)(6) @state.gov; robert.marcus@mail.house.gov  
 <robert.marcus@mail.house.gov>  
**Cc:** Finkel, Matt <Matt.Finkel@mail.house.gov>; Kustin, Casey <Casey.Kustin@mail.house.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: US offering \$1 million to report on Israeli human rights violations

(b)(6) - thanks for these points. Can you provide more information about DRL's thinking as to why USG funding was necessary in this space, which already receives ample funding from other donors and attention from international NGOs (and much of which is problematic, by the Department's own admission). Which is to say, why was this program put into solicitation in the first place, rather than using the resources differently.

Thank you.

Gabriella

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**From:** (b)(6) @state.gov  
**Sent:** Friday, March 25, 2022 1:32 PM  
**To:** Marcus, Robert <Robert.Marcus@mail.house.gov>  
**Cc:** Finkel, Matt <Matt.Finkel@mail.house.gov>; Kustin, Casey <Casey.Kustin@mail.house.gov>; Zach, Gabriella <Gabriella.Zach@mail.house.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: US offering \$1 million to report on Israeli human rights violations

- No program has been reviewed or awarded; the article is inaccurate and we're only in the solicitation phase.
- All of our programs are intended to foster respect for human rights and the rule of law and support democracy.
- The President has been clear regarding his support for Israel and that has not changed.

---

**From:** Marcus, Robert <Robert.Marcus@mail.house.gov>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 25, 2022 1:24 PM  
**To:** (b)(6) @state.gov  
**Cc:** Finkel, Matt <Matt.Finkel@mail.house.gov>; Kustin, Casey <Casey.Kustin@mail.house.gov>; Zach, Gabriella <gabriella.zach@mail.house.gov>  
**Subject:** US offering \$1 million to report on Israeli human rights violations

Hello (b)(6)

We are getting a significant amount of member office incoming regarding this article (below). Is there someone who can send us a blurb regarding what the intent/purpose of this grant is that goes beyond

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the high-level quotes in the article? Or if it is easier, we are happy to take a call next week. I will be on travel so if I can't join such a call, my colleague Matt Finkel, will also be available.

Thanks,

Robert

<https://www.jpost.com/diaspora/antisemitism/article-702100>

## US offering \$1 million to report on Israeli human rights violations

**The grant raised concerns for the potential of abuse by organizations to act against Israel via BDS and international law tribunals.**

By [LAHAV HARKOV](#)

Published: MARCH 23, 2022 16:20

The US State Department has offered a grant of up to \$987,654 for projects that include reporting [human rights violations by Israel](#), raising concern about the potential for abuse by organizations seeking boycotts, sanctions and international law tribunals against Israel.

The Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor (DRL) announced “an open competition for projects that strengthen accountability and human rights in Israel and the West Bank and Gaza” last month, thought to be the first of its kind from Washington.

The proposals are meant to “collect, archive and maintain human rights documentation to support justice and accountability and civil society-led advocacy efforts, which may include documentation of legal or security sector violations and housing, land and property rights.”

The projects can also “take meaningful action in pursuing truth, accountability and memorialization; and/or provide psychosocial support to survivors of atrocities.”

DRL will favor projects led by local organizations with a proven ability to implement programs in Israel, the West Bank and Gaza.

The contest rules state that applications cannot “reflect any type of support for any member, affiliate or representative of a designated terrorist organization.” Projects that directly benefit foreign militaries or paramilitary groups will also not be considered.

Applicants must pass vetting to evaluate the risk that the funding will go to terrorists or their supporters, according to the State Department website.

Prof. Gerald Steinberg, director of NGO Monitor, which tracks [funding for NGOs](#) dealing with Israel-related issues, said he has never seen a US funding announcement of this kind.

US funding “generally was not for these more political NGOs under the headings of human rights,” he said.

Steinberg wrote a letter to US Secretary of State Antony Blinken saying that NGO projects of the kind described “are exploited for campaigns targeting Israel. These grantees lobby the International Criminal Court and UN frameworks – such as biased Commissions of Inquiry – to sanction Israel, promote BDS and use the ‘apartheid’ label.”

The Biden administration has opposed the ICC investigation of Israel, the use of “apartheid” to describe Israel, and the UN Commission of Inquiry against Israel.

“In light of the Biden Administration’s repeated rejection of such campaigns, we call on the State Department to reconsider this program,” Steinberg wrote. “If however the NOFO [notice of funding opportunity] proceeds, the application of clear and rigorous safeguards will be necessary to ensure that taxpayer funds are not provided to organizations advancing a discriminatory, anti-Israel agenda under the façade of accountability and human rights.”

According to Steinberg, “the language [of the NOFO] is reflective of what European governments use to justify funding organizations like Al Haq and Breaking the Silence,” Palestinian and Israeli human rights organizations, respectively, that have advocated for boycotts of Israel and for Israeli officials to be tried for war crimes.

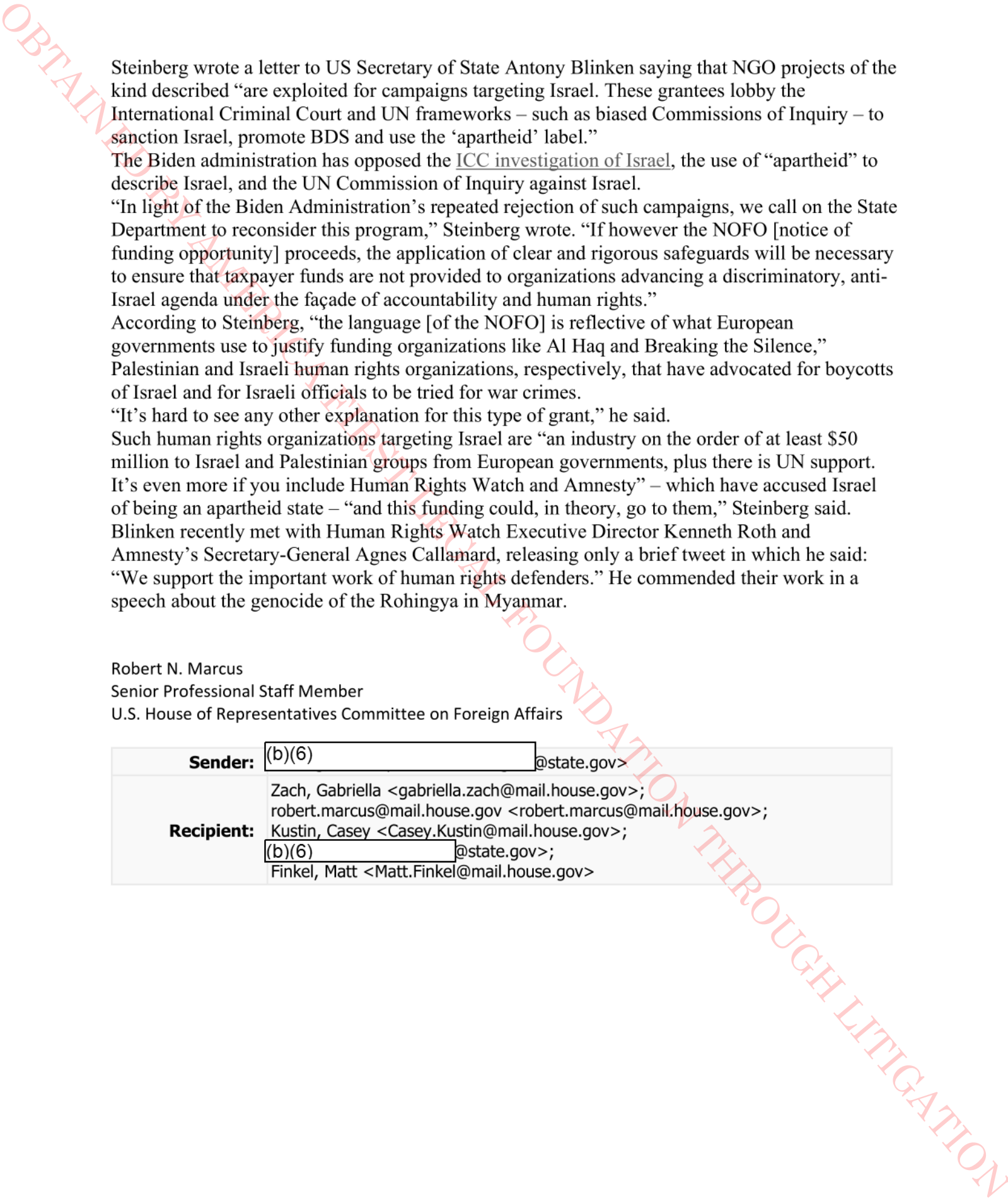
“It’s hard to see any other explanation for this type of grant,” he said.

Such human rights organizations targeting Israel are “an industry on the order of at least \$50 million to Israel and Palestinian groups from European governments, plus there is UN support. It’s even more if you include Human Rights Watch and Amnesty” – which have accused Israel of being an apartheid state – “and this funding could, in theory, go to them,” Steinberg said.

Blinken recently met with Human Rights Watch Executive Director Kenneth Roth and Amnesty’s Secretary-General Agnes Callamard, releasing only a brief tweet in which he said: “We support the important work of human rights defenders.” He commended their work in a speech about the genocide of the Rohingya in Myanmar.

Robert N. Marcus  
Senior Professional Staff Member  
U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Foreign Affairs

<b>Sender:</b>	(b)(6)@state.gov
<b>Recipient:</b>	Zach, Gabriella <gabriella.zach@mail.house.gov>; robert.marcus@mail.house.gov <robert.marcus@mail.house.gov>; Kustin, Casey <Casey.Kustin@mail.house.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; Finkel, Matt <Matt.Finkel@mail.house.gov>



**From:** (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**To:** (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Urgent: J SFRC Cruz QFRs on DRL Solicitation  
**Date:** Wed, 30 Mar 2022 20:33:40 +0000

Hi (b)(6) - I've attached the 2019 NOFO as well for reference / background as needed.

Thanks!

(b)(6)

**From:** (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 30, 2022 4:30 PM  
**To:** (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Urgent: J SFRC Cruz QFRs on DRL Solicitation

Many thanks!

**From:** (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 30, 2022 4:30 PM  
**To:** (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Urgent: J SFRC Cruz QFRs on DRL Solicitation

(b)(6) is the champion of the world

**From:** (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 30, 2022 4:28 PM  
**To:** (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Urgent: J SFRC Cruz QFRs on DRL Solicitation

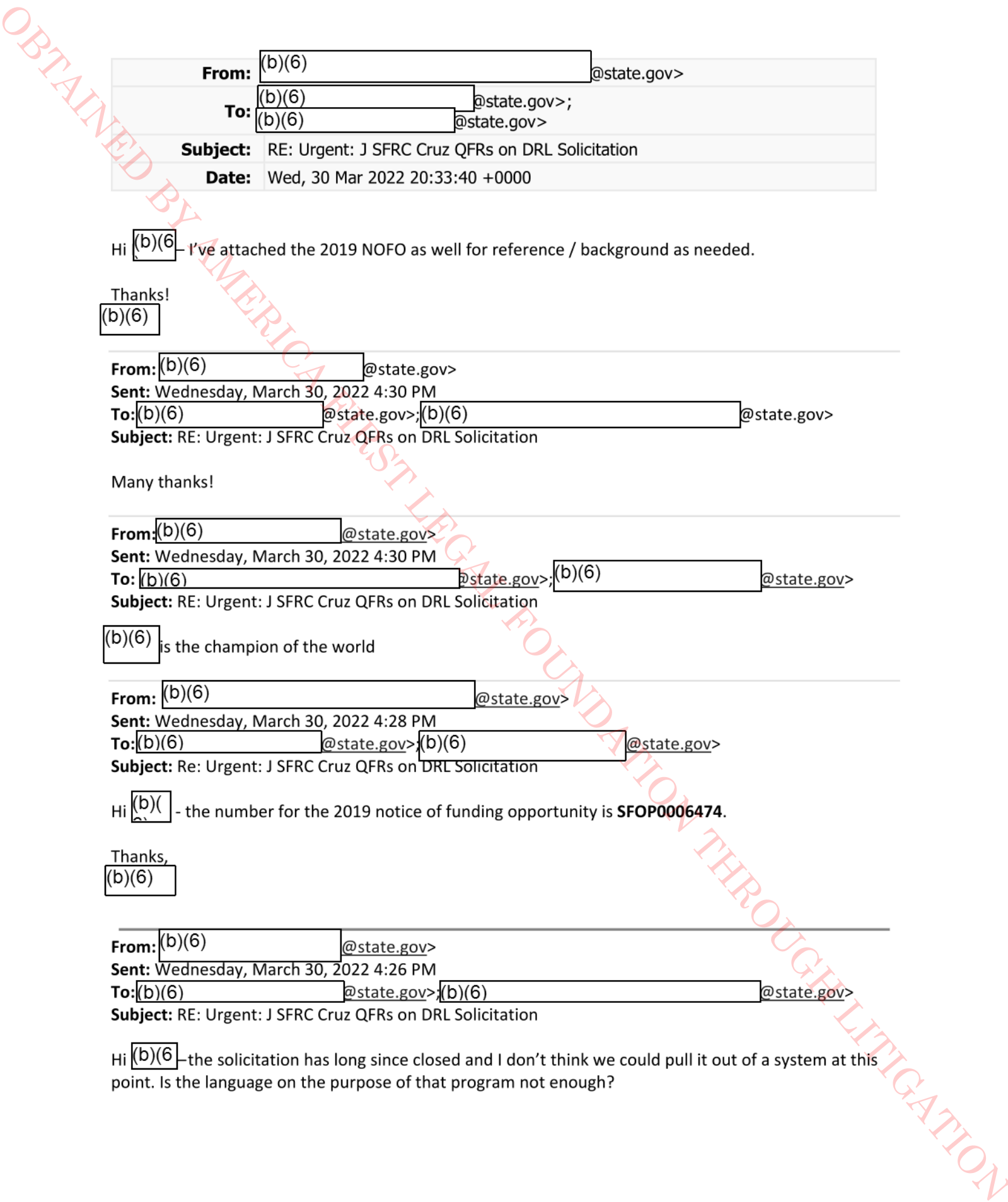
Hi (b)(6) - the number for the 2019 notice of funding opportunity is **SFOP0006474**.

Thanks,

(b)(6)

**From:** (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 30, 2022 4:26 PM  
**To:** (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Urgent: J SFRC Cruz QFRs on DRL Solicitation

Hi (b)(6) - the solicitation has long since closed and I don't think we could pull it out of a system at this point. Is the language on the purpose of that program not enough?



**From:** (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 30, 2022 4:24 PM  
**To:** (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Subject:** Urgent: J SFRC Cruz QFRs on DRL Solicitation  
**Importance:** High

(b)(6) Could you please send me ASAP the funding opportunity number for the program highlighted below?

**Question 1:**

To what extent has DRL previously issued notices for projects aimed at documenting human rights violations occurring in Israel? Please explicitly cite and convey any notices you believe are precedents for or similar to SFOP0008613 in that context.

**Answer 1:**

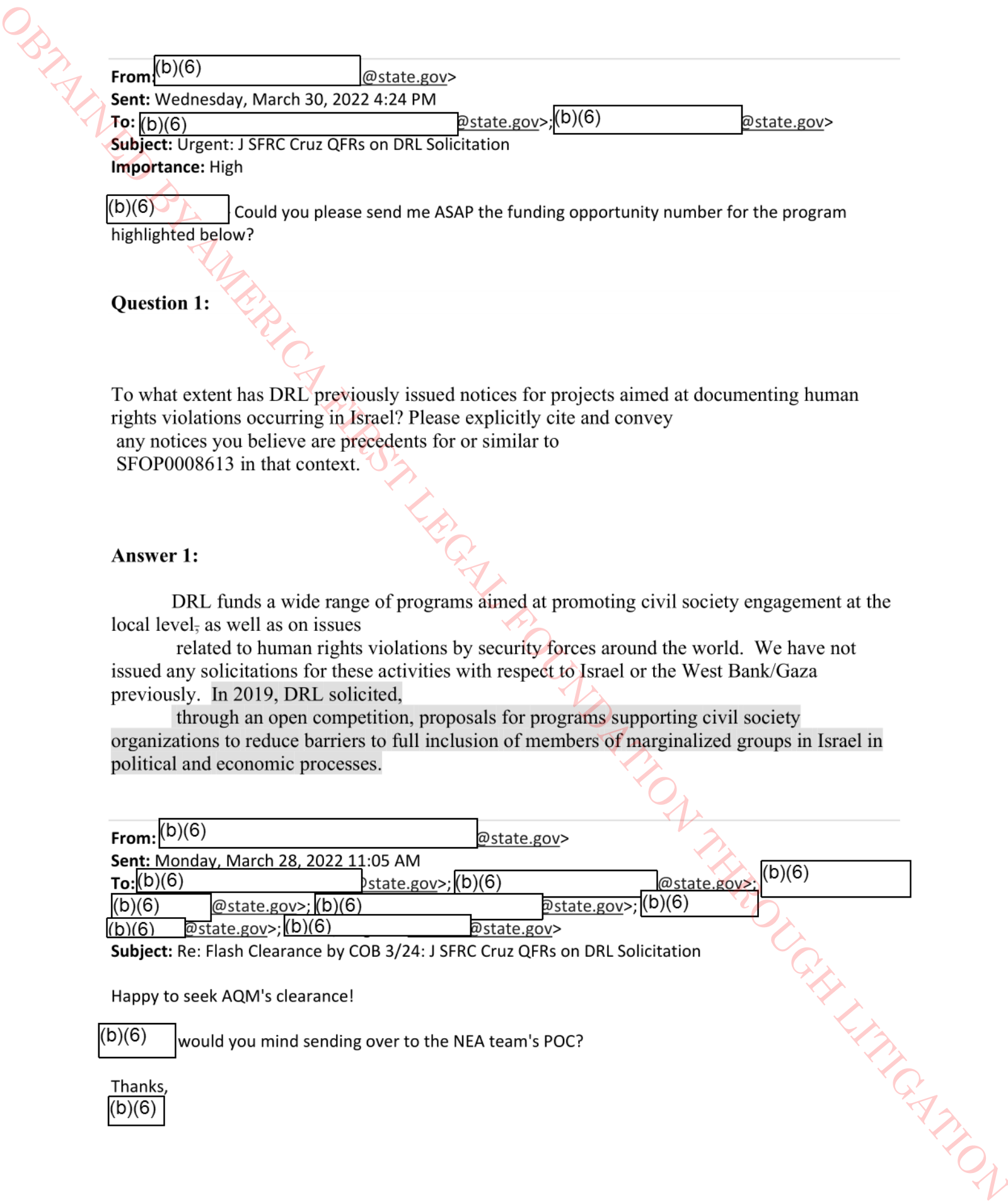
DRL funds a wide range of programs aimed at promoting civil society engagement at the local level, as well as on issues related to human rights violations by security forces around the world. We have not issued any solicitations for these activities with respect to Israel or the West Bank/Gaza previously. In 2019, DRL solicited, through an open competition, proposals for programs supporting civil society organizations to reduce barriers to full inclusion of members of marginalized groups in Israel in political and economic processes.

**From:** (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 28, 2022 11:05 AM  
**To:** (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Flash Clearance by COB 3/24: J SFRC Cruz QFRs on DRL Solicitation

Happy to seek AQM's clearance!

(b)(6) would you mind sending over to the NEA team's POC?

Thanks,  
(b)(6)



**From:** (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 28, 2022 10:58 AM  
**To:** (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Flash Clearance by COB 3/24: J SFRC Cruz QFRs on DRL Solicitation

Is AQM clearing?

**From:** (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 28, 2022 10:57 AM  
**To:** (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Flash Clearance by COB 3/24: J SFRC Cruz QFRs on DRL Solicitation

Hello all,

Following up on this clearance request for the QFRs linked here: [2022 03 J Hearing QFRs Cruz 1-4](#)

(b)(6) - would you mind confirming (b)(6) edits on QFR 1? With this addressed, are we set from L's end?

(b)(6) would you mind taking a look at (b)(6) responses to your comments on QFR 3?

Thanks so much!

(b)(6)

**From:** (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 25, 2022 5:24 PM  
**To:** (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; GPA Clearances <GPA\_Clearances@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Cc:** (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Flash Clearance by COB 3/24: J SFRC Cruz QFRs on DRL Solicitation

Hello all - flagging the QFRs linked here for your review and clearance!

[2022 03 J Hearing QFRs Cruz 1-4](#)

Happy to answer any further questions or concerns!

Thanks,

(b)(6)



**From:** (b)(6)@state.gov  
**Sent:** Friday, March 25, 2022 2:22 PM  
**To:** (b)(6)@state.gov; (b)(6)@state.gov; (b)(6)@state.gov; (b)(6)@state.gov; (b)(6)@state.gov; (b)(6)@state.gov; GPA Clearances <GPA\_Clearances@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov; C\_Special Assistants <C\_SpecialAssistants@state.gov>; DRL-PPD-Congressional <DRL-PPD-Congressional@state.gov>; J-SEAS-Team <J-SEAS-Team@state.gov>  
**Cc:** (b)(6)@state.gov  
**Subject:** Re: Flash Clearance by COB 3/24: J SFRC Cruz QFRs on DRL Solicitation

Hello all - sending along a friendly reminder to please review and clear the QFRs linked below:

[2022 03 J Hearing QFRs Cruz 1-4](#)

DRL/PPD & L - thank you for your comments! We have addressed and made edits accordingly.

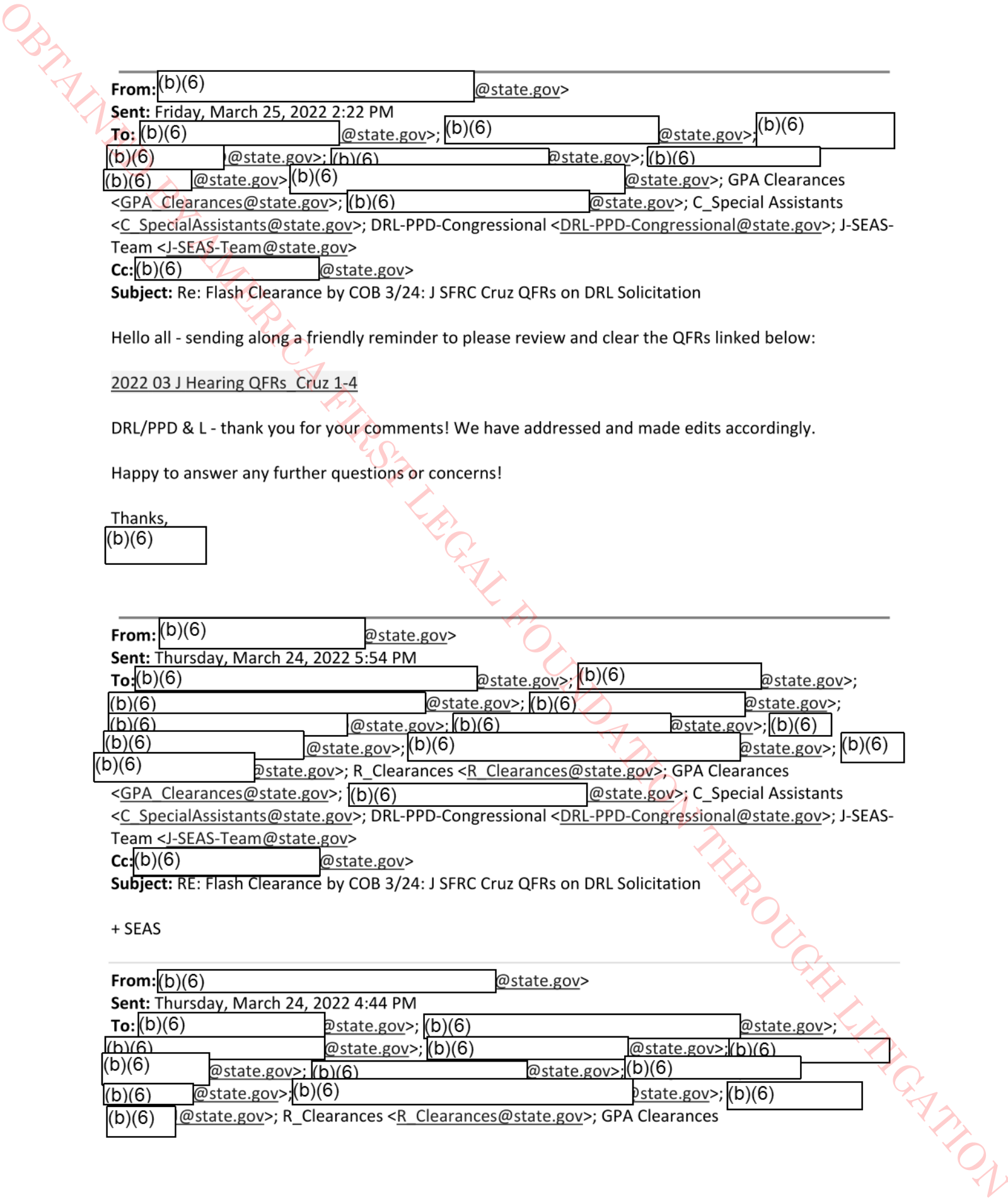
Happy to answer any further questions or concerns!

Thanks,  
(b)(6)

**From:** (b)(6)@state.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 24, 2022 5:54 PM  
**To:** (b)(6)@state.gov; (b)(6)@state.gov; (b)(6)@state.gov; (b)(6)@state.gov; (b)(6)@state.gov; (b)(6)@state.gov; (b)(6)@state.gov; (b)(6)@state.gov; (b)(6)@state.gov; (b)(6)@state.gov; (b)(6)@state.gov; (b)(6)@state.gov; R\_Clearances <R\_Clearances@state.gov>; GPA Clearances <GPA\_Clearances@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov; C\_Special Assistants <C\_SpecialAssistants@state.gov>; DRL-PPD-Congressional <DRL-PPD-Congressional@state.gov>; J-SEAS-Team <J-SEAS-Team@state.gov>  
**Cc:** (b)(6)@state.gov  
**Subject:** RE: Flash Clearance by COB 3/24: J SFRC Cruz QFRs on DRL Solicitation

+ SEAS

**From:** (b)(6)@state.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 24, 2022 4:44 PM  
**To:** (b)(6)@state.gov; (b)(6)@state.gov; (b)(6)@state.gov; (b)(6)@state.gov; (b)(6)@state.gov; (b)(6)@state.gov; (b)(6)@state.gov; (b)(6)@state.gov; (b)(6)@state.gov; (b)(6)@state.gov; R\_Clearances <R\_Clearances@state.gov>; GPA Clearances



<GPA\_Clearances@state.gov> (b)(6)@state.gov; C\_Special Assistants <C\_SpecialAssistants@state.gov>; DRL-PPD-Congressional <DRL-PPD-Congressional@state.gov>  
Cc: (b)(6)@state.gov  
Subject: Re: Flash Clearance by COB 3/24: J SFRC Cruz QFRs on DRL Solicitation

OK for R - Have an amazing afternoon.

Many thanks,

(b)(6)  
Office of the Under Secretary for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs (R)  
(b)(6)@state.gov | (o) (b)(6) | (m) (b)(6) | HST 7531

---

From: (b)(6)@state.gov  
Sent: Thursday, March 24, 2022 4:36 PM  
To: (b)(6)@state.gov; (b)(6)@state.gov;  
(b)(6)@state.gov; (b)(6)@state.gov; (b)(6)  
(b)(6)@state.gov; (b)(6)@state.gov; (b)(6)  
(b)(6)@state.gov; (b)(6)@state.gov; R\_Clearances  
<R\_Clearances@state.gov>; GPA\_Clearances <GPA\_Clearances@state.gov>; (b)(6)  
(b)(6)@state.gov; C\_Special Assistants <C\_SpecialAssistants@state.gov>; DRL-PPD-  
Congressional <DRL-PPD-Congressional@state.gov>  
Cc: (b)(6)@state.gov  
Subject: RE: Flash Clearance by COB 3/24: J SFRC Cruz QFRs on DRL Solicitation

Info by request for D.

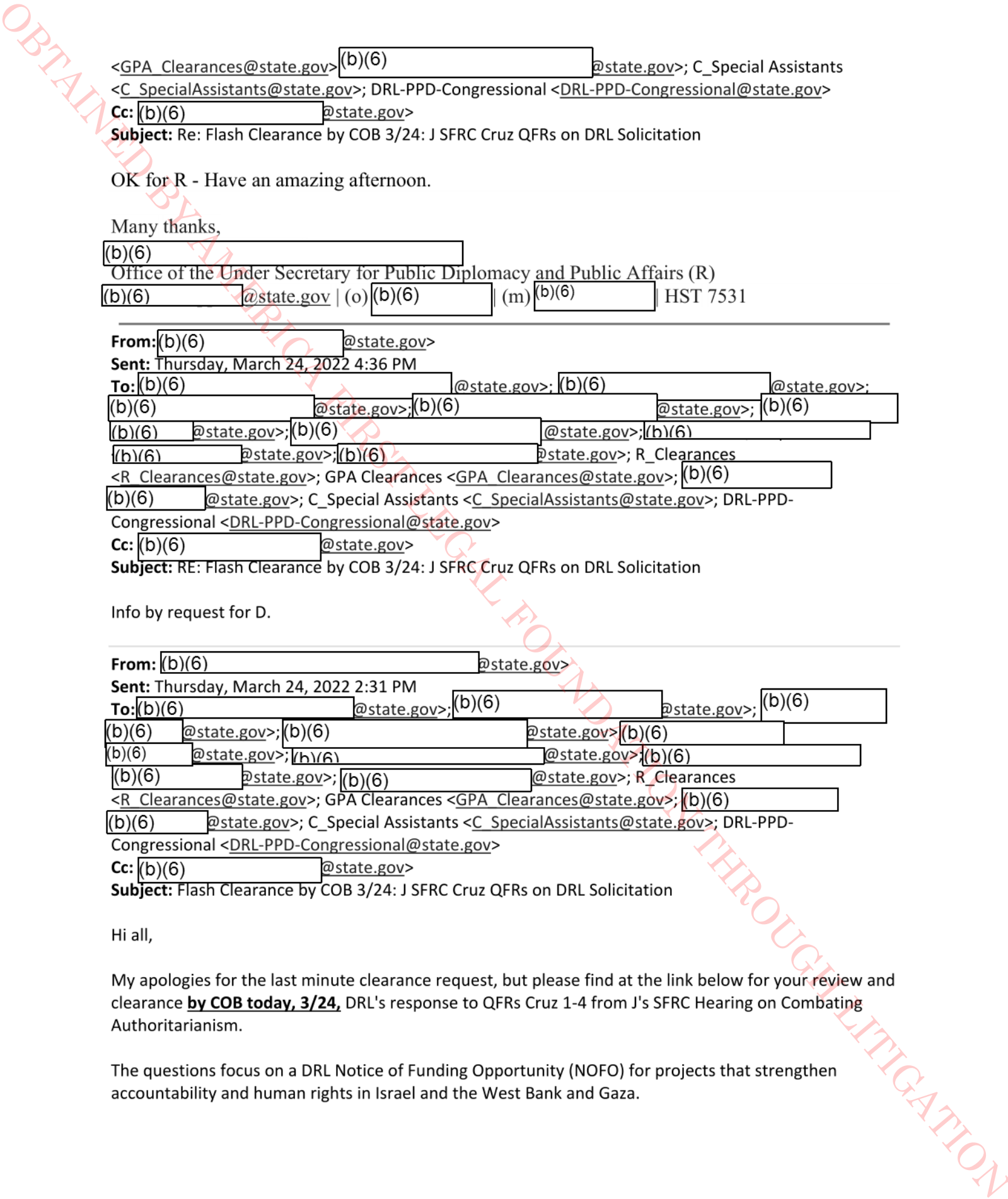
---

From: (b)(6)@state.gov  
Sent: Thursday, March 24, 2022 2:31 PM  
To: (b)(6)@state.gov; (b)(6)@state.gov; (b)(6)  
(b)(6)@state.gov; (b)(6)@state.gov; (b)(6)  
(b)(6)@state.gov; (b)(6)@state.gov; (b)(6)  
(b)(6)@state.gov; (b)(6)@state.gov; R\_Clearances  
<R\_Clearances@state.gov>; GPA\_Clearances <GPA\_Clearances@state.gov>; (b)(6)  
(b)(6)@state.gov; C\_Special Assistants <C\_SpecialAssistants@state.gov>; DRL-PPD-  
Congressional <DRL-PPD-Congressional@state.gov>  
Cc: (b)(6)@state.gov  
Subject: Flash Clearance by COB 3/24: J SFRC Cruz QFRs on DRL Solicitation

Hi all,

My apologies for the last minute clearance request, but please find at the link below for your review and clearance **by COB today, 3/24**, DRL's response to QFRs Cruz 1-4 from J's SFRC Hearing on Combating Authoritarianism.

The questions focus on a DRL Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for projects that strengthen accountability and human rights in Israel and the West Bank and Gaza.



2022 03 J Hearing QFRs Cruz 1-4

Happy to answer any questions or concerns!

Thanks,

(b)(6)

DRL/Office of Global Programs (DRL/GP)

Mobile: (b)(6)

*Contractor for Competitive Innovations*

Pronouns: she/her/hers

<b>Sender:</b>	(b)(6)	@state.gov>
<b>Recipient:</b>	(b)(6)	@state.gov>;
	(b)(6)	@state.gov>

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<b>From:</b>	DRL-NEAProgramInfo <DRL-NEAProgramInfo@state.gov>
<b>To:</b>	(b)(6)
<b>Subject:</b>	RE: SFOP0008613
<b>Date:</b>	Wed, 30 Mar 2022 22:08:37 +0000

Dear (b)(6)

Thank you for your email and interest in this solicitation. Please refer to the Proposal Submission Instructions for Applications associated with this solicitation for detailed information on eligibility requirements.

Best,

DRL NEA Program Info

---

**From:** (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Friday, March 25, 2022 9:09 PM  
**To:** DRL-NEAProgramInfo <DRL-NEAProgramInfo@state.gov>  
**Subject:** SFOP0008613

This is a request for exemptions for an application for funding via SFOP008613 "DRL Strengthening Human Rights and Accountability in Israel and the West Bank and Gaza"

This applicant's identity must be protected due to the potential impossibility of the project without the protection abnormality provides to a clandestine operation. The data collection process is to be carried out under cover of another project that will establish relationships and communication that will enable access to opinions, motivation and observation that can be gained no other way and will have substantial benefit in understanding the pervasiveness of violations and their motivation.

The application for funding will be processed by

(b)(6)

if further information of change in format is necessary prior to the application deadline for this application please reach out as soon as possible.

(b)(6)

25 March 2022

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<b>Sender:</b>	DRL-NEAProgramInfo <DRL-NEAProgramInfo@state.gov>
----------------	---

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**Recipient:**

(b)(6)

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<b>From:</b>	DRL-NEAProgramInfo <DRL-NEAProgramInfo@state.gov>
<b>To:</b>	(b)(6)
<b>Subject:</b>	RE: SFOP0008613
<b>Date:</b>	Fri, 1 Apr 2022 18:08:55 +0000

Dear (b)(6)

Thank you for your email and interest in this solicitation. Proposals under Funding Opportunity SFOP0008613 should be submitted through [grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov). Additional information on proposal requirements and proposal submission instructions can be found in the Related Documents folder under this opportunity.

Best,

DRL-NEA Program Info

---

**From:** (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Friday, April 1, 2022 10:50 AM  
**To:** DRL-NEAProgramInfo <DRL-NEAProgramInfo@state.gov>  
**Subject:** SFOP0008613

Hello,  
(b)(6) nonprofit organisation.  
I want to ask if you can help me find how we can submit for the funding .

Best wishes

(b)(6)

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<b>Sender:</b>	DRL-NEAProgramInfo <DRL-NEAProgramInfo@state.gov>
<b>Recipient:</b>	(b)(6)

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<b>From:</b>	DRL-NEAProgramInfo <DRL-NEAProgramInfo@state.gov>
<b>To:</b>	(b)(6)
<b>CC:</b>	support@grants.gov <support@grants.gov>
<b>Subject:</b>	RE: Regarding FON:SFOP0008613
<b>Date:</b>	Tue, 12 Apr 2022 11:02:22 +0000

Dear (b)(6)

Thank you for your email and interest in this solicitation. Information on the sam.gov and UEI requirements and exemptions are outlined in detail in the Proposal Submission Instructions (PSI) for Applications associated with this solicitation.

Best,

DRL-NEA Program Info

~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~

---

**From:** (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 10, 2022 5:54 AM  
**To:** DRL-NEAProgramInfo <DRL-NEAProgramInfo@state.gov>  
**Cc:** support@grants.gov  
**Subject:** Regarding FON:SFOP0008613

Greeting ,  
I hope this email finds you well

This email is regarding

**Document Type:** Grants Notice  
**Funding Opportunity Number:** SFOP0008613

**Funding Opportunity Title:** DRL Strengthening Human Rights and Accountability in Israel and the West Bank and Gaza

Our organization is reaching out to yours in regards to the project mentioned above. This project is one that lays right under the umbrella of our specialty, as we do not have a previous account with any of the websites that are required we registered on grants.gov , but we are facing some difficulty obtaining an UEI number and registration on same.gov we didn't find any match to our organization name in the system .

Please advise on how to bypass this requirement or obtaining a temporary number, in order to submit the application before the closing date. Please note that all documents have been filled out and an account has been setup, and the only delay is a result of obtaining an UEI number to create a workspace.

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We appreciate your assistance in this matter.

Thank you,

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

<b>Sender:</b>	DRL-NEAProgramInfo <DRL-NEAProgramInfo@state.gov>
<b>Recipient:</b>	(b)(6) support@grants.gov <support@grants.gov>

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<b>From:</b>	DRL-NEAProgramInfo <DRL-NEAProgramInfo@state.gov>
<b>To:</b>	(b)(6)
<b>Subject:</b>	RE: Question concerning SFOP0008613 (submission guidelines)
<b>Date:</b>	Tue, 12 Apr 2022 11:42:07 +0000

Dear (b)(6)

Thank you for your email and interest in this solicitation. There are no restrictions in terms of submitting proposal documents in one file or multiple files. Please submit the required documents based on organizational preference.

Best,

DRL-NEA Program Info

~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~

**From:** (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Monday, April 4, 2022 3:49 AM  
**To:** DRL-NEAProgramInfo <DRL-NEAProgramInfo@state.gov>  
**Subject:** Question concerning SFOP0008613 (submission guidelines)

To whom it may concern,

Hello! I hope your week is off to a good start and that April finds you well. As we prepare to submit a proposal regarding "DRL Strengthening Human Rights and Accountability in Israel and the West Bank and Gaza" (SFOP0008613), I'm hoping to clarify a quick technical question. Are all the components of this application meant to be uploaded as a single document (either a long word document or a scanned PDF including the proposal narrative, as well as all appendixes, budgets, letters of support, etc) or are components uploaded separately?

Thank you so much for your assistance,

(b)(6)



(b)(6)

(b)(6)  
Resource Development

(b)(6)

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<b>Sender:</b>	DRL-NEAProgramInfo <DRL-NEAProgramInfo@state.gov>
<b>Recipient:</b>	(b)(6)

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<b>From:</b>	(b)(6)@state.gov>
<b>To:</b>	(b)(6)@state.gov>
<b>Subject:</b>	RE: IP SFOP0008613 NOFO & Panel
<b>Date:</b>	Fri, 15 Apr 2022 19:35:23 +0000

Thanks, (b)(6) Updates in both. There are two pending items that I have to wait to hear back on before we can confirm the date + voting panelists.

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**From:** (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 15, 2022 2:54 PM  
**To:** (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: IP SFOP0008613 NOFO & Panel

Hi (b)(6)

The revised email invitation and agenda are ready for you in the shared drive. I will tentatively plan to send out the panel invitation 4/19 and then will aim to send the technical ineligibility letters to AQM for approval on 4/18.

Thanks,

(b)(6)

The proposals are saved in the shared drive here along with a draft panel invitation and agenda for your review here. I set the panel date tentatively as May 4, but please feel free to adjust as necessary.

(b)(6) Program Specialist

Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor | Office of Global Programs

U.S. Department of State | Contracting Resources Group (CRG) - Contractor

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

**From:** (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 14, 2022 9:47 AM  
**To:** (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: IP SFOP0008613 NOFO & Panel

Thank you!

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**From:** (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 14, 2022 9:42 AM  
**To:** (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: IP SFOP0008613 NOFO & Panel

Hi (b)(6)

Yes will do! I was wondering the same because there are many mentions of the budget and I think the applying via grants.gov then making the switch the Sams domestic has caused a few file transfer issues.

(b)(6)

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**From:** (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 14, 2022 9:24:56 AM  
**To:** (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: IP SFOP0008613 NOFO & Panel

(b)(6) thank you *so much!* I cannot tell you how much I appreciate you prioritizing this, and I know how much you have on your plate.

One favor: can you please reach out to (b)(6) POC and ask them to submit a budget by close of business and we can consider them? Since they reference a budget in their documents, I think it was just an oversight.

~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~

**From:** (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 14, 2022 7:35 AM  
**To:** (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Subject:** IP SFOP0008613 NOFO & Panel

Hi (b)(6)

Please find the technical eligibility review spreadsheet for the IP solicitation attached. Out of the 7 applications submitted, I deemed 4 as technically eligible. I searched everywhere for a budget for (b)(6) but could not find one either in SAMS Domestic or grants.gov, so I deemed it ineligible.

The proposals are saved in the shared drive here along with a draft panel invitation and agenda for your review here. I set the panel date tentatively as May 4, but please feel free to adjust as necessary.

Thank you!

(b)(6)

(b)(6) Program Specialist

Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor | Office of Global Programs

U.S. Department of State | Contracting Resources Group (CRG) - Contractor

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

~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~

~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~

<b>Sender:</b>	(b)(6)	@state.gov>
<b>Recipient:</b>	(b)(6)	@state.gov>

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**From:** (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**To:** (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Inquiry on DRL NOFO  
**Date:** Tue, 19 Apr 2022 19:13:55 +0000

Haha Omg this is the best thing I've read all day!

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**From:** (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 19, 2022 3:12 PM  
**To:** (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Inquiry on DRL NOFO

omG it's so insane—the same group has sent the *same* proposal for something like \$300m for DRL to fund a movie about I'm not sure what? And they've included a bio and photos of all the potential celebrities they could recruit to star. Every single one begins with (b)(6) They aim high, I've got to give them that!

**From:** (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 19, 2022 3:08 PM  
**To:** (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6) (Jerusalem) (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6) (Jerusalem) (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Inquiry on DRL NOFO

I need to know more about this potential film!!

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**From:** (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 19, 2022 3:03 PM  
**To:** (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6) (Jerusalem) (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6) (Jerusalem) (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Inquiry on DRL NOFO

It happens all the time. We usually get about 15% that are deemed technically ineligible. This year every team in our office has been pitched to fund a film that could potentially star (b)(6) wish I was joking.

**From:** (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 19, 2022 3:01 PM  
**To:** (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6) (Jerusalem) (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6) (Jerusalem)

(b)(6)@state.gov  
Subject: RE: Inquiry on DRL NOFO

Interesting!

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From: (b)(6)@state.gov  
Sent: Tuesday, April 19, 2022 3:01 PM  
To: (b)(6)@state.gov; (b)(6) (Jerusalem)  
(b)(6)@state.gov; (b)(6)@state.gov; (b)(6) (Jerusalem) <(b)(6)@state.gov>  
Subject: RE: Inquiry on DRL NOFO

One was an individual with no organization affiliation. The other was not even based in-country.

From: (b)(6)@state.gov  
Sent: Tuesday, April 19, 2022 3:00 PM  
To: (b)(6)@state.gov; (b)(6) (Jerusalem); (b)(6)@state.gov;  
(b)(6)@state.gov; (b)(6) (Jerusalem)  
(b)(6)@state.gov  
Subject: RE: Inquiry on DRL NOFO

Thanks – by chance were any of these Palestinian orgs or based in the WBG?

~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~

From: (b)(6)@state.gov  
Sent: Tuesday, April 19, 2022 2:51 PM  
To: (b)(6)@state.gov; (b)(6) (Jerusalem)  
(b)(6)@state.gov; (b)(6)@state.gov; (b)(6) (Jerusalem) <(b)(6)@state.gov>  
Subject: RE: Inquiry on DRL NOFO

Sure—two of the submissions were missing key required documents:

1. (SAPP0067568) was missing the following submission requirements:
  - a. Cover Page
  - b. Executive Summary
  - c. Table of Contents
  - d. Proposal Narrative
  - e. Budget
  - f. Logic Model
  - g. M&E Narrative
  - h. M&E Plan/Table
  - i. Risk Analysis
  - j. Key Personnel
  - k. Gender and Inclusion Analysis

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- I. Security Plan
  - m. Contingency Plan
  - n. Lessons Learned
  - o. Psychosocial Assistance
2. (SAPP0066068) was missing the following submission requirements:
- a. Cover Page
  - b. Executive Summary
  - c. Table of Contents
  - a. Logic Model
  - b. M&E Narrative
  - c. M&E Plan/Table
  - d. Risk Analysis
  - a. Timeline
  - b. Gender and Inclusion Analysis
  - c. Security Plan
  - d. Contingency Plan
  - e. Psychosocial Assistance

---

**From:** (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 19, 2022 1:00 PM  
**To:** (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6) (Jerusalem) (b)(6)@state.gov>;  
 (h)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6) (Jerusalem)  
 (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Inquiry on DRL NOFO

Thanks (b)(6) Can you explain what it means by "technically eligible"?

(b)(6)

---

~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~

**From:** (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 19, 2022 9:17 AM  
**To:** (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6) (Jerusalem)  
 (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)  
 (Jerusalem) (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Inquiry on DRL NOFO

Great, thanks everyone! No we only received the 7 proposals.  
 Please look out for an email from my colleague, (b)(6) later today, with the calendar invitation and the link to the proposal documents. I really appreciate everyone's participation!

Best,  
 (b)(6)

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**From:** (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 19, 2022 9:03 AM  
**To:** (b)(6) (Jerusalem)(b)(6)@state.gov> (b)(6)  
(b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)  
(Jerusalem)(b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Inquiry on DRL NOFO

May 10 also works for me.

(b)(6)

~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~

**From:** (b)(6) (Jerusalem)(b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 19, 2022 6:45 AM  
**To:** (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov> (b)(6)  
(b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6) (Jerusalem)  
(b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Inquiry on DRL NOFO

Hi (b)(6)

Sounds like the NOFO has closed at this point. We shared it via social media and (b)(6) indicated they were interested in applying, but defer to DRL on whether any Palestinian NGOs applied (though apparently none passed the technical review).

Best,  
(b)(6)

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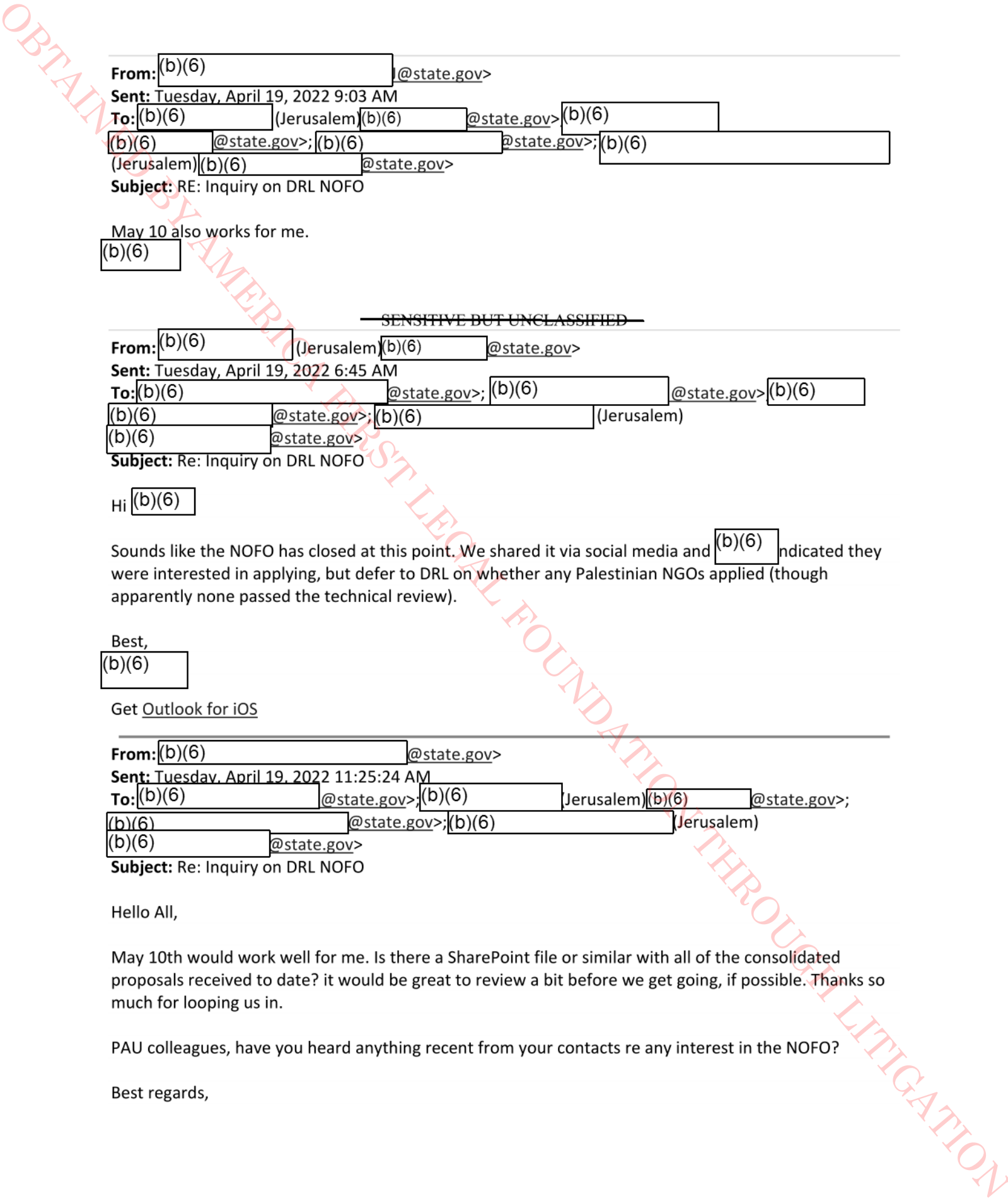
**From:** (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 19, 2022 11:25:24 AM  
**To:** (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6) Jerusalem)(b)(6)@state.gov>;  
(b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6) Jerusalem)  
(b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Inquiry on DRL NOFO

Hello All,

May 10th would work well for me. Is there a SharePoint file or similar with all of the consolidated proposals received to date? it would be great to review a bit before we get going, if possible. Thanks so much for looping us in.

PAU colleagues, have you heard anything recent from your contacts re any interest in the NOFO?

Best regards,



(b)(6)

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**From:** (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 18, 2022 4:52 PM  
**To:** (b)(6) (Jerusalem) (b)(6)@state.gov; (b)(6)  
 (b)(6); (b)(6)@state.gov; (b)(6)  
 (Jerusalem) (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Inquiry on DRL NOFO

Thanks, (b)(6) Four of the five submitted were from Israeli organizations, one from a US-based organization with an Israeli local partner. With those dates in mind, I'll aim for Tuesday, May 10 instead. Thanks for letting me know!

(b)(6)

~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~

**From:** (b)(6) (Jerusalem) (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 18, 2022 7:17 AM  
**To:** (b)(6)@state.gov; (b)(6)@state.gov; (b)(6)  
 (b)(6)@state.gov; (b)(6) (Jerusalem) (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Inquiry on DRL NOFO

(b)(6) the PAU's new human rights officer. Sure, someone from Post should be able to join. For scheduling purposes, FYI that we're off on local holidays on May 2, early dismissal on May 4, and off again on May 5. Are most of the applicants Israeli/Israel-focused or Palestinian/Palestinian-focused? That could help us determine who from Post joins.

Best,

(b)(6)

**From:** (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 15, 2022 10:09 PM  
**To:** (b)(6) (Jerusalem) (b)(6)@state.gov; (b)(6)  
 (b)(6)@state.gov; (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Inquiry on DRL NOFO

Hi all,

Flagging that we received 5 technically-eligible proposals for review under this solicitation. I would like to begin scheduling the review panel.

Would it be possible for someone from Post to join? I think it will be really helpful for everyone to hear your feedback directly.

We will conduct the panel by Microsoft Teams, and were hoping to hold it the first week of May. Would that work? We can also try the week of May 9, if that's preferred.

Many thanks,

(b)(6)

~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~

**From:** (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 31, 2022 10:10 AM  
**To:** (b)(6) (Jerusalem) (b)(6) @state.gov; (b)(6) (b)(6) @state.gov; (b)(6) @state.gov  
**Subject:** RE: Inquiry on DRL NOFO

Great to hear, thanks (b)(6)

~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~

**From:** (b)(6) (Jerusalem) (b)(6) @state.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 31, 2022 12:55 AM  
**To:** (b)(6) @state.gov; (b)(6) @state.gov; (b)(6) (b)(6) @state.gov  
**Subject:** Re: Inquiry on DRL NOFO

Thanks, the PAU posted this NOFO on our website/social media earlier this week.

Best,

(b)(6)

**From:** (b)(6) @state.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 30, 2022 9:23 PM  
**To:** (b)(6) @state.gov; (b)(6) (Jerusalem) (b)(6) @state.gov; (b)(6) @state.gov  
**Subject:** RE: Inquiry on DRL NOFO

Fine by me!

~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~

**From:** (b)(6) @state.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 30, 2022 1:39 PM  
**To:** (b)(6) (Jerusalem) (b)(6) @state.gov; (b)(6) (b)(6) @state.gov; (b)(6) @state.gov  
**Subject:** RE: Inquiry on DRL NOFO

OBTAINED BY AMERICAN FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION THROUGH LITIGATION

Hi (b)(6) —I'm so sorry, in the swirl of emails last week I must have thought I'd replied to this one. That's absolutely fine!

(b)(6) to your question: yes, we do our own vetting.

Do we think there's merit in connecting at the working level to talk about the inquiries that have been coming in? I don't want to pressure anyone to have another meeting/call when I know how pressed for time everyone is, but I'm happy to set up a call if we think that is helpful.

(b)(6)

~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~

**From:** (b)(6) (Jerusalem) (b)(6) @state.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 24, 2022 12:05 PM  
**To:** (b)(6) @state.gov; (b)(6) @state.gov; (b)(6)  
(b)(6) @state.gov  
**Subject:** Re: Inquiry on DRL NOFO

Quick question - PD asked if DRL has any objections to us posting it on our website. I'm guessing that's fine, right? Thanks again!

**From:** (b)(6) (Jerusalem) (b)(6) @state.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 24, 2022 5:37 PM  
**To:** (b)(6) @state.gov; (b)(6) @state.gov; (b)(6)  
(b)(6) @state.gov  
**Subject:** Re: Inquiry on DRL NOFO

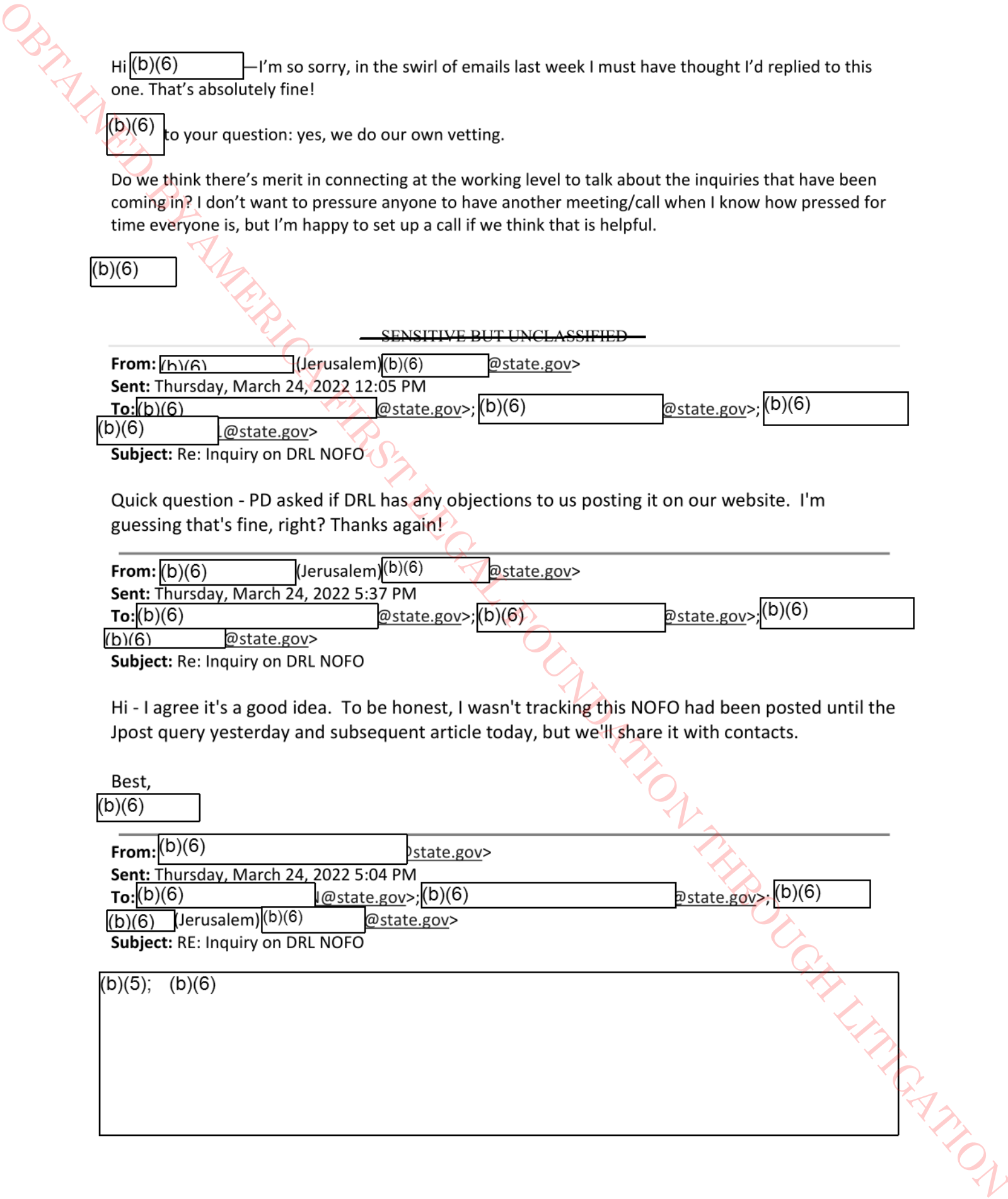
Hi - I agree it's a good idea. To be honest, I wasn't tracking this NOFO had been posted until the Jpost query yesterday and subsequent article today, but we'll share it with contacts.

Best,

(b)(6)

**From:** (b)(6) @state.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 24, 2022 5:04 PM  
**To:** (b)(6) @state.gov; (b)(6) @state.gov; (b)(6)  
(b)(6) (Jerusalem) (b)(6) @state.gov  
**Subject:** RE: Inquiry on DRL NOFO

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



Thanks!

(b)(6)

~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~

**From:** (b)(6)@state.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, February 28, 2022 8:50 AM  
**To:** (b)(6)@state.gov; (b)(6)@state.gov; (b)(6)  
(b)(6) (Tel Aviv) (b)(6)@state.gov  
**Subject:** RE: Inquiry on DRL NOFO

Hi (b)(6) you're welcome to send the my way and I'll answer whatever questions I'm allowed to address while we have an open competition.

Thanks,

(b)(6)

~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~

**From:** (b)(6)@state.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, February 28, 2022 4:31 AM  
**To:** (b)(6)@state.gov; (b)(6)@state.gov; (b)(6)  
(Tel Aviv) (b)(6)@state.gov  
**Subject:** Inquiry on DRL NOFO

Hello (b)(6)

We got an email from a good contact at the (b)(6) inquiring about the NOFO (<https://www.state.gov/drl-strengthening-human-rights-and-accountability-in-israel-and-the-west-bank-and-gaza/>) and they wanted to speak with someone to assess if they'd be a good fit before applying, highlighted below.

(b)(5)

Best regards,

(b)(6)

**From:** (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 23, 2022 12:47:31 PM  
**To:** (b)(6) (Tel Aviv) (b)(6)@state.gov  
**Subject:** RE: PLEASE CALL THANKS

OBTAINED THROUGH AMERICA FIRST FUNDATION THROUGH LITIGATION

(b)(6) hi

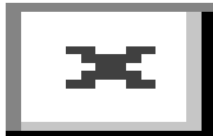
As a follow up, we have two queries:

We would love to apply if appropriate but before we start working on something of this scale, we'd like to clarify if we are the right fit / match. To whom can we enquire about the DRL grant that is managed by DC?

We would like to know about similar grants (and possibly grantees).

Thanks and kind regards,

(b)(6)



DRL Strengthening Human Rights and Accountability in Israel and the West Bank and Gaza - United States Department of State

United States Department of State  
Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor (DRL) Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO): DRL Strengthening Human Rights and Accountability in Israel and the West Bank and Gaza This is the announcement of funding opportunity number SFOP0008613 Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number: 19.345 Type of Solicitation: Open Competition Application Deadline: [...]

[www.state.gov](http://www.state.gov)

**From:** (b)(6)@state.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, January 24, 2022 3:56 PM  
**To:** (b)(6)@state.gov; (b)(6)@state.gov  
**Subject:** RE: Post approval of DRL NOFO: 20220124\_ACTION MEMO FOR AMBASSADOR NIDES.pdf

Best news to wake up to on a Monday! Thanks so much, (b)(6)  
And really, I appreciate the extra lift to send this through to the FO so much. I would much rather wait and obtain approval before going live with a public solicitation so no one is confused down the line.

Thank you thank you!

(b)(6)

~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~

**From:** (b)(6)@state.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, January 24, 2022 4:56 AM  
**To:** (b)(6)@state.gov; (b)(6)@state.gov  
**Subject:** Post approval of DRL NOFO: 20220124\_ACTION MEMO FOR AMBASSADOR NIDES.pdf

DRL NOFO cleared by FO.

Sorry for the delay in getting this back to you. Going forward I will push to clear these below the level of the FO where possible.

Best regards,

(b)(6)

**From:** (b)(6)@state.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, January 24, 2022 11:53 AM  
**To:** (b)(6)@state.gov  
**Cc:** (b)(6)@state.gov; (b)(6)@state.gov  
**Subject:** 20220124\_ACTION MEMO FOR AMBASSADOR NIDES.pdf

Hi (b)(6)

The Ambassador has approved your AM for the NRL NOFO. Please see attached.

Best,

(b)(6)

OBTAINED THROUGH AMERICA FIRST FOUNDATION THROUGH LITIGATION

~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~

~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~

~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~

~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~

~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~

~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~

<b>Sender:</b>	(b)(6)	@state.gov>
<b>Recipient:</b>	(b)(6)	@state.gov>

OBTAINED BY AMERICA FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION THROUGH LITIGATION



**From:** (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**To:** (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Inquiry on DRL NOFO  
**Date:** Wed, 20 Apr 2022 16:00:39 +0000

Excellent, thank you (b)(6)  
 (b)(6)  
 Program Specialist  
 Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor | Office of Global Programs  
 U.S. Department of State | Contracting Resources Group (CRG) - Contractor  
 (b)(6)@state.gov

**From:** (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 20, 2022 10:52 AM  
**To:** (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Inquiry on DRL NOFO

Yes! Sorry about that. (b)(6)@usaid.gov  
 I made slight edits and added her name to the invitation draft in the shared drive.  
 This is good to go out today!

~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~

**From:** (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 20, 2022 8:27 AM  
**To:** (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Inquiry on DRL NOFO

Hi again,

Actually would you mind taking a look at the POCs in the email draft one last time to make sure I have them down correctly? Also, are we inviting USAID to this panel?

Thanks,

(b)(6)  
 Program Specialist  
 Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor | Office of Global Programs  
 U.S. Department of State | Contracting Resources Group (CRG) - Contractor  
 (b)(6)@state.gov

**From:** (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 20, 2022 8:04 AM  
**To:** (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Inquiry on DRL NOFO

OBTAINED BY AMERICAN OVERSIGHT FOUNDATION THROUGH LITIGATION

Excellent, thanks (b)(6) I will send out the invitation today.

(b)(6)

(b)(6) | Program Specialist  
Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor | Office of Global Programs  
U.S. Department of State | Contracting Resources Group (CRG) - Contractor  
(b)(6) (b)(6) @state.gov

---

**From:** (b)(6) @state.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 19, 2022 11:35 PM  
**To:** (b)(6) @state.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Inquiry on DRL NOFO

One edit below; apparently the DRLNEA officer changed (news to me). I also reviewed the panelist scoresheet and it looks good to share.

~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~

---

**From:** (b)(6) @state.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 19, 2022 4:27 PM  
**To:** (b)(6) @state.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Inquiry on DRL NOFO

Excellent! Thanks, (b)(6)

And these were the last few that you were waiting on, right? We are good to send out? I will still plan to send out tomorrow if that is ok!

Reilly

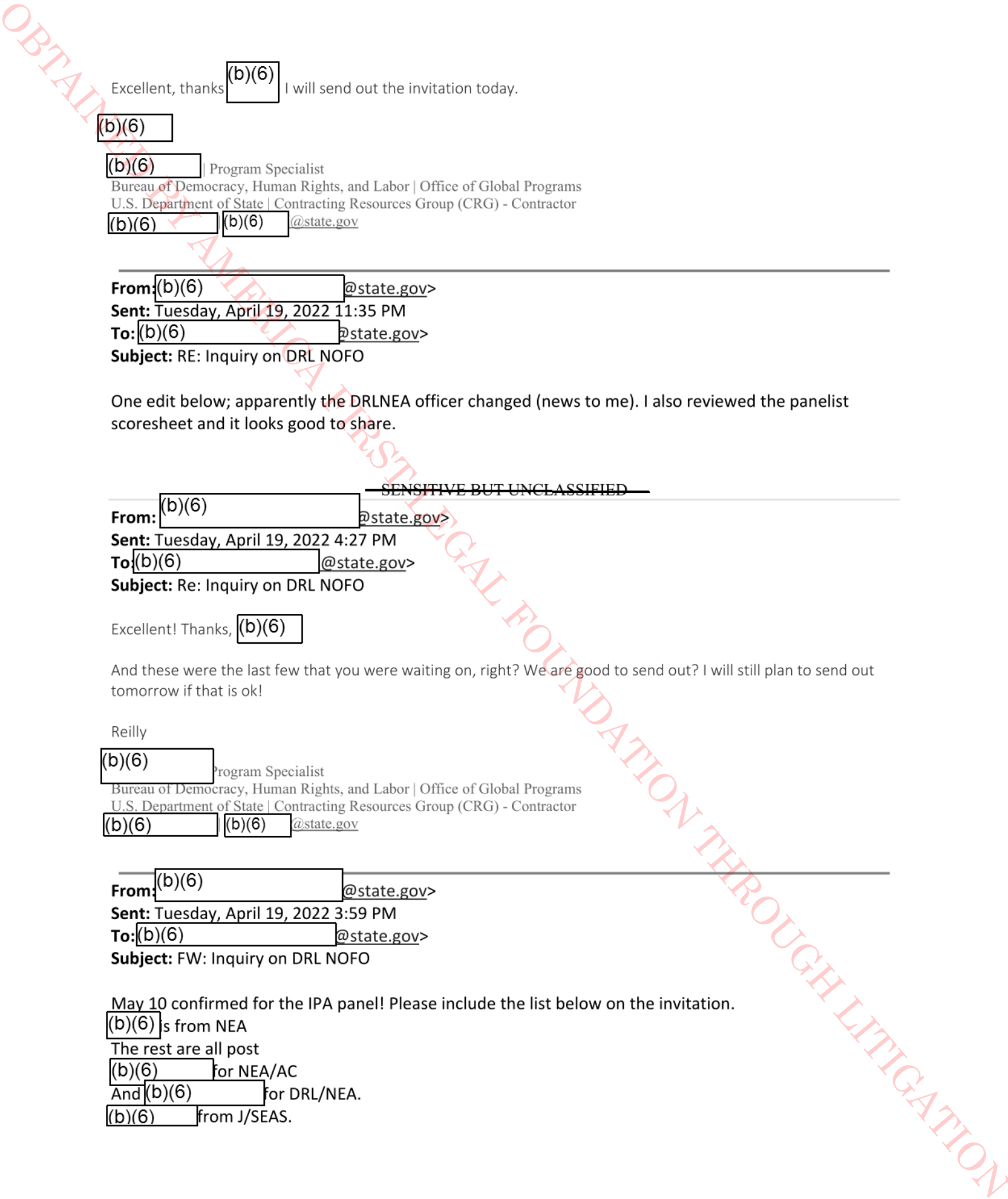
(b)(6) | Program Specialist  
Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor | Office of Global Programs  
U.S. Department of State | Contracting Resources Group (CRG) - Contractor  
(b)(6) (b)(6) @state.gov

---

**From:** (b)(6) @state.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 19, 2022 3:59 PM  
**To:** (b)(6) @state.gov>  
**Subject:** FW: Inquiry on DRL NOFO

May 10 confirmed for the IPA panel! Please include the list below on the invitation.

- (b)(6)s from NEA
- The rest are all post
- (b)(6) for NEA/AC
- And (b)(6) for DRL/NEA.
- (b)(6) from J/SEAS.



~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~

**From:** (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 19, 2022 9:17 AM  
**To:** (b)(6)@state.gov; (b)(6) (Jerusalem)  
(b)(6)@state.gov; (b)(6)@state.gov; (b)(6)  
(Jerusalem) (b)(6)@state.gov  
**Subject:** RE: Inquiry on DRL NOFO

Great, thanks everyone! No we only received the 7 proposals.  
Please look out for an email from my colleague, (b)(6) later today, with the calendar invitation  
and the link to the proposal documents. I really appreciate everyone's participation!

Best,  
(b)(6)

~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~

**From:** (b)(6)@state.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 19, 2022 9:03 AM  
**To:** (b)(6) (Jerusalem); (b)(6)@state.gov; (b)(6)  
(b)(6)@state.gov; (b)(6)@state.gov; (b)(6)  
(Jerusalem) (b)(6)@state.gov  
**Subject:** RE: Inquiry on DRL NOFO

May 10 also works for me.  
(b)(6)

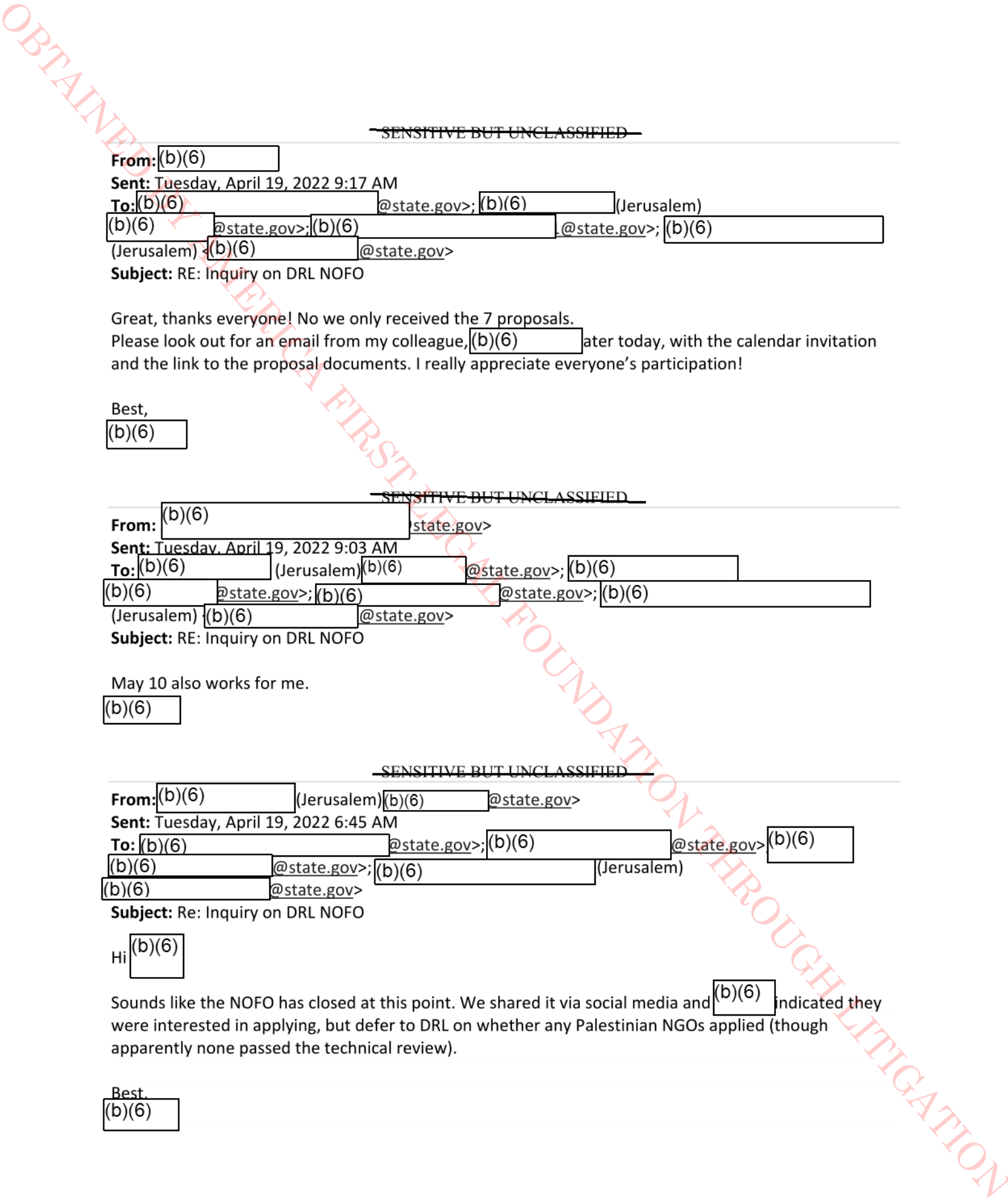
~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~

**From:** (b)(6) (Jerusalem); (b)(6)@state.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 19, 2022 6:45 AM  
**To:** (b)(6)@state.gov; (b)(6)@state.gov; (b)(6)  
(b)(6)@state.gov; (b)(6) (Jerusalem)  
(b)(6)@state.gov  
**Subject:** Re: Inquiry on DRL NOFO

Hi (b)(6)

Sounds like the NOFO has closed at this point. We shared it via social media and (b)(6) indicated they  
were interested in applying, but defer to DRL on whether any Palestinian NGOs applied (though  
apparently none passed the technical review).

Best,  
(b)(6)



Get Outlook for iOS

**From:** (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 19, 2022 11:25:24 AM  
**To:** (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6) (Jerusalem) (b)(6)@state.gov>;  
 (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6) (Jerusalem)  
 (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Inquiry on DRL NOFO

Hello All,

May 10th would work well for me. Is there a SharePoint file or similar with all of the consolidated proposals received to date? it would be great to review a bit before we get going, if possible. Thanks so much for looping us in.

PAU colleagues, have you heard anything recent from your contacts re any interest in the NOFO?

Best regards,

(b)(6)

Get Outlook for iOS

**From:** (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 18, 2022 4:52 PM  
**To:** (b)(6) (Jerusalem) (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)  
 (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)  
 (Jerusalem) (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Inquiry on DRL NOFO

Thanks, (b)(6) Four of the five submitted were from Israeli organizations, one from a US-based organization with an Israeli local partner.

With those dates in mind, I'll aim for Tuesday, May 10 instead. Thanks for letting me know!

(b)(6)

~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~

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**Sent:** Monday, April 18, 2022 7:17 AM  
**To:** (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov> (b)(6)  
 (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6) (Jerusalem) (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Inquiry on DRL NOFO

OBTAINED BY EMEREA FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION THROUGH LITIGATION

(b)(6) the PAU's new human rights officer. Sure, someone from Post should be able to join. For scheduling purposes, FYI that we're off on local holidays on May 2, early dismissal on May 4, and off again on May 5. Are most of the applicants Israeli/Israel-focused or Palestinian/Palestinian-focused? That could help us determine who from Post joins.

Best,

(b)(6)

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**Sent:** Friday, April 15, 2022 10:09 PM  
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Hi all,

Flagging that we received 5 technically-eligible proposals for review under this solicitation. I would like to begin scheduling the review panel.

Would it be possible for someone from Post to join? I think it will be really helpful for everyone to hear your feedback directly.

We will conduct the panel by Microsoft Teams, and were hoping to hold it the first week of May. Would that work? We can also try the week of May 9, if that's preferred.

Many thanks,

(b)(6)

~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~

---

**From:** (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 31, 2022 10:10 AM  
**To:** (b)(6) (Jerusalem)(b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Inquiry on DRL NOFO

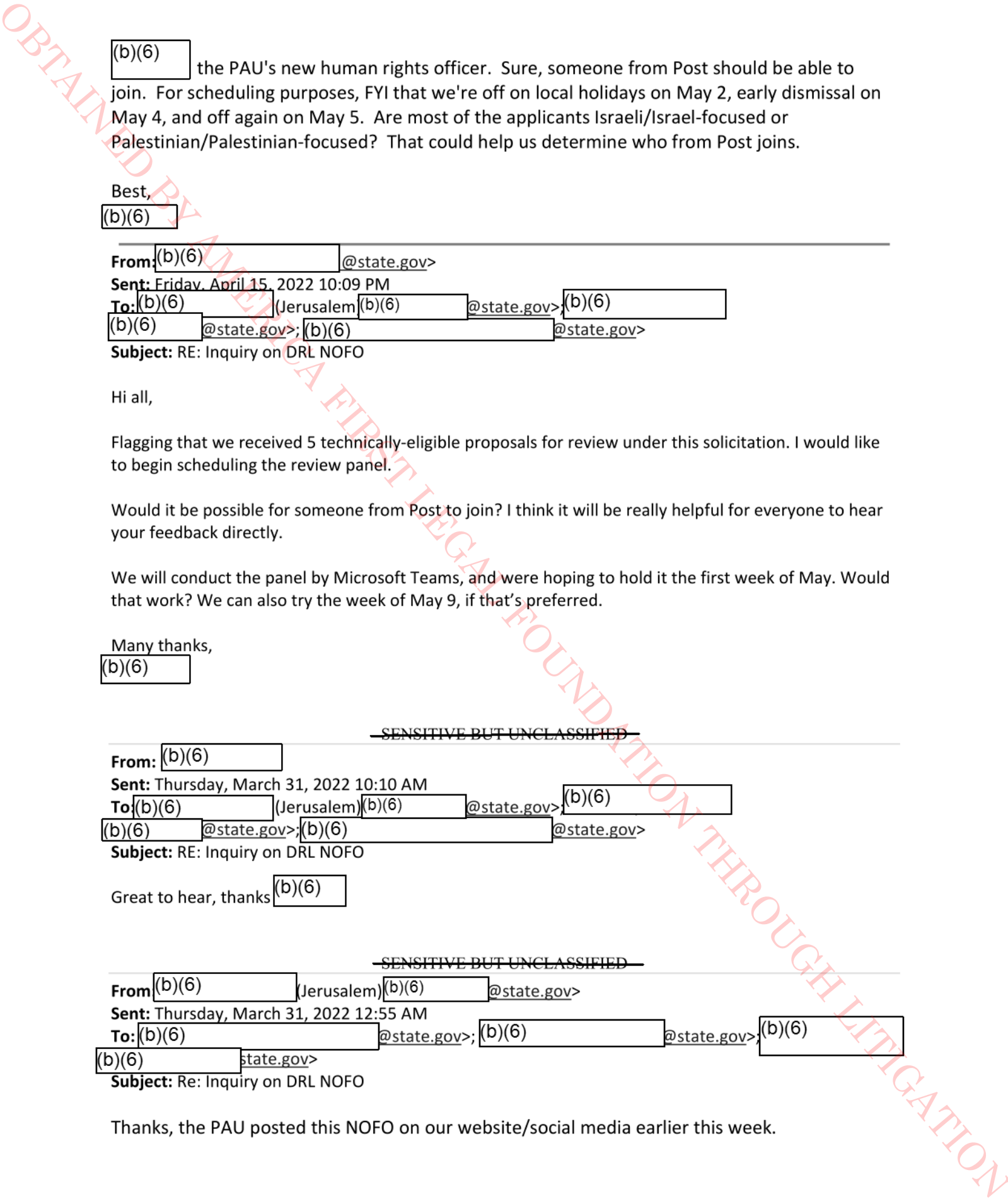
Great to hear, thanks (b)(6)

~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~

---

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**Sent:** Thursday, March 31, 2022 12:55 AM  
**To:** (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Inquiry on DRL NOFO

Thanks, the PAU posted this NOFO on our website/social media earlier this week.



OBTAINED THROUGH AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTY FOUNDATION LEGAL FOUNDATION THROUGH LITIGATION

Best  
(b)(6)

**From:** (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 30, 2022 9:23 PM  
**To:** (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6) (Jerusalem) (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Inquiry on DRL NOFO

Fine by me!

~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~

**From:** (b)(6)@state.gov>  
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**Subject:** RE: Inquiry on DRL NOFO

Hi (b)(6) —I’m so sorry, in the swirl of emails last week I must have thought I’d replied to this one. That’s absolutely fine!

(b)(6) p your question: yes, we do our own vetting.

Do we think there’s merit in connecting at the working level to talk about the inquiries that have been coming in? I don’t want to pressure anyone to have another meeting/call when I know how pressed for time everyone is, but I’m happy to set up a call if we think that is helpful.

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**Subject:** Re: Inquiry on DRL NOFO

Quick question - PD asked if DRL has any objections to us posting it on our website. I'm guessing that's fine, right? Thanks again!

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**To:** (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Inquiry on DRL NOFO

Hi - I agree it's a good idea. To be honest, I wasn't tracking this NOFO had been posted until the Jpost query yesterday and subsequent article today, but we'll share it with contacts.

Best,

(b)(6)

**From:** (b)(6)@state.gov  
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(b)(6) (Jerusalem) (b)(6)@state.gov  
**Subject:** RE: Inquiry on DRL NOFO

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

Thanks!

(b)(6)

~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~

**From:** (b)(6)@state.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, February 28, 2022 8:50 AM  
**To:** (b)(6)@state.gov; (b)(6)@state.gov; (b)(6)  
(b)(6) (Tel Aviv) <BenNunAX@state.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Inquiry on DRL NOFO

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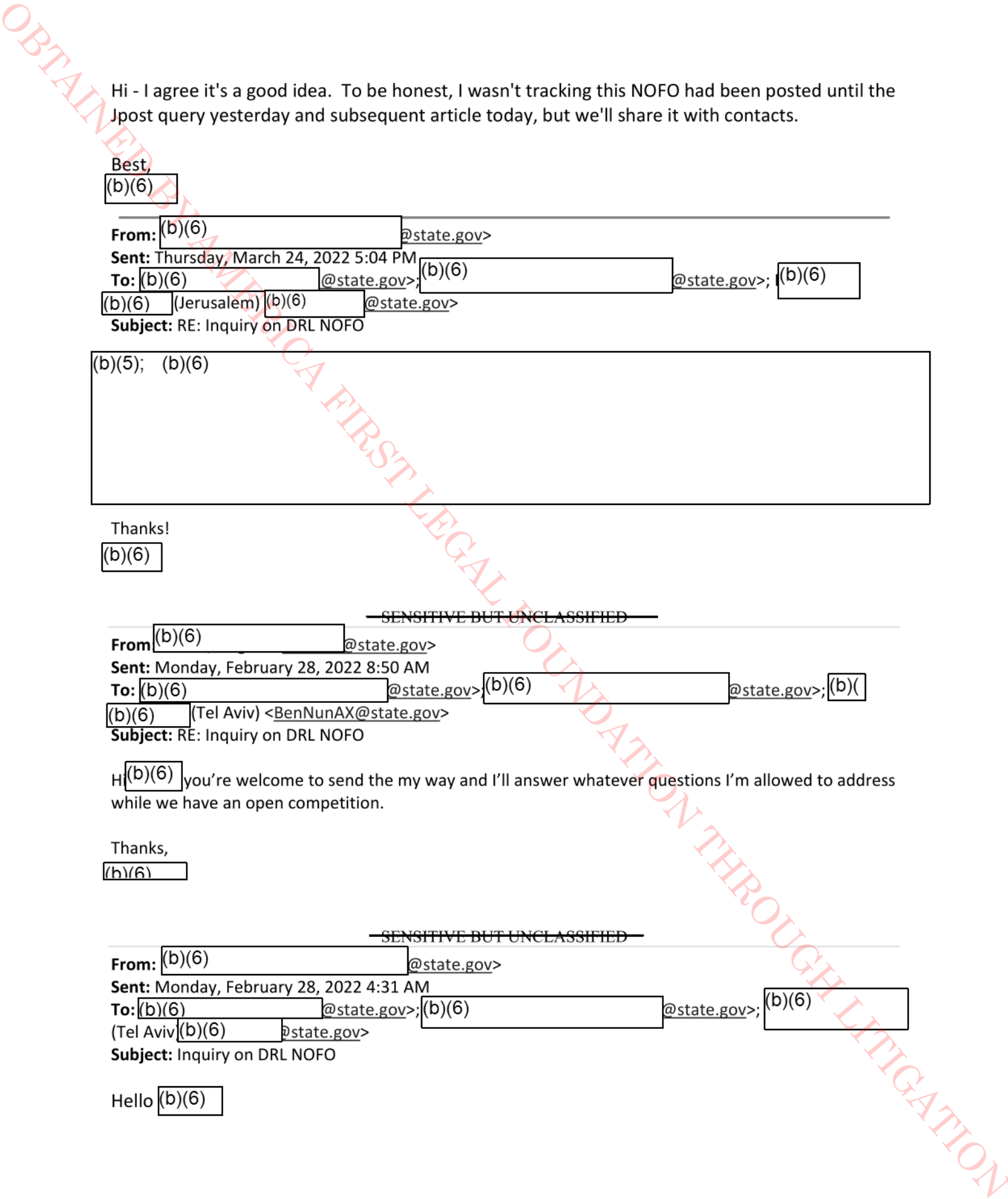
Thanks,

(b)(6)

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(Tel Aviv) (b)(6)@state.gov  
**Subject:** Inquiry on DRL NOFO

Hello (b)(6)



We got an email from a good contact at the (b)(6) [redacted] inquiring about the NOFO (<https://www.state.gov/drl-strengthening-human-rights-and-accountability-in-israel-and-the-west-bank-and-gaza/>) and they wanted to speak with someone to assess if they'd be a good fit before applying, highlighted below.

[redacted]  
(b)(5)

Best regards,

(b)(6)

**From:** (b)(6) [redacted]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 23, 2022 12:47:31 PM  
**To:** (b)(6) [redacted] (Tel Aviv) (b)(6) [redacted]@state.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: PLEASE CALL THANKS

(b)(6) hi

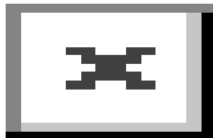
As a follow up, we have two queries:

We would love to apply if appropriate but before we start working on something of this scale, we'd like to clarify if we are the right fit / match. To whom can we enquire about the DRL grant that is managed by DC?

We would like to know about similar grants (and possibly grantees).

Thanks and kind regards,

(b)(6)



DRL Strengthening Human Rights and Accountability in Israel and the West Bank and Gaza - United States Department of State

United States Department of State  
Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor (DRL) Notice of Funding

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Opportunity (NOFO): DRL  
Strengthening Human Rights and  
Accountability in Israel and the West  
Bank and Gaza This is the  
announcement of funding opportunity  
number SFOP0008613 Catalog of  
Federal Domestic Assistance Number:  
19.345 Type of Solicitation: Open  
Competition Application Deadline: [...]

[www.state.gov](http://www.state.gov)

---

**From:** (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 24, 2022 3:56 PM  
**To:** (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>  
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And really, I appreciate the extra lift to send this through to the FO so much. I would much rather wait  
and obtain approval before going live with a public solicitation so no one is confused down the line.

Thank you thank you!

(b)(6)

~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~

---

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**Sent:** Monday, January 24, 2022 4:56 AM  
**To:** (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Subject:** Post approval of DRL NOFO: 20220124\_ACTION MEMO FOR AMBASSADOR NIDES.pdf

DRL NOFO cleared by FO.

Sorry for the delay in getting this back to you. Going forward I will push to clear these below the  
level of the FO where possible.

Best regards,

(b)(6)

---

**From:** (b)(6) (Jerusalem)(b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 24, 2022 11:53 AM  
**To:** (b)(6)@state.gov>

OBTAINED BY AMERICA ABOLISH FEDERAL FOUNDATION THROUGH LITIGATION

Cc: (b)(6)@state.gov; (b)(6)@state.gov

Subject: 20220124\_ACTION MEMO FOR AMBASSADOR NIDES.pdf

Hi (b)(6)

The Ambassador has approved your AM for the NRL NOFO. Please see attached.

Best,  
(b)(6)

~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~

~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~

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~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~

**Sender:** (b)(6)@state.gov  
**Recipient:** (b)(6)@state.gov

OBTAINED BY AMERICA FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION THROUGH LITIGATION

<b>From:</b>	(b)(6)@state.gov>
<b>To:</b>	(b)(6)@duke.edu>
<b>Subject:</b>	Re: DRL Strengthening Human Rights and Accountability in Israel and the West Bank and Gaza
<b>Date:</b>	Fri, 4 Mar 2022 12:42:08 +0000

Thanks for the attachments. Looking forward to reading them, and to seeing your upcoming paper --- does it look into the recent agreement between Jordan and Israel re: water for electricity that involved the UAE?

Appreciated you having sent the flyer for the event, too. Looks interesting. Unfortunately, I won't be able to make it. (b)(6)

(b)(6)

pretty big section -- in addition to tracking domestic politics and Jordan's regional foreign relations, the section coordinates our regional refugee efforts and our political-military relationship with Jordan, both of which are sadly growing in scope. (Note: It's not that I am saddened by our strong military relationship with Jordan; rather, I am saddened about the security circumstances that prompt us to have one.)

As with China, it's fun to have our paths cross again.

(b)(6)

FSI - Arabic Language Student

(b)(6)

**From:** (b)(6)@duke.edu>

**Sent:** Thursday, March 3, 2022 6:43 PM

**To:** (b)(6)@state.gov>

**Subject:** Re: DRL Strengthening Human Rights and Accountability in Israel and the West Bank and Gaza

Hi there,

Easier by email! We are definitely talking about the same call. I will write (b)(6) by email with queries after I touch base with my partners to pull together a list of questions that (b)(6) can choose to answer or not. Appreciate the connection.

And attaching a few pieces that might be of interest to you regarding Jordan/MENA and then will forward the event at American. Also writing a chapter now too with a colleague on Israel-Jordan water that can share once we finalize later this year.

Can I even ask what position you will have in Amman? The Embassy is enormous, but in a terrific part of the city. Last trip there I was based at ACOR – the American Center of Research (<https://acorjordan.org>). It hosts wonderful events.

All best,

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

Nicholas School of the Environment  
Duke University

<https://nicholas.duke.edu/people/faculty> (b)(6)

(b)(6)

<https://direct.mit.edu/glep>

---

**From:** (b)(6)@state.gov>

**Date:** Thursday, March 3, 2022 at 5:08 PM

**To:** (b)(6)@duke.edu>

**Subject:** Fw: DRL Strengthening Human Rights and Accountability in Israel and the West Bank and Gaza

(b)(6)

Forwarding the NOFO, just to confirm we are talking about the same thing. ☐

In any case, I had an exchange with (b)(6) covering Near East Asia for DRL's Global Programming Office, and is open to fielding your questions. Please note, though, that she needs to do so via email rather than a phone call or meeting so that they can document that they did not give any particular group an unfair advantage. She said to go ahead and pass on her email to you, so here it is: (b)(6)

Hope the application process goes well!

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

FSI - Arabic Language Student

(b)(6)

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United States Department of State  
Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor (DRL)

OBTAINED BY AMERICA FIRST FOUNDATION THROUGH LITIGATION

**Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO):** DRL Strengthening Human Rights and Accountability in Israel and the West Bank and Gaza

This is the announcement of funding opportunity number **SFOP0008613**

**Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number:** 19.345

**Type of Solicitation:** Open Competition

**Application Deadline:** 11:59 PM EST on WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13, 2022

**Total Funding Floor:** \$493,827

**Total Funding Ceiling:** \$987,654

**Anticipated Number of Awards:** 1 – 2

**Type of Award:** Grant or Cooperative Agreement

**Period of Performance:** 18 – 36 months

**Anticipated Time to Award, Pending Availability of Funds:** 5 – 7 months

## A. Project Description

The U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor (DRL) announces an open competition for projects that strengthen accountability and human rights in Israel and the West Bank and Gaza.

Program activities should focus on enabling independent civil society in Israel and the West Bank and Gaza to: collect, archive, and maintain human rights documentation to support justice and accountability and civil society-led advocacy efforts, which may include documentation of legal or security sector violations and housing, land, and property rights; understand and access the forums and processes available to take meaningful action in pursuing truth, accountability, and memorialization; and/or provide psychosocial support to survivors of atrocities.

A successful program design will demonstrate flexibility to adapt to changes in the operational context as needed.

Organizations may propose activities in both Israel and the West Bank/Gaza or propose activities specific to each area.

Innovative ideas for working in a difficult environment – particularly best practices adapted from lessons learned – are welcome. Proposals that include local organizations as the lead implementer or as substantial program partners are strongly encouraged and will be viewed favorably. Applicants should take a tailored approach to ensure in-depth and comprehensive support to participating NGOs, including personal, digital, and physical security where needed.

DRL is conscious of the ever-changing security situation in the broader NEA region. With this in mind, applicants are required to submit a detailed contingency plan and risk assessment in order to demonstrate situational awareness and preparedness. Risk assessment and contingency plan documents must address safety and contingency for in-person events and recruitment for said events, processes for receiving and disbursing funds, as well as means to secure online programs or communications.

A proven ability to implement programs in Israel and the West Bank and Gaza must be demonstrated. As part of the proposal narrative, or as an annex to the proposal submission, applicants are encouraged to submit lessons learned from past programming that demonstrate how the implementer has safely operated and responded to challenges, learning from both successes and failures, in the intended operating environment.

All programs should aim to have impact that leads to reforms and should have the potential for sustainability beyond DRL resources. DRL's preference is to avoid duplicating past efforts by supporting new and creative approaches. This does not exclude from consideration projects that improve upon or expand existing successful projects in a new and complementary way. DRL is committed to advancing equity and support for underserved and underrepresented communities. Programs should seek strategies for integration and inclusion of individuals/organizations/beneficiaries that can bring perspectives based on their religion, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, sex characteristics, national origin, age, genetic information, marital status, parental status, pregnancy, political affiliation, or veteran's status. Programs should be demand-driven and locally led to the extent possible. DRL requires all programs to be non-discriminatory and expects implementers to include strategies for nondiscrimination of individuals/organizations/beneficiaries based on race, color, religion, sex, gender identity, gender expression, sex characteristics, sexual orientation, pregnancy, national origin, disability, age, genetic information, marital status, parental status, political affiliation, or veteran's status.

Where appropriate, competitive proposals may include:

- Opportunities for beneficiaries to apply their new knowledge and skills in practical efforts;
- Solicitation of feedback and suggestions from beneficiaries when developing activities in order to strengthen the sustainability of programs and participant ownership of project outcomes;
- Input from participants on sustainability plans and systematic review of the plans throughout the life of the project, with adjustments made as necessary;
- Inclusion of vulnerable populations;
- Joint identification and definition of key concepts with relevant stakeholders and stakeholder input into project activities;
- Systematic follow up with beneficiaries at specific intervals after the completion of activities to track how beneficiaries are retaining new knowledge as well as applying their new skills.

Activities that are **not** typically allowed include, but are not limited to:

- The provision of humanitarian assistance;
- English language instruction;
- Development of high-tech computer or communications software and/or hardware;
- Purely academic exchanges or fellowships;
- External exchanges or fellowships lasting longer than six months;
- Off-shore activities that are not clearly linked to in-country initiatives and impact or are not necessary per security concerns;
- Theoretical explorations of human rights or democracy issues, including projects aimed primarily at research and evaluation that do not incorporate training or capacity-building for local civil society;
- Micro-loans or similar small business development initiatives;
- Initiatives directed towards a diaspora community rather than current residents of targeted countries.

**This notice is subject to availability of funding.**

## B. Federal Award Information

Primary organizations can submit 1 application in response to the NOFO.

The U.S. government may: (a) reject any or all applications, (b) accept other than the lowest cost application, (c) accept more than one application, and (d) waive irregularities in applications received.

The U.S. government may make award(s) on the basis of initial applications received, without discussions or negotiations.

Therefore, each initial application should contain the applicant's best terms from a cost and technical standpoint. The U.S. government reserves the right (though it is under no obligation to do so), however, to enter into discussions with one or more applicants in order to obtain clarifications, additional detail, or to suggest refinements in the project description, budget, or other aspects of an application.

DRL anticipates awarding either a grant or cooperative agreement depending on the needs and risk factors of the program.

The final determination on award mechanism will be made by the Grants Officer. The distinction between grants and cooperative agreements revolves around the existence of "substantial involvement." Cooperative agreements require greater Federal government participation in the project. If a cooperative agreement is awarded, DRL will undertake reasonable and programmatically necessary substantial involvement. Examples of substantial involvement can include, but are not limited to:

- Active participation or collaboration with the recipient in the implementation of the award;
- Review and approval of one stage of work before another can begin;
- Review and approval of substantive provisions of proposed sub-awards or contracts beyond existing Federal policy;
- Approval of the recipient's budget or plan of work prior to the award.

The authority for this funding opportunity is found in the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended (FAA).

To maximize the impact and sustainability of the award(s) that result from this NOFO, DRL retains the right to execute non-competitive continuation amendment(s). The total duration of any award, including potential non-competitive continuation

amendments, shall not exceed 54 months, or four and a half years. Any non-competitive continuation is contingent on performance and **pending availability of funds**. A non-competitive continuation is not guaranteed, and the Department of State reserves the right to exercise or not to exercise this option.

## C. Eligibility Information

**For application information, please see the proposal submission instructions (PSI), updated December 2021 on our website.**

### C.1 Eligible Applicants

DRL welcomes applications from U.S.-based and foreign-based non-profit organizations/nongovernment organizations (NGO) and public international organizations; private, public, or state institutions of higher education; and for-profit organizations or businesses. DRL's preference is to work with non-profit entities; however, there may be some occasions when a for-profit entity is best suited.

Applications submitted by for-profit entities may be subject to additional review following the panel selection process. Additionally, the Department of State prohibits profit to for-profit or commercial organizations under its assistance awards. Profit is defined as any amount in excess of allowable direct and indirect costs. The allowability of costs incurred by commercial organizations is determined in accordance with the provisions of the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) at 48 CFR 30, Cost Accounting Standards Administration, and 48 CFR 31 Contract Cost Principles and Procedures. Please see 2 CFR 200.307 for regulations regarding program income.

### C.2 Cost Sharing or Matching

Providing cost sharing, matching, or cost participation is not an eligibility factor or requirement for this NOFO and providing cost share will not result in a more favorable competitive ranking.

### C.3 Other

Applicants should have existing, or the capacity to develop, active partnerships with thematic or in-country partners, entities, and relevant stakeholders, including private sector partners and NGOs, and have **demonstrable experience** in administering successful and preferably similar projects. DRL encourages applications from foreign-based NGOs headquartered in the geographic regions/countries relevant to this NOFO. Applicants may **form consortia** in order to bring together organizations with varied expertise to propose a comprehensive program in one proposal. However, one organization should be designated in the proposal as the lead applicant, with the other members designated as sub-award partners. DRL reserves the right to request additional background information on applicants that do not have previous experience administering federal grant awards, and these applicants may be subject to limited funding on a pilot basis. DRL is committed to an **anti-discrimination** policy in all of its projects and activities. DRL welcomes applications irrespective of race, ethnicity, color, creed, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, or other status. DRL seeks applications that demonstrate that the recipient does not discriminate against any beneficiaries in implementation of a potential award, such as, but not limited to, by withholding, adversely impacting, or denying equitable access to the benefits provided through this award on the basis of any factor not expressly stated in the award. This includes, for example, race, color, religion, sex (including gender identity, gender expression, sex characteristics, sexual orientation, and pregnancy), national origin, disability, age, genetic information, marital status, parental status, political affiliation, or veteran's status. The recipient should insert this provision, including this paragraph, in all sub-grants and contracts under a potential award.

Any applicant listed on the Excluded Parties List System in the System for Award Management (SAM.gov) ([www.sam.gov](http://www.sam.gov)) and/or has a current debt to the U.S. government is not eligible to apply for an assistance award in accordance with the OMB guidelines at 2 CFR 180 that implement Executive Orders 12549 (3 CFR, 1986 Comp., p. 189) and 12689 (3 CFR, 1989

Comp., p. 235), "Debarment and Suspension." Additionally, no entity or person listed on the Excluded Parties List System in SAM.gov can participate in any activities under an award. All applicants are strongly encouraged to review the Excluded Parties List System in SAM.gov to ensure that no ineligible entity or person is included in their application.

## D. Application and Submission Information

### D.1 Address to Request Application Package

Applicants can find application forms, kits, or other materials needed to apply on [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov) and SAMS Domestic (<https://mygrants.servicenowservices.com>) under the announcement title "DRL Strengthening Human Rights and Accountability in Israel and the West Bank and Gaza," funding opportunity number "SFOP0008613." **Although solicitation details will be available via SAMS Domestic, please note that all applications in response to this NOFO must be submitted via [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov).** Please contact the DRL point of contact listed in Section G if requesting reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities or for security reasons. Please note that reasonable accommodations do not include deadline extensions.

### D.2 Content and Form of Application Submission

For all application documents, please ensure:

- All documents are in English and all costs are in U.S. Dollars. If an original document within the application is in another language, an English translation must be provided (please note the Department of State, as indicated in 2 CFR 200.111, requires that English is the official language of all award documents). If any document is provided in both English and a foreign language, the English language version is the controlling version;
- All pages are numbered, including budgets and attachments;
- All documents are formatted to 8 ½ x 11 paper; and,
- All documents are single-spaced, 12-point Times New Roman font, with 1-inch margins. Captions and footnotes may be 10-point Times New Roman font. Font sizes in charts and tables, including the budget, can be reformatted to fit within 1 page width.

#### D.2.1 Application Requirements

Complete applications must include the following:

1. Completed and signed **SF-424**, **SF-424A**, and **SF-424B** Please see SF-424 instructions in Section 2B of the PSI.
2. Organizations that engage in lobbying the U.S. government, including Congress, or pay for another entity to lobby on their behalf, are also required to complete the **SF-LLL** "Disclosure of Lobbying Activities" form (**only if applicable**). Please see SF-LLL guidance in Section 2B of the PSI.
3. **Cover Page** (not to exceed one (1) page, preferably as a Word Document) that includes a table with the organization name, project title, target country/countries, project synopsis, and name and contact information for the application's main point of contact. Please see *Cover Page* Section 2C of the PSI for a template and more details.
4. **Executive Summary** (not to exceed one (1) page, preferably as a Word Document) that outlines project goals, objectives, activities, etc.
  - **The Executive Summary should include a brief section that explicitly states: (1) the problem statement addressed by the project, (2) research-based evidence justifying the unique project approach, and (3) quantifiable project outcomes and impacts.**
5. **Table of Contents** (not to exceed one (1) page, preferably as a Word Document) listing all documents and



attachments with page numbers.

6. **Proposal Narrative** (not to exceed ten (10) pages, preferably as a Word Document). Please note the ten-page limit **does not include** the Cover Page, Executive Summary, Table of Contents, Attachments, Detailed Budget, Budget Narrative, Audit, or NICRA. Applicants are encouraged to combine multiple documents into a single Word Document or PDF (i.e. Cover Page, Table of Contents, Executive Summary, and Proposal Narrative in one file). Please see *Proposal Narrative Guidelines* in Section 2F of the PSI for more details.
  - o The Proposal Narrative should demonstrate the applicant's commitment to ensuring the participation of all people as a strategy for implementation. Please integrate inclusion strategies in all sections of the Proposal Narrative to enhance programmatic impact.
7. **Budget** (preferably as an Excel workbook) that includes three (3) columns containing the request to DRL, any cost sharing contribution, and the total budget. A summary budget should also be included using the OMB-approved budget categories (see SF-424A as a sample) in a separate tab. Costs must be in U.S. Dollars. Detailed line-item budgets for sub-grantees should be included as additional tabs within the Excel workbook (if available at the time of submission). Please see *Budget Guidelines* Section 2G of the PSI for more information.
  - o The programming approach should be dedicated to strengthening inclusive societies as a necessary pillar of strong democracies. Please include costs associated with this commitment in the Budget and Budget Narrative.
8. **Budget Narrative** (preferably as a Word Document) that includes substantive explanations and justifications for each line item in the detailed budget spreadsheet, as well as the source and a description of all cost-share offered. Please see *Budget Guidelines* Section 2G of the PSI for more information.
9. The organization's most recent **audit**, if applicable. This should be a single audit, program-specific audit, or other audit in accordance with Generally Accepted Government Auditing Standards (GAGAS). Please see *Audit* Section 2H of the PSI for more information.
10. **Logic Model** (preferably as a Word Document). Please see *Logic Model* Section 2I of the PSI for more information.
11. **Monitoring and Evaluation Narrative** (not to exceed four (4) pages, preferably as a Word Document). Please see *Monitoring and Evaluation Narrative* Section 2J of the PSI for more information.
  - o As stated within the DRL Guide to Program Monitoring and Evaluation (p. 6): DRL strongly encourages applicants to consider whether their monitoring and evaluation systems are utilizing human rights-based approaches, applying a gender and equity lens, or include the participation of sub-grantees and project participants. Within the Monitoring and Evaluation Narrative, applicants should demonstrate their commitment to inclusive strategies and consider whether evaluation design, data collection, analysis, reporting and learning are conducted in an ethical and responsible way with all project participants (e.g. direct beneficiaries, sub-grantees). Applicants should still make adequate provisions to protect the privacy of human subjects when collecting data from individuals. For instance, when collecting data from project participants, consider whether your organization will have the necessary informed consent forms, confidentiality agreements, and data security protocols.
12. **Monitoring and Evaluation Plan** (preferably as a Word Document or Excel Sheet). Please see *Monitoring and Evaluation Plan* Section 2J of the PSI for more information.
13. **Risk Analysis** (preferably as a Word Document). Please see *Risk Analysis* Section 2K of the PSI for more information on this requirement, including Do No Harm principles and Preventing Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) policies/plans.
14. **Key Personnel** (not to exceed two (2) pages, preferably as a Word Document). Please include short bios that highlight relevant professional experience. Given the limited space, CVs are not recommended for submission.
15. **Timeline** (not to exceed one (1) page, preferably as a Word Document or Excel Sheet). The timeline of the overall proposal should include activities, evaluation efforts, and program closeout.

16. **Gender and Inclusion Analysis** (not to exceed three (3) pages, preferably as a Word Document) that provides a concise analysis of relevant gender norms, equity and equality for underserved communities and marginalized populations, power relations, and conflict dynamics in target countries. Potential domains of analysis include institutional practices and barriers, cultural norms, gender roles, access to and control over assets and resources, and patterns of decision-making. Applicants should briefly explain how they have integrated findings from their analysis into project design and/or other proposal documents, including a plan for regularly reviewing and updating the gender and inclusion analysis with local partners/beneficiaries, and making any necessary adjustments to program implementation. A set of guiding questions can be found in Section 2L of the PSI.
17. **Security Plan** addressing any issues involving in-person events and recruitment for said events, and safety for any online programs or communications, including independent IT security audits (to include a vulnerability assessment) of any proposed web application or platform. Organization's Security Plan should demonstrate consideration of the risks identified in the submitted risk assessment. Costs may also be identified within the budget and budget narrative. Applicants are also encouraged to include contingency plans for in-person or online activities.
18. **Contingency Plan** for proposed activities should the originally planned activities not be able to be implemented. The Contingency Plan should be submitted as an additional annex. Applicants should demonstrate consideration of the risks identified in the submitted risk assessment and include specific alternative activities or locations as part of the Contingency Plan. Any proposed "plan" must comply with 2CFR200.433 – Contingency provisions. Plans must not include unallocable or unallowable expenses and must not result in a larger Total Award Value than the identified as the "competition ceiling." DRL requires prior approval by the Grants Officer of the "plan" before any activities can take place, or costs can be incurred against the "plan."
19. **Lessons Learned** (not to exceed one (1) page, preferably as a Word Document) from past programs in Israel, the West Bank, and/or Gaza that demonstrate how the implementer has safely operated and responded to programmatic challenges, learning from both successes and failures, in the operating environment. To be incorporated into the ten (10) pages allowed for "Proposal Narrative."
20. **Psychosocial Assistance** (to be incorporated into the ten (10) pages allowed for "Proposal Narrative," and into "Budget" and "Budget Narrative"). A section in the proposal, budget, and budget narrative to reflect appropriate resources and support for the psychosocial health of staff (i.e., activities can range from access to educational materials and training opportunities to counseling services to other contextually relevant support).
  - o References: For reference to international guidance, please see the following: Core Humanitarian Standard Commitment 8.9 (<https://corehumanitarianstandard.org/files/files/CHS-Guidance-Notes-and-Indicators.pdf>); and IASC Guidelines on Mental Health and Psychosocial Support in Emergency Settings Action Sheet 4.4 ([http://www.who.int/mental\\_health/emergencies/guidelines\\_iasc\\_mental\\_health\\_psychosocial\\_june\\_2007.pdf](http://www.who.int/mental_health/emergencies/guidelines_iasc_mental_health_psychosocial_june_2007.pdf)).

**Applications that do not include the elements listed above will be deemed technically ineligible.**

## **D.2.2 Additional Application Documents**

Strong applications will also contain the following:

- Individual Letters of Support and/or Memorandum of Understanding. Letters of support and MOUs must be specific to the project implementation (e.g. from proposed partners or sub-award recipients) and will not count towards the page limit.

***Please refer to the Proposal Submission Instructions (PSI), updated December 2021, on DRL's website for detailed guidance on the documents above: <https://www.state.gov/bureau-of-democracy-human-rights-and-labor/programs-and-grants/>. For an application checklist and sample templates please see the Resources page on DRL's website: <https://www.state.gov/resources-for-programs-and-grants/>. The sample templates provided on the DRL website are suggested, but not mandatory.***

DRL reserves the right to request additional documents not included in this NOFO. Additionally, to ensure that all applications receive a balanced evaluation, the DRL review panel will review from the first page of each section up to the page limit and no further.

Note: If ultimately provided with a notification of non-binding intent to make a Federal award, applicants typically have two to three weeks to provide additional information and documents requested in the notification of intent. The deadlines may vary in each notification of intent and applicants must adhere to the stated deadline in the notification of intent.

### ***D.2.3 Additional Information Requested For Those Receiving Notification of Intent***

Successful applicants must submit, after notification of intent to make a Federal award, but prior to issuance of a Federal award:

- Written responses and revised application documents addressing conditions and recommendations from the DRL review panel;
- A copy of the applicant's latest NICRA as a PDF file, if the applicant has a NICRA and includes NICRA charges in the budget;
- A completed copy of the Department's Financial Management Survey, if receiving DRL funding for the first time;
- Submission of required documents to register in the Payment Management System managed by the Department of Health and Human Services, if receiving DRL funding for the first time (unless an exemption is provided);
- Other requested information or documents included in the notification of intent to make a Federal award or subsequent communications prior to issuance of a Federal award;
- Applicants who submit their applications through Grants.gov will be required to create a SAMS Domestic account in order to accept the final award. Accounts must be logged into to every 60 days in order to maintain an active account.

### ***D.3 Unique Entity Identifier and System for Award Management (SAM)***

All prime organizations, whether based in the United States or in another country, must have a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI), formerly referred to as DUNS, and an active registration with the SAM.gov **before submitting an application**. DRL may **not** review applications from or make awards to applicants that have not completed all applicable UEI and SAM.gov requirements. A UEI is one of the data elements mandated by Public Law 109-282, the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act (FFATA), for all Federal awards.

The 2 CFR 200 requires that sub-grantees obtain a UEI number. Please note the UEI for sub-grantees is not required at the time of application but will be required before the award is processed and/or directed to a sub-grantee.

***Note: The process of obtaining a SAM.gov registration may take anywhere from 4-8 weeks. Please begin your registration as early as possible.***

- Organizations **based in the United States** or that pay employees within the United States will need an Employer Identification Number (EIN) from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), a Commercial and Government Entity (CAGE) code, and a UEI number prior to registering in SAM.gov.
- Organizations **based outside of the United States** and that do not pay employees within the United States do not need an EIN from the IRS, but do need a NATO CAGE (NCAGE) code and UEI number prior to registering in SAM.gov.

All prime organizations must also continue to maintain active SAM.gov registration with current information at all times during which they have an active Federal award or application under consideration by a Federal award agency. SAM.gov requires all entities to renew their registration once a year in order to maintain an active registration status in SAM. It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure it has an active registration in SAM.gov and to maintain that active registration. If an applicant has not fully complied with the requirements at the time of application, the applicant may be deemed technically ineligible to receive an award and use that determination as a basis for making an award to another applicant.

For further guidance on the registration process, please see the SAM.gov Registration Guide on DRL's website: <https://www.state.gov/resources-for-programs-and-grants/>. Please refer to 2 CFR 25.200 for additional information. Also, please refer to Section D.5 – Funding Restriction of the NOFO.

**Note: SAM.gov is not the same as SAMS Domestic. It is free to register in both systems, but the registration**

processes are different.

Information is included on the SAM.gov website to help international registrations, including "Quick Start Guide for International Registrations" and "Helpful Hints." Navigate to [www.SAM.gov](http://www.SAM.gov), click "HELP" in the top navigation bar, then click "International Registrants" in the left navigation panel. Please note, guidance on SAM.gov and the guidance on GSA's website about requirement for registering in SAM.gov is subject to change. Applicants should review the website for the most up-to-date guidance.

### D.3.1 Exemptions

An exemption from these requirements may be permitted on a case-by-case basis if:

- An applicant's identity must be protected due to potential endangerment of their mission, their organization's status, their employees, or individuals being served by the applicant.

Organizations requesting exemption from UEI or SAM.gov requirements must email the point of contact listed in the NOFO at least **two weeks prior to the deadline in the NOFO providing a justification of their request**. Approval for a SAM.gov exemption must come from the warranted Grants Officer before the application can be deemed eligible for review.

Note: Foreign organizations will be required to register with the NATO Support Agency (NSPA) to receive a NCAGE code in order to register in SAM.gov. NSPA will forward your registration request to the applicable National Codification Bureau (NCB) if your organization is located in a NATO or Tier 2 Sponsored Non-NATO Nation. As of September 2021, NATO nations included Albania, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Montenegro, Netherlands, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Turkey, United Kingdom, and the United States of America. As of September 2021, Tier 2 nations included Argentina, Australia, Austria, Brazil, Colombia, Finland, India, Indonesia, Israel, Japan, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Morocco, New Zealand, Serbia, Singapore, Sweden, Ukraine, and United Arab Emirates.

NSPA and/or the appropriate NCB forwards all NCAGE code information to all Allied Committee 135 (AC/135) nations, which as of September 2021 also included Algeria, Belarus, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Brunei Darussalam, Chile, Egypt, Georgia, Jordan, Oman, Pakistan, Peru, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, and Thailand. **All organizations are strongly advised to take this into consideration when assessing whether registration may result in possible endangerment.**

### D.4 Submission Dates and Times

Applications are due no later than **11:59 PM Eastern Standard Time (EST), on WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13, 2022 on <https://www.grants.gov/>** under the announcement title "DRL Strengthening Human Rights and Accountability in Israel and the West Bank and Gaza," funding opportunity number "SFOP0008613."

Grants.gov automatically logs the date and time an application submission is made, and the Department of State will use this information to determine whether an application has been submitted on time. Late applications are neither reviewed nor considered. Known system errors caused by Grants.gov that are outside of the applicant's control will be reviewed on a case by case basis. Applicants should not expect a notification upon DRL receiving their application.

### D.5 Funding Restrictions

DRL will not consider applications that reflect any type of support for any member, affiliate, or representative of a designated terrorist organization. Please refer the link for Foreign Terrorist Organizations: <https://www.state.gov/foreign-terrorist-organizations/>

Project activities whose direct beneficiaries are foreign militaries or paramilitary groups or individuals will not be considered for DRL funding given purpose limitations on funding.

In accordance with Department of State policy for terrorism, applicants are advised that successful passing of vetting to evaluate the risk that funds may benefit terrorists or their supporters is a condition of award. If chosen for an award, applicants will be asked to submit information required by DS Form 4184, Risk Analysis Information (attached to this

solicitation) about their company and its principal personnel. Vetting information is also required for all sub-award performance on assistance awards identified by the Department of State as presenting a risk of terrorist financing. Vetting information may also be requested for project beneficiaries and participants. Failure to submit information when requested, or failure to pass vetting, may be grounds for rejecting your proposal prior to award.

The Leahy Law prohibits Department foreign assistance funds from supporting foreign security force units if the Secretary of State has credible information that the unit has committed a gross violation of human rights. Per 22 USC §2378d(a) (2017), "No assistance shall be furnished under this chapter or the Arms Export Control Act to any unit of the security forces of a foreign country if the Secretary of State has credible information that such unit has committed a gross violation of human rights." Restrictions may apply to any proposed assistance to police or other law enforcement. Among these, pursuant to section 620M of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended (FAA), no assistance provided through this funding opportunity may be furnished to any unit of the security forces of a foreign country when there is credible information that such unit has committed a gross violation of human rights. In accordance with the requirements of section 620M of the FAA, also known as the Leahy law, project beneficiaries or participants from a foreign government's security forces may need to be vetted by the Department before the provision of any assistance. If a proposed grant or cooperative agreement will provide assistance to foreign security forces or personnel, compliance with the Leahy Law is required.

U.S. foreign assistance for Burma or Burmese beneficiaries is subject to restrictions. This includes restrictions, pursuant to section 7043(a)(3) of the Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2020 (Div. G, P.L. 116-94)(SFOAA), on funds appropriated under title III of the act for assistance for Burma. Section 7043(a)(3) provides that such funds "may not be made available to any organization or entity controlled by the armed forces of Burma, or to any individual or organization that advocates violence against ethnic or religious groups or individuals in Burma, as determined by the Secretary of State." In addition, funds cannot be made available to any individual or organization that has committed serious human rights abuse.

Organizations should be cognizant of these restrictions when developing project proposals as these restrictions will require appropriate due diligence of program beneficiaries and collaboration with DRL to ensure compliance with these restrictions. Program beneficiaries subject to due diligence vetting will include any individuals or entities that are beneficiaries of foreign assistance funding or support. Due diligence vetting will include a review of open-source materials.

Federal awards generally will not allow reimbursement of pre-award costs; however, the Grants Officer may approve pre-award costs on a case-by-case basis. Generally, construction costs are not allowed under DRL awards. For additional information, please see the DRL Proposal Submission Instructions (PSI) for Applications: <https://www.state.gov/bureau-of-democracy-human-rights-and-labor/programs-and-grants/>.

## ***D.6 Application Submission***

**All application submissions must be made electronically via [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov). Please note that the Grants.gov registration process can take ten (10) business days or longer, even if all registration steps are completed in a timely manner.**

It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that it has an active registration in Grants.gov. Applicants are required to document that the application has been received by Grants.gov in its entirety. DRL bears no responsibility for disqualification that result from applicants not being registered before the due date, for system errors in Grants.gov, or other errors in the application process. Additionally, applicants must save a screen shot of the checklist showing all documents submitted in case any document fails to upload successfully.

Faxed, couriered, or emailed documents will not be accepted. Reasonable accommodations may, in appropriate circumstances, be provided to applicants with disabilities or for security reasons. Applicants must follow all formatting instructions in the applicable NOFO and these instructions.

DRL encourages organizations to **submit applications during normal business hours** (Monday – Friday, 9:00AM-5:00PM Eastern Standard Time (EST)). If an applicant experiences technical difficulties and has contacted the appropriate helpdesk but is not receiving timely assistance (e.g. if you have not received a response within 48 hours of contacting the helpdesk), you may contact the DRL point of contact listed in the NOFO in Section G. The point of contact may assist in contacting the appropriate helpdesk.

*Note: The Grants Officer will determine technical eligibility of all applications.*

### **Grants.gov Applications:**

Please be advised that completing all the necessary registration steps for obtaining a username and password from Grants.gov **can take ten (10) business days or longer.**

Please refer to the Grants.gov website for definitions of various "application statuses" and the difference between a submission receipt and a submission validation. Applicants will receive a validation e-mail from Grants.gov upon the successful submission of an application. Validation of an electronic submission via Grants.gov can take up to two business days. Additionally, organizations **must** remember to save a screenshot of the checklist showing all documents submitted in case any document fails to upload successfully.

### **Grants.gov Helpdesk:**

For assistance with Grants.gov, please call the Contact Center at +1 (800) 518-4726 or email [support@grants.gov](mailto:support@grants.gov). The Contact Center is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, except federal holidays.

See <https://www.opm.gov/policy-data-oversight/pay-leave/federal-holidays/> for a list of federal holidays.

## **E. Application Review Information**

### **E.1 Proposal Review Criteria**

The DRL review panel will evaluate each application individually against the following criteria, listed below in order of importance, and not against competing applications. Please use the below criteria as a reference, but **do not structure your application according to the sub-sections.**

#### Quality of Project Idea

Applications should be responsive to the program framework and policy objectives identified in the NOFO, appropriate in the country/regional context, and should exhibit originality, substance, precision, and relevance to DRL's mission of promoting human rights and democracy. Projects should have the potential to have an immediate impact leading to long-term, sustainable reforms. DRL prefers new approaches that do not duplicate efforts by other entities. This does not exclude from consideration projects that improve upon or expand existing successful projects in a new and complementary way. In countries where similar activities are already taking place, an explanation should be provided as to how new activities will not duplicate or merely add to existing activities and how these efforts will be coordinated. Proposals that promote creative approaches to recognized ongoing challenges are highly encouraged. DRL prioritizes project proposals with inclusive approaches for advancing these rights.

#### Project Planning/Ability to Achieve Objectives

A strong application will include a clear articulation of how the proposed project activities contribute to the overall project objectives, and each activity will be clearly developed and detailed. A comprehensive monthly work plan should demonstrate substantive undertakings and the logistical capacity of the organization. Objectives should be ambitious yet measurable, results-focused and achievable in a reasonable timeframe. A complete application must include a Logic Model to demonstrate how the project activities will have an impact on its proposed objectives. The Logic Model should match the objectives, outcomes, key activities, and outputs described in the narrative. Applications should address how the project will engage relevant stakeholders and should identify local partners as appropriate.

If local partners have been identified, DRL strongly encourages applicants to submit letters of support from proposed in-country partners. Additionally, applicants should describe the division of labor among the direct applicant and any local partners. If applicable, applications should identify target geographic areas for activities, target participant groups or selection criteria for participants, and the specific roles of sub-awardees, among other pertinent details.

DRL recognizes that all programs have some level of risk due to internal/external variables that have the potential to adversely affect a program. Risk management should address how the program design incorporates the identification, assessment, and management of key risk factors. DRL will review the Risk Analysis based on the organization's ability to identify risks that could have an impact on the overall program as well as how the organization will manage these risks.

#### Institution's Record and Capacity

DRL will consider the past performance of prior recipients and the demonstrated potential of new applicants. Applications should demonstrate an institutional record of successful democracy and human rights programs, including responsible fiscal

management and full compliance with all reporting requirements for past grants. Proposed personnel and institutional resources should be adequate and appropriate to achieve the project's objectives. Projects should have potential for continued funding beyond DRL resources.

#### Addressing Barriers to Equal Participation

DRL strives to ensure its projects advance the rights and uphold the dignity of all persons. As the U.S. government's lead bureau dedicated to promoting democratic governance, DRL requests a programming approach dedicated to strengthening inclusive societies as a necessary pillar of strong democracies. Discrimination, violence, inequity, and inequality targeting any members of society undermines collective security and threatens democracy. DRL prioritizes inclusive and integrated program models that assess and address the barriers to access for individuals and groups based on their race, ethnicity, religion, income, geography, gender identity, sexual orientation, or disability. The proposal should also demonstrate how the program will further engagement in underserved communities and with individuals from underserved communities.

Applicants should describe how programming will impact all of its beneficiaries, including support for underserved and underrepresented communities. This approach should be an integral part of both the concept and explicit design, and implementation of all proposed project activities, objectives, and monitoring. Strong proposals will provide specific analysis, measures, and corresponding targets as appropriate. Stakeholders shall identify the difference between opportunities and barriers to access, and design programs accordingly to not perpetuate these inequalities, but rather enhance programmatic impact by including all people in society. The goal of this approach is to bring communities and those in power together in support of more stable and secure societies.

#### Cost Effectiveness

DRL strongly encourages applicants to clearly demonstrate project cost-effectiveness in their application, including examples of leveraging institutional and other resources. However, cost-sharing or other examples of leveraging other resources are not required. Inclusion of cost-sharing in the budget does not result in additional points awarded during the review process. Budgets should have low and/or reasonable overhead and administration costs, and applicants should provide clear explanations and justifications for these costs in relation to the work involved. All budget items should be clearly explained and justified to demonstrate necessity, appropriateness, and connection to the project objectives.

*Please note: If cost share is included in the budget, the recipient must maintain written records to support all allowable costs that are claimed as its contribution to cost share, as well as costs to be paid by the Federal government. Such records are subject to audit. In the event the recipient does not meet the minimum amount of cost-sharing as stipulated in the recipient's budget, DRL's contribution may be reduced in proportion to the recipient's contribution.*

#### Multiplier Effect/Sustainability

Applications should clearly delineate how elements of the project will have a multiplier effect and be sustainable beyond the life of the grant. A good multiplier effect will have an impact beyond the direct beneficiaries of the grant (e.g. participants trained under a grant go on to train other people; workshop participants use skills from a workshop to enhance a national level election that affects the entire populace). A strong sustainability plan may include demonstrating continuing impact beyond the life of a project or garnering other donor support after DRL funding ceases.

#### Project Monitoring and Evaluation

Complete applications will include a detailed M&E Narrative and M&E Plan, which detail how the project's progress will be monitored and evaluated. Incorporating well-designed monitoring and evaluation processes into a project is an efficient method for documenting the change (intended and unintended) that a project seeks. Applications should demonstrate the capacity to provide objectives with measurable outputs and outcomes.

The quality of the M&E sections will be judged on the narrative explaining how both monitoring and evaluation will be carried out and who will be responsible for those related activities. The M&E Narrative should explain how an external evaluation will be incorporated into the project implementation plan or how the project will be systematically assessed in the absence of one. Please see the section on *Monitoring and Evaluation Plan* in the Proposal Submission Instructions (PSI) for more information on what is required in the narrative.

The output and outcome-based performance indicators should not only be separated by project objectives but also should match the objectives, outcomes, and outputs detailed in the Logic Model and Proposal Narrative. Performance indicators should be clearly defined (i.e., explained how the indicators will be measured and reported) either within the table or with a separate Performance Indicator Reference Sheet (PIRS). For each performance indicator, the table should also include baselines and quarterly and cumulative targets, data collection tools, data sources, types of data disaggregation, and frequency of monitoring and evaluation. There should also be metrics to capture how project activities target those who face

discrimination due to their religion, gender, disabilities, ethnicity or sexual orientation and gender identity, where applicable. Please see the section on *Monitoring and Evaluation Plan* in the Proposal Submission Instructions (PSI) for more information on what is required in the plan.

## **E.2 Review and Selection Process**

DRL strives to ensure that each application receives a balanced evaluation by a DRL review panel. The Department's Office of Acquisitions Management (AQM) will determine technical eligibility for all applications. All technically eligible applications for a given NOFO are reviewed against the same seven criteria, which include quality of project idea, project planning/ability to achieve objectives, institutional record and capacity, inclusive programming, cost effectiveness, multiplier effect/sustainability, and project monitoring and evaluation.

Additionally, the DRL review panel will evaluate how the application addresses the NOFO request, U.S. foreign policy goals, and the priority needs of DRL overall. DRL may also take into consideration the balance of the current portfolio of active projects, including geographic or thematic diversity, if needed.

In most cases, the DRL review panel includes representatives from DRL, the appropriate Department of State regional bureau (to include feedback from U.S. embassies), and U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) (to include feedback from USAID missions). In some cases, additional panelists may participate, including from other Department of State bureaus or offices; U.S. government departments, agencies, or boards; representatives from partner governments; or representatives from entities that are in a public-private partnership with DRL. At the end of the panel's discussion about an application, the review panel votes on whether to recommend the application for approval by the DRL Assistant Secretary. If more applications are recommended for approval than DRL can ultimately fund, the review panel will rank the recommended applications in priority order for consideration by the DRL Assistant Secretary. The Grants Officer Representative (GOR) for the eventual award does not vote on the panel. All panelists must sign non-disclosure agreements and conflicts of interest agreements.

DRL review panels may provide conditions and recommendations on applications to enhance the proposed project, which must be addressed by the applicant before further consideration of the award. To ensure effective use of DRL funds, conditions or recommendations may include requests to increase, decrease, clarify, and/or justify costs and project activities.

## **F. Federal Award Administration Information**

### **F.1 Federal Award Notices**

DRL will provide a separate notification to applicants on the result of their applications. Successful applicants will receive a letter electronically via email requesting that the applicant respond to review panel conditions and recommendations. This notification is not an authorization to begin activities and does not constitute formal approval or a funding commitment. Final approval is contingent on the applicant successfully responding to the review panel's conditions and recommendations; being registered in required systems, including the U.S. government's Payment Management System (PMS), unless an exemption is provided; and completing and providing any additional documentation requested by DRL or AQM. Final approval is also contingent on Congressional Notification requirements being met and final review and approval by the Department's warranted Grants Officer.

The notice of Federal award signed by the Department's warranted Grants Officers is the sole authorizing document. If awarded, the notice of Federal award will be provided to the applicant's designated Authorizing Official via SAMS Domestic to be electronically counter-signed in the system.

### **F.2 Administrative and National Policy and Legal Requirements**

DRL requires all recipients of foreign assistance funding to comply with all applicable Department and Federal laws and regulations, including but not limited to the following:

The Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards set forth in 2 CFR



Chapter 200 (Sub-Chapters A through F) shall apply to all non-Federal entities, except for assistance awards to Individuals and Foreign Public Entities. Sub-Chapters A through E shall apply to all foreign organizations, and Sub-Chapters A through D shall apply to all U.S. and foreign for-profit entities. The applicant/recipient of the award and any sub-recipient under the award must comply with all applicable terms and conditions, in addition to the assurance and certifications made part of the Notice of Award. The Department's Standard Terms and Conditions can be viewed at <https://www.state.gov/about-us-office-of-the-procurement-executive/>.

Additionally, DRL supports implementation of the Women Peace and Security Act of 2017, which highlights the U.S. commitment to the meaningful participation of women in conflict prevention, management, and resolution. For additional information, please refer to the following link: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/senate-bill/1141>.

Due to the determination made under the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) for FY 2021, assistance that benefits the governments of the following countries may be subject to a restriction under the TVPA. The Department of State determines on a case-by-case basis what constitutes assistance to a government; the general principles listed below apply.

Assistance to the government includes:

- All branches of government (executive, legislative, judicial) at all levels (national, regional, local);
- Public schools, universities, hospitals, and state-owned enterprises, as well as government employees;
- Cash, training, equipment, services, or other assistance provided directly to the government, assistance provided to an NGO or other implementer for the benefit of the government, and assistance to government employees.

Additional requirements may be included depending on the content of the program.

### F.3 Reporting

Applicants should be aware that DRL awards will require that all reports (financial and progress) are uploaded to the grant file in SAMS Domestic on a quarterly basis. The Federal Financial Report (FFR or SF-425) is the required form for the financial reports and must be submitted in PMS, as well as a copy from PMS then uploaded to the grant file in SAMS Domestic. The progress reports uploaded to the grant file in SAMS Domestic must include a narrative as described below and Project Indicators (or other mutually agreed upon format approved by the Grants Officer) for the F Framework indicators. The F Framework indicators will be reviewed and negotiated during the final stages of issuing an award.

Narrative progress reports should reflect the focus on measuring the project's impact on the overarching objectives and should be compiled according to the objectives, outcomes, and outputs as outlined in the award's Scope of Work (SOW) and in the Monitoring & Evaluation Narrative. An assessment of the overall project's impact should be included in each progress report. Where relevant, progress reports should include the following sections:

- Relevant contextual information (limited);
- Explanation and evaluation of significant activities of the reporting period and how the activities reflect progress toward achieving objectives, including meeting benchmarks/targets as set in the M&E Plan. In addition, attach the M&E Plan, comparing the target and actual numbers for the indicators;
- Any tangible impact or success stories from the project, when possible;
- Copy of mid-term and/or final evaluation report(s) conducted by an external evaluator; if applicable;
- Relevant supporting documentation or products related to the project activities (such as articles, meeting lists and agendas, participant surveys, photos, manuals, etc.) as separate attachments;
- Description of how the recipient is pursuing sustainability, including looking for sources of follow-on funding;
- Any problems/challenges in implementing the project and a corrective action plan with an updated timeline of activities;
- Reasons why established goals were not met;
- Data for the required F Framework indicator(s) for the quarter as well as aggregate data by fiscal year;
- Program Indicators or other mutually agreed upon format approved by the Grants Officer;
- Proposed activities for the next quarter; and,
- Additional pertinent information, including analysis and explanation of cost overruns or high unit costs, if applicable.

**Foreign Assistance Data Review:** As required by Congress, the Department of State must make progress in its efforts to

improve tracking and reporting of foreign assistance data through the Foreign Assistance Data Review (FADR). The FADR requires tracking of foreign assistance activity data from budgeting, planning, and allocation through obligation and disbursement. Successful applicants will be required to report and draw down federal funding based on the appropriate FADR Data Elements, indicated within their award documentation. In cases of more than one FADR Data Element, typically program or sector and/or regions or country, the successful applicant will be required to maintain separate accounting records.

A final narrative and financial report must also be submitted within 120 days after the expiration of the award.

Please note: Delays in reporting may result in delays of payment approvals and failure to provide required reports may jeopardize the recipient's ability to receive future U.S. government funds. DRL reserves the right to request any additional programmatic and/or financial project information during the award period.

## G. Contact Information

For technical submission questions related to this NOFO, please contact [DRL-NEAProgramInfo@state.gov](mailto:DRL-NEAProgramInfo@state.gov).

For assistance with Grants.gov accounts and technical issues related to using the system, please call the Contact Center at +1 (800) 518-4726 or email [support@grants.gov](mailto:support@grants.gov). The Contact Center is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, except federal holidays.

For a list of federal holidays visit:

<https://www.opm.gov/policy-data-oversight/pay-leave/federal-holidays/>

Except for technical submission questions, during the NOFO period U.S. Department of State staff in Washington and overseas shall not discuss this competition with applicants until the entire proposal review process has been completed and rejection and approval letters have been transmitted.

## H. Other Information

Applicants should be aware that DRL understands that some information contained in applications may be considered sensitive or proprietary and will make appropriate efforts to protect such information. However, applicants are advised that DRL cannot guarantee that such information will not be disclosed, including pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) or other similar statutes.

The information in this NOFO and "Proposal Submission Instructions for Applications" is binding and may not be modified by any DRL representative. Explanatory information provided by DRL that contradicts this language will not be binding. Issuance of the NOFO and negotiation of applications does not constitute an award commitment on the part of the U.S. government. DRL reserves the right to reduce, revise, or increase proposal budgets.

This NOFO will appear on [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov), [SAMS Domestic](#), and DRL's website <https://www.state.gov/bureau-of-democracy-human-rights-and-labor/programs-and-grants/>.

[Background Information on DRL and General DRL Funding](#)

DRL has the mission of promoting democracy and protecting human rights globally. DRL supports projects that uphold democratic principles, support and strengthen democratic institutions, promote human rights, prevent atrocities, combat and prevent violent extremism, and build civil society around the world. DRL typically focuses its work in countries with egregious human rights violations, where democracy and human rights advocates are under pressure and where governments are undemocratic or in transition.

Additional background information on DRL and its efforts can be found on <https://www.state.gov/bureaus-offices/under-secretary-for-civilian-security-democracy-and-human-rights/bureau-of-democracy-human-rights-and-labor/>.

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This email was sent to baldwinpr@state.gov using GovDelivery Communications Cloud on behalf of: U.S. Department of State · 2201 C Street NW · Washington, DC 20520



<b>Sender:</b>	(b)(6)	@state.gov>
<b>Recipient:</b>	(b)(6)	@duke.edu>

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<b>From:</b>	(b)(6)@state.gov>
<b>To:</b>	(b)(6)@state.gov>
<b>Subject:</b>	Fwd: GO Technical Eligibility Decision: SFOP0008613 Full Proposal Applications
<b>Date:</b>	Thu, 23 Jun 2022 15:40:43 +0000

Here you go!

---  
Sent from Workspace ONE Boxer

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Date:** April 18, 2022 at 4:48:21 PM EDT  
**Subject:** GO Technical Eligibility Decision: SFOP0008613 Full Proposal Applications  
**To:** (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Cc:** (b)(6)@state.gov> (b)(6)@state.gov>

Hi (b)(6)

Please find attached two draft technical ineligibility letters addressed to organizations responding to the recent open-source solicitation, *DRL Strengthening Human Rights and Accountability in Israel and the West Bank and Gaza* (Funding Opportunity Number SFOP0008613).

1. Individual (b)(6) was missing the following submission requirements:

- a. Cover Page
- b. Executive Summary
- c. Table of Contents
- d. Proposal Narrative
- e. Budget
- f. Logic Model
- g. M&E Narrative
- h. M&E Plan/Table
- i. Risk Analysis
- j. Key Personnel
- k. Gender and Inclusion Analysis
- l. Security Plan
- m. Contingency Plan
- n. Lessons Learned
- o. Psychosocial Assistance

2. (b)(6) was missing the following submission requirements:

- a. Cover Page
- b. Executive Summary
- c. Table of Contents
- a. Logic Model
- b. M&E Narrative

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- c. M&E Plan/Table
- d. Risk Analysis
- a. Timeline
- b. Gender and Inclusion Analysis
- c. Security Plan
- d. Contingency Plan
- e. Psychosocial Assistance

Please review and confirm that these applications are technically ineligible and if the attached draft letters are approved to send out.

Feel free to reach out if you have any questions or concerns.

Thank you!

(b)(6)

Program Specialist

Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor | Office of Global Programs  
U.S. Department of State | Contracting Resources Group (CRG) - Contractor

(b)(6)@state.gov

<b>Sender:</b>	(b)(6)	@state.gov>
<b>Recipient:</b>	(b)(6)	@state.gov>

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*U.S. Department of State  
Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor  
Washington, D.C. 20520*

April 18, 2022

Dear (b)(6)

Thank you for your submission to the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor's (DRL) solicitation titled *DRL: DRL Strengthening Human Rights and Accountability in Israel and the West Bank and Gaza* – Funding Opportunity Number SFOP0008613. We appreciated the opportunity to review your application.

Unfortunately, your organization's application was deemed technically ineligible because it was missing the following information:

(b)(5)

(b)(5)

We wish you success in finding alternate sources of funding for your project. If you have further questions, please contact [DRL-NEAProgramInfo@state.gov](mailto:DRL-NEAProgramInfo@state.gov).

Sincerely,

(b)(6)

Grants Officer  
A/OPE/AQM/IP  
U.S. Department of State

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*U.S. Department of State  
Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor  
Washington, D.C. 20520*

April 18, 2022

Dear (b)(6)

Thank you for your submission to the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor's (DRL) solicitation titled *DRL: DRL Strengthening Human Rights and Accountability in Israel and the West Bank and Gaza* – Funding Opportunity Number SFOP0008613. We appreciated the opportunity to review your application.

Unfortunately, your organization's application was deemed technically ineligible because it was missing the following information:

(b)(5)

(b)(5)

We wish you success in finding alternate sources of funding for your project. If you have further questions, please contact [DRL-NEAProgramInfo@state.gov](mailto:DRL-NEAProgramInfo@state.gov).

Sincerely,

(b)(6)

Grants Officer  
A/OPE/AQM/IP  
U.S. Department of State

<b>From:</b>	DRL-NEAProgramInfo <DRL-NEAProgramInfo@state.gov>
<b>To:</b>	(b)(6)@state.gov>
<b>Subject:</b>	FW: SFOP0008613
<b>Date:</b>	Wed, 30 Mar 2022 20:25:47 +0000

Hi (b)(6)

Passing this email along. It doesn't sound like this group is requesting a sam.gov/uei exemption, but I wanted to pass along for awareness.

Best

(b)(6)

Program Specialist

Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor | Office of Global Programs  
U.S. Department of State | Contracting Resources Group (CRG) - Contractor

(b)(6)@state.gov

---

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

**Sent:** Friday, March 25, 2022 9:09 PM

**To:** DRL-NEAProgramInfo <DRL-NEAProgramInfo@state.gov>

**Subject:** SFOP0008613

This is a request for exemptions for an application for funding via SFOP008613  
"DRL Strengthening Human Rights and Accountability in Israel and the West Bank and Gaza"

This applicant's identity must be protected due to the potential impossibility of the project without the protection abnormality provides to a clandestine operation. The data collection process is to be carried out under cover of another project that will establish relationships and communication that will enable access to opinions, motivation and observation that can be gained no other way and will have substantial benefit in understanding the pervasiveness of violations and their motivation.

The application for funding will be processed by

(b)(6)

if further information of change in format is necessary prior to the application deadline for this application please reach out as soon as possible.

(b)(6)

25 March 2022

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~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~

**Sender:** DRL-NEAProgramInfo <DRL-NEAProgramInfo@state.gov>

**Recipient:** (b)(6) @state.gov>

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

**To:** DRL-FO-Staff Assistants <DRL-FO-StaffAssistants@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>

**CC:** (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>

**Subject:** For Submission: J SFRC Combating Authoritarianism QFRs

**Date:** Mon, 28 Mar 2022 20:11:53 +0000

Hello (b)(6)

Please find attached, DRL's QFRs for Risch 1-2 (on democracy assistance & USAID coordination) and Cruz 1-4 (on the solicitation for programs in Israel and the West Bank and Gaza). I have pinged GPA on their clearance and will keep you posted if / when I hear back.

My apologies again for the delay!

Thanks,

(b)(6)

DRL/Office of Global Programs (DRL/GP)

Mobile: (b)(6)

Contractor for Competitive Innovations

Pronouns: she/her

~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~

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

**Recipient:** DRL-FO-Staff Assistants <DRL-FO-StaffAssistants@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>

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**Questions for the Record Submitted to  
Under Secretary of State Uzra Zeya by  
Senator Ted Cruz (No. 1 to No. 4)  
U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Relations,  
March 28, 2022**

**Question 1:**

To what extent has DRL previously issued notices for projects aimed at documenting human rights violations occurring in Israel? Please explicitly cite and convey any notices you believe are precedents for or similar to SFOP0008613 in that context.

**Answer 1:**

DRL funds a wide range of programs aimed at promoting civil society engagement at the local level as well as on issues related to human rights violations by security forces around the world. We have not issued any solicitations for these activities with respect to Israel or the West Bank/Gaza previously. In 2019 DRL solicited, through an open competition, proposals for programs supporting civil society organizations to reduce barriers to full inclusion of members of marginalized groups in Israel in political and economic processes.

**Questions for the Record Submitted to  
Under Secretary of State Uzra Zeya by  
Senator Ted Cruz (No. 1 to No. 4)  
U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Relations,  
March 28, 2022**

**Question 2:**

What “legal or security sector violations and housing, land, and property rights” violations that have occurred or are occurring in Israel that you believe are relevant to projects described by SFOP0008613?

**Answer 2:**

This solicitation allows local civil society organizations to design and submit proposals based on their assessment of local conditions and which they deem relevant to the context in which they would work.

**Questions for the Record Submitted to  
Under Secretary of State Uzra Zeya by  
Senator Ted Cruz (No. 1 to No. 4)  
U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Relations,  
March 28, 2022**

**Question 3:**

What sorts of products or deliverables you envision receiving from projects described by SFOP0008613?

**Answer 3:**

Local civil society organizations who apply under this solicitation will propose potential products or deliverables based on their assessment of local conditions.



**Questions for the Record Submitted to  
Under Secretary of State Uzra Zeya by  
Senator Ted Cruz (No. 1 to No. 4)  
U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Relations,  
March 28, 2022**

**Question 4:**

What proposals have already been submitted for projects described by SFOP0008613?

**Answer 4:**

The number and organizational specifics of proposals are not known as the Notice of Funding Opportunity has not closed yet. Additionally, Department grants policy directs the process remain confidential until a Federal Assistance Award has been granted.

**Questions for the Record Submitted to  
Under Secretary of State Uzra Zeya by  
Senator Ted Cruz (No. 1 to No. 4)  
U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Relations,  
March 28, 2022**

Clearance page for QFRs 1-4

Approved: DRL – Lisa Peterson, Acting

Drafted: DRL/GP – (b)(6)

Cleared:	DRL/FO: A/PDAS SBusby	()
	DRL/GP: (b)(6)	(ok)
	DRL/PPD: (b)(6)	(info by request)
	DRL/NEA: (b)(6)	(ok)
	NEA/IPA: (b)(6)	(ok)
	A/OPE/AOM: (b)(6)	(info)
	L/AN: (b)(6)	(ok)
	L/HRR: (b)(6)	(ok)
	J: (b)(6)	(ok)
	D: (b)(6)	(info by request)
	P: (b)(6)	(info)
	S/P: (b)(6)	(info by request)
	H: (b)(6)	(ok)
	F: (b)(6)	(ok)
	R: (b)(6)	(ok)
	GPA: (b)(6)	()
	D-MR: (b)(6)	(no response)
	C: C Special Assistants	(info)

OBTAINED BY AMERICAN FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION THROUGH LITIGATION

**Questions for the Record Submitted to  
Under Secretary of State Uzra Zeya by  
Senator Jim Risch (No. 1 to No. 2)  
U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Relations,  
March 28, 2022**

**Question 1:**

Please compare and contrast State Department's versus USAID's democracy assistance efforts. What is the extent of coordination of these efforts?

**Answer 1:**

Democracy assistance addresses our most pressing national security threats by promoting democratic values, fighting corruption, empowering civil society and human rights defenders, and promoting independent media. Both USAID and the Department have key and distinct roles in ensuring the United States accomplishes our goals for democracy assistance.

Most of USAID's democracy assistance efforts focus on longer-term, field-managed programs working through deep networks and systems that prioritize capacity development for local actors and contribute to sustainable development, including through democracy, human rights, and governance integration in other sectoral programs, USAID's DRG Center also has over \$40 million in annual funding available to respond to urgent emerging and unanticipated issues. The Department's democracy programs are aligned to support specific foreign policy goals. As the lead for democracy and human rights programming in the Department, the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor (DRL), uses centrally managed funds to retain the flexibility needed to respond quickly to emerging opportunities and challenges. DRL is currently directly allocated over \$250 million in funding annually. Over 85 percent of DRL's programs operate in restrictive or conflict-ridden environments.

The Department coordinates with USAID on democracy programming in Washington and in the field and worked to develop closer collaboration during the development of the Summit for Democracy. For example, in the budget planning process, DRL and USAID conduct

**Questions for the Record Submitted to  
Under Secretary of State Uzra Zeya by  
Senator Jim Risch (No. 1 to No. 2)  
U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Relations,  
March 28, 2022**

briefings together to help set priorities for the coming year. At a programmatic level, DRL seeks USAID clearance of solicitations and invites USAID to participate in proposal panels. When DRL conducts in-country program monitoring, DRL consults with USAID Missions whenever appropriate. DRL and USAID also coordinate on country-specific democracy assistance efforts and on shared thematic concerns, such as combatting corruption, Internet freedom, and global labor programming.

**Questions for the Record Submitted to  
Under Secretary of State Uzra Zeya by  
Senator Jim Risch (No. 1 to No. 2)  
U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Relations,  
March 28, 2022**

**Question 2:**

What steps have been taken to improve this coordination as well as coordination with other foreign donors?

**Answer 2:**

The Department and USAID continually look for ways to enhance coordination with other donors. For example, we are conducting regular, high-level and working-level engagement to coordinate programmatic approaches, align deliverables, and sustain programming for the Presidential Initiative for Democratic Renewal (PIDR), in order to support the objectives of the Summit for Democracy most effectively.

USAID and the Department also have increased outreach to foreign donors, especially in relation to country commitments that were made at the Summit for Democracy and to support PIDR deliverables. For example, DRL is working through U.S. embassies to increase the contributions of foreign counterparts to the multi-donor Global Anti-Corruption Consortium, as well as other DRL public-private partnerships such as Lifeline and the Global Equality Fund. USAID has provided start-up funding to the International Fund for Public Interest Media as a means to garner greater global donor assistance for media financial sustainability and is collaborating with a range of donors on initiatives such as Powered by the People seed funding and the Election Integrity Fund.

**Questions for the Record Submitted to  
Under Secretary of State Uzra Zeya by  
Senator Jim Risch (No. 1 to No. 2)  
U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Relations,  
March 28, 2022**

Clearance page for QFRs 1-2

Approved: DRL – Lisa Peterson, Acting Assistant Secretary

Drafted: DRL/GP (b)(6)

Cleared:	DRL/FO: A/PDAS SBusby	()
	DRL (b)(6)	(ok)
	DRL/GP: (b)(6)	(ok)
	DRL/PPD	(ok)
	AF/ERA:	(ok)
	NEA/AC: AC Planners Distro	(no response)
	EUR/ACE: (b)(6)	(info by request)
	EAP/RSP:	(no response)
	WHA/PPC:	(ok)
	SCA/STA: STA Distro	(no response)
	J: (b)(6)	(ok)
	D:	(info)
	P:	(ok)
	S/P: (b)(6)	(info)
	H: (b)(6)	(ok)
	F:	(ok)
	R: (b)(6)	(ok)
	GPA: (b)(6)	()
	D-MR: (b)(6)	(no response)
	C: C Special Assistants	(info)
	USAID: (b)(6)	(ok)

OBTAINED BY AMERICAN OVERSIGHT THROUGH LEGAL FOUNDATION THROUGH LITIGATION

## U.S. Department of State CONFIDENTIALITY AGREEMENT

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As a reviewer of applications submitted to DRL, I agree to abide by the terms of confidentiality set forth in this agreement and the Instructions to Reviewers for the review panel process.

I understand that all information in grant applications is respected under this confidentiality agreement for the purpose of protecting the integrity of the competitive review process. With this in mind, as a panel review member I agree not to discuss oral or written communications initiated and created in the context of, or resulting from, the grant review activities:

I agree that:

- I will not discuss the proposals, evaluations, recommendations, or names of applicants with any individual not involved in the review of these applications.
- I agree to destroy any written material, such as proposals at the conclusion of or immediately after the review panel.
- I will not share any of the documents received electronically with any individual not involved in the review of these applications.
- I further understand that the integrity of the review process is based on maintaining the confidentiality of reviewers as well as of applicants and applicant submissions.
- At no time will I discuss the names of other reviewers with any individual not involved in the review panel.
- At no time will I put the name of a reviewer on any of the documents from the panel.
- At no time will I contact applicants or respond to questions from applicants regarding their proposals or the results of the grant review.

NAME (Print) \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

**Panel Name/NOFO Title:** DRL: Strengthening Human Rights and Accountability in Israel and the West Bank and Gaza

**Panel Dates:** May 10, 2022

### U.S. Department of State CONFIDENTIALITY AGREEMENT

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NAME (Print) \_\_\_\_\_ (b)(6) \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ \_07/11/2022\_\_\_\_\_

**Panel Name/NOFO Title:** DRL: Strengthening Human Rights and Accountability in Israel and the West Bank and Gaza

**Panel Dates:** May 10, 2022



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NAME (Print) (b)(6)

SIGNATURE (b)(6) DATE 5/9/22

**Panel Name/NOFO Title:** DRL: Strengthening Human Rights and Accountability in Israel and the West Bank and Gaza

**Panel Dates:** May 10, 2022

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NAME (Print) \_\_\_\_\_

(b)(6)

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_/s

(b)(6)

DATE July 13, 2022 (originally signed 5/10/2022)

**Panel Name/NOFO Title:** DRL: Strengthening Human Rights and Accountability in Israel and the West Bank and Gaza

**Panel Dates:** May 10, 2022

### U.S. Department of State DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

As a reviewer of applications submitted to DRL, I find the following conflicts with proposals that I have received to review:

- I am listed as a staff member, consultant, or advisor on a proposal.
- I have close personal or familial relationship with the author or staff on a proposal.
- I have or recently (i.e., within last year) had a financial relationship with the author or staff on a proposal involving grants, publications, presentations, etc.
- I have or recently had a professional relationship with an applicant under review, including serving as an officer or having served as a past officer or as a member of the board of directors of the submitting organization.
- I am or recently been a faculty or staff member of a department, school, university, or organization submitting a proposal.
- I have or recently had collaborative relationship (outside of my USG work) with a proposal's author or project staff.
- I cannot review a proposal objectively or I feel that others would view such action to be problematic.

Provide the name of the applicant and proposal in conflict: \_\_\_\_\_

I do not have a conflict with any of the proposals assigned to the panel on which I serve.

NAME (Print) \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

**Panel Name/NOFO Title:** DRL: Strengthening Human Rights and Accountability in Israel and the West Bank and Gaza

**Panel Dates:** May 10, 2022

**U.S. Department of State  
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NAME (Print) (b)(6) \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE (b)(6) \_\_\_\_\_ DATE 07/11/2022 \_\_\_\_\_

**Panel Name/NOFO Title:** DRL: Strengthening Human Rights and Accountability in Israel and the West Bank and Gaza

**Panel Dates:** May 10, 2022

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NAME (Print)

SIGNATURE  DATE 5/9/22

**Panel Name/NOFO Title:** DRL: Strengthening Human Rights and Accountability in Israel and the West Bank and Gaza

**Panel Dates:** May 10, 2022

**From:** (b)(6)  
**To:** (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)  
**Subject:** Re: Request for Budget - SFOP0008613  
**Date:** Fri, 15 Apr 2022 17:14:31 +0000

Dear (b)(6)

Thank you for getting in touch with us. Please find attached the Budget for the project. I've also attached the other financial documents (the Budget Narrative, SF424A, and our most recent audit) in case there was a problem with any of them. Please do not hesitate to reach out if there's anything else you need.

All the best,  
(b)(6)

(b)(6)




---

**From:** (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Date:** Friday, 15 April 2022 at 5:38 PM  
**To:** (b)(6)  
**Subject:** Request for Budget - SFOP0008613

Dear (b)(6)

Thank you for your application to DRL funding opportunity SFOP0008613. Your application was successfully submitted but the budget file did not transfer from grants.gov.

Please submit a copy of your budget via email by COB today.

Best,

(b)(6)

OBTAINED BY AMERICA FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION THROUGH LITIGATION

<b>Sender:</b>	(b)(6)
<b>Recipient:</b>	(b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)

OBTAINED BY AMERICA FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION THROUGH LITIGATION