

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

AMERICA FIRST LEGAL  
FOUNDATION,  
611 Pennsylvania Ave SE #231  
Washington, DC 20003

*Plaintiff,*

v.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF  
STATE,  
2201 C St NW  
Washington, DC 20451

Civil Action 24-3115

*Defendant.*

**COMPLAINT**

1. Plaintiff America First Legal Foundation (“AFL”) brings this action against the United States Department of State to compel compliance with the Freedom of Information Act (“FOIA”), 5 U.S.C. § 552.

**JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

2. The Court has jurisdiction over this action pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(B) and 28 U.S.C. § 1331. Additionally, it may grant declaratory relief pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2201 *et seq.*

3. Venue is proper in this District pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(B) and 28 U.S.C. § 1391(e).

## **PARTIES**

4. Plaintiff AFL is a nonprofit organization working to promote the rule of law in the United States, prevent executive overreach, ensure due process and equal protection for all Americans, and encourage public knowledge and understanding of the law and individual rights guaranteed under the United States Constitution and the laws of the United States. AFL's mission includes promoting government transparency and accountability by gathering official information, analyzing it, and disseminating it through reports, press releases, and/or other media, including social media platforms, all to educate the public.

5. Defendant United States Department of State is an "agency" within the meaning of 5 U.S.C. § 552(f), with its offices located at 2201 C St. NW, Washington, DC 20451. The Department of State has possession and control of the records AFL seeks.

## **FACTS**

### *May 14, 2024 FOIA Request, F-2024-11342*

6. On May 14, 2024, AFL submitted a FOIA request to the United States Department of State seeking records related to Israel, Palestine, Gaza, Lebanon, Iran, and other keywords from Secretary of State Antony Blinken, Victoria Nuland, and Hady Amr. *See Ex. 1.*

7. On May 14, 2024, the Department of State acknowledged receipt of the FOIA request and assigned it the tracking number F-2024-11342. *See Exs. 2, 3.*

8. On May 31, 2024, the Department of State emailed AFL, stating that the Department of State “will not be able to respond within the 20 days provided by the statute due to ‘unusual circumstances.’ See 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(6)(B)(i)-(iii).” See *Ex. 4*.

9. On June 7, 2024, the Department of State emailed AFL requesting that AFL narrow the scope of the request. See *Ex. 5*.

10. On June 7, 2024, the Department of State emailed AFL, stating that the request’s status had been updated to “On Hold - Need Info/Clarification.” See *Ex. 6*.

11. On June 7, 2024, AFL responded by agreeing to narrow Parts B and C of the request. See *Ex. 7*.

12. On June 7, 2024, the Department of State emailed AFL, stating that the request’s status had been updated to “In Process.” See *Ex. 8*.

13. On June 10, 2024, the Department of State acknowledged AFL’s agreement to narrow Parts B and C of the request and asked if AFL was willing to provide context for Parts A and D. See *Ex. 9*.

14. On June 10, 2024, the Department of State emailed AFL, stating that the request’s status had been updated “On Hold - Fee Related.” See *Ex. 10*.

15. On June 10, 2024, AFL responded to the Department of State with respect to Parts A and D of the request. See *Ex. 11*.

16. On June 12, 2024, the Department of State emailed AFL, stating that the request’s status had been updated “In Process.” See *Ex. 12*.

17. On June 12, 2024, the Department of State acknowledged AFL's agreement to narrow Parts A and D of the request. *See Ex. 13.*

18. As of the date of filing, AFL has received no further communications from the Department of State concerning this FOIA request.

*June 10, 2024 FOIA Request, F-2024-12658*

19. On June 10, 2024, AFL submitted a FOIA request to the Department of State seeking records of communications and calendar entries of senior Department of State officials, including Secretary of State Antony Blinken, for the time period June 7, 2024, through June 10, 2024. *See Ex. 14.*

20. On June 10, 2024, the Department of State acknowledged receipt of the FOIA request and assigned it the tracking number F-2024-12658. *See Exs. 15, 16.*

21. On June 25, 2024, the Department of State emailed AFL, stating that the Department of State "will not be able to respond within the 20 days provided by the statute due to 'unusual circumstances.'" *See 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(6)(B)(i)-(iii).* *See Ex. 17.*

22. On October 24, 2024, the Department of State emailed AFL, stating that the request's status had been updated "In Process." *See Ex. 18.*

23. As of the date of filing, AFL has received no further communications from the Department of State concerning this FOIA.

*August 27, 2024 FOIA Request, F-2024-18850*

24. On August 27, 2024, AFL submitted a FOIA request to the Department of State seeking records of Secretary of State Antony Blinken, Chief of Staff Suzy George, and Deputy Chief of Staff Tom Sullivan relating to Lebanon and Hezbollah. *See Ex. 19.*

25. On August 27, 2024, the Department of State acknowledged receipt of the FOIA request and assigned it the tracking number F-2024-18850. *See Exs. 20, 21.*

26. On September 19, 2024, the Department of State emailed AFL, stating that the Department of State “will not be able to respond within the 20 days provided by the statute due to ‘unusual circumstances.’ See 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(6)(B)(i)-(iii).” *See Ex. 22.*

27. On September 20, 2024, the Department of State emailed AFL, stating that the request’s status had been updated “In Process.” *See Ex. 23.*

28. As of the date of filing, AFL has received no further communications from the Department of State concerning this FOIA.

**CLAIM FOR RELIEF**

**Violation of FOIA, 5 U.S.C. § 552**

29. AFL repeats paragraphs 1–28.

30. AFL properly requested records within the possession, custody, and control of the Defendant.

31. The Defendant has failed to produce the requested records within the statutory time limit.

32. Accordingly, AFL has exhausted its administrative remedies. *See* 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(6)(c)(i).

33. The Defendant has violated the FOIA by failing, within the prescribed time limit, to reasonably search for records responsive to AFL's FOIA requests and release nonexempt records.

### **RELIEF REQUESTED**

WHEREFORE, AFL respectfully requests this Court:

i. Declare that the records sought by these requests, as described in the foregoing, must be disclosed pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 552;

ii. Order the Defendant to conduct searches immediately for all records responsive to AFL's FOIA requests and demonstrate that they employed search methods reasonably likely to lead to the discovery of responsive records;

iii. Order the Defendant to produce by a date certain all non-exempt records responsive to AFL's FOIA requests, accompanied by a Vaughn index of any responsive records or portions of responsive records being withheld under a claim of exemption;

iv. Order the Defendant to grant AFL's requests for fee waivers;

v. Award AFL attorney's fees and costs pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(E);  
and

vi. Grant AFL such other and further relief as this court deems proper

[signature page follows]

November 1, 2024.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ William Scolinos

William Scolinos (DC Bar No. 90023488)

Michael Ding (DC Bar No. 1027252)

(301) 965-0179

AMERICA FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION

611 Pennsylvania Avenue SE #231

Washington, DC 20003

William.Scolinos@aflegal.org

*Counsel for America First Legal Foundation*



May 14, 2024

**Via FOIA Portal**

Office of Information Programs and Services (A/GIS/IPS)  
Room B-266  
U.S. Department of State  
2201 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20520

**Freedom of Information Act Request**

Dear FOIA Officer:

America First Legal Foundation is a national, nonprofit organization working to promote the rule of law in the United States, prevent executive overreach, and ensure due process and equal protection for all Americans, all to promote public knowledge and understanding of the law and individual rights guaranteed under the Constitution and laws of the United States. To that end, we file Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests on issues of pressing concern, then disseminate the information we obtain, making documents broadly available to the public, scholars, and the media. Using our editorial skills to turn raw materials into distinct work, we distribute that work to a national audience through traditional and social media platforms. AFL's X page has over 230,000 followers, and the X page of our Founder and President has over 626,000 followers.

**I. Custodians**

- A. Antony Blinken
- B. Victoria Nuland
- C. Hady Amr

**II. Relevant Time Frame**

May 7, 2024 – May 10, 2024; April 12, 2024 – April 15, 2024; and October 6, 2023 – October 9, 2023.

611 Pennsylvania Ave SE #231  
Washington, DC 20003

320 South Madison Avenue  
Monroe, Georgia 30655

### III. Records Requested

- A. All communications (including but not limited to emails, text messages, and messages sent through encrypted messaging applications) between the custodians during the relevant time frame.
- B. All records of communications or calendar entries in the possession or control of each custodian containing the words or phrases: “Israel” OR “Hammas” OR “Palestinian Authority” OR “Gaza” **AND** “civilian” OR “aid” OR “humanitarian” OR “IRGC” OR “Iran” OR “Hezbollah” OR “Lebanon” OR “CIA” OR “Congress” OR “Noll,” OR “retaliation” OR “intelligence” OR “POTUS” OR “White House” OR “Fenzel” OR “USSC” OR “United States Security Coordinator” OR “Palestinian National Security Forces” OR “Palestinian Security Forces.”
- C. All records of communications or calendar entries in the possession or control of each custodian containing the words or phrases “Lebanese Armed Forces” OR “Lebanese Army” OR “Iran” OR “IRGC” OR “Fenzel” OR “USSC” OR “United States Security Coordinator” OR “Palestinian National Security Forces” OR “Palestinian Security Forces.”
- D. All records of communications (including, but not limited to, emails, text messages, and messages sent through encrypted messaging applications) between any custodian listed above and any account with an “EOP.GOV” domain.

### IV. Processing and Fee Waiver

Processing should strictly comply with the processing guidance in the Attorney General’s Memorandum on Freedom of Information Act Guidelines.<sup>1</sup> We have been advised that Mr. Blinken and Mr. Amr may be using both agency and personal email accounts, devices, and messaging applications to conduct agency business.<sup>2</sup> Therefore, please be sure to search all such accounts, devices, and applications where responsive records might be found. If you have any questions about our request or believe further discussions regarding search and processing would facilitate the more efficient production of requested records, please get in touch with us at FOIA@aflegal.org.

Per 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A)(iii) and your agency’s fee waiver regulations, AFL requests a waiver of all search and duplication fees. AFL has a demonstrated ability and intention to effectively convey the information broadly to the public; our status as a representative of the news media has been recognized by other agencies; we have been granted fee waivers by the Departments of State, Defense, Education, Energy,

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<sup>1</sup> U.S. DEPT JUST. (Mar. 15, 2022), <https://bit.ly/3zvpxb6>.

<sup>2</sup> See, e.g., Nahal Toosi and Joe Gould, *FBI Probes Whether Iran Envoy Malley Committed Crimes in Handling of Classified Info*, POLITICO (May 10, 2024), <https://politi.co/4bvHCqX>.

Health and Human Services, Justice, Interior, and Homeland Security. As a non-profit organization, AFL has no commercial interest in this request, which is made entirely to serve the public interest. Finally, disclosure of the information is in the public interest because it is likely to contribute significantly to public understanding of the operations or activities of the government and of government operations. *See* 22 C.F.R. § 171.16(j). We are available to provide additional information in writing or offline to support this request. Please contact us immediately if our fee waiver is not granted in full.

## **V. Conclusion**

To accelerate your release of responsive records, AFL welcomes production on an agreed-upon rolling basis. Please email responsive records in electronic format to [foia@aflegal.org](mailto:foia@aflegal.org). Alternatively, please send responsive records in native or PDF format on a USB drive to America First Legal Foundation, 611 Pennsylvania Ave SE #231, Washington, DC 20003.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

/s/ Reed D. Rubinstein

America First Legal Foundation



AFL FOIA <foia@aflegal.org>

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**Ref: F-2024-11342**

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**foiastatus@state.gov** <foiastatus@state.gov>  
To: foia@aflegal.org

Tue, May 14, 2024 at 6:12 PM

Dear Reed Rubinstein:

Thank you for filing your information access request to the U.S. Department of State. Your request number is F-2024-11342.

You will receive a formal acknowledgement to your request in no later than 10 working days. If the Department requires additional information from you, then you will also be notified.

Should you have any questions about your request, you may also contact us at:

[FOIAStatus@state.gov](mailto:FOIAStatus@state.gov)

Regards,  
Requesters Communications Branch  
Office of Information Programs and Services  
U.S. Department of State



AFL FOIA <foia@aflegal.org>

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## Status Update for Request #F-2024-11342 with DOS

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**foiastatus@state.gov** <foiastatus@state.gov>  
To: foia@aflegal.org

Tue, May 14, 2024 at 6:12 PM

Dear Reed Rubinstein,

The status of your FOIA request #F-2024-11342 has been updated to the following status 'Received'. To learn more, please log into the DoS FOIA Portal via the Application URL below.

<https://pal.foia.state.gov>

Regards,  
DOS

**Ref: F-2024-11342, Freedom of Information Act Acknowledgement**

A\_FOIAacknowledgement@groups.state.gov &lt;A\_FOIAacknowledgement@groups.state.gov&gt;

Fri, May 31, 2024 at  
2:11 PM

To: foia@aflegal.org

\*THIS EMAIL BOX IS NOT MONITORED, PLEASE DO NOT REPLY TO THIS EMAIL.\*\*

Dear Mr. Rubinstein:

This email acknowledges receipt of your May 14, 2024, Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) (5 U.S.C. § 552) request received by the U.S. Department of State, Office of Information Programs and Services on May 15, 2024.

You are seeking a copy of request for records pertaining to: I. Custodians A. Antony Blinken B. Victoria Nuland C. Hady Amr II. Relevant Time Frame May 7, 2024 – May 10, 2024; April 12, 2024 – April 15, 2024; and October 6, 2023 – October 9, 2023. III. Records Requested A. All communications (including but not limited to emails, text messages, and messages sent through encrypted messaging applications) between the custodians during the relevant time frame. B. All records of communications or calendar entries in the possession or control of each custodian containing the words or phrases: “Israel” OR “Hammas” OR “Palestinian Authority” OR “Gaza” AND “civilian” OR “aid” OR “humanitarian” OR “IRGC” OR “Iran” OR “Hezbollah” OR “Lebanon” OR “CIA” OR “Congress” OR “Noll,” OR “retaliation” OR “intelligence” OR “POTUS” OR “White House” OR “Fenzel” OR “USSC” OR “United States Security Coordinator” OR “Palestinian National Security Forces” OR “Palestinian Security Forces.” C. All records of communications or calendar entries in the possession or control of each custodian containing the words or phrases “Lebanese Armed Forces” OR “Lebanese Army” OR “Iran” OR “IRGC” OR “Fenzel” OR “USSC” OR “United States Security Coordinator” OR “Palestinian National Security Forces” OR “Palestinian Security Forces.” D. All records of communications (including, but not limited to, emails, text messages, and messages sent through encrypted messaging applications) between any custodian listed above and any account with an “[EOP.GOV](#)” domain. (Date Range for Record Search: From 10/6/2023 To 5/10/2024). Unless you advise otherwise, we will treat as non-responsive any compilations of publicly available news reports and any publicly available documents not created by the U.S. government, such as mass-distribution emails from news media. This Office assigned your request the subject reference number and placed it in the complex processing track where it will be processed as quickly as possible. See 22 CFR § 171.11(h).

This Office will not be able to respond within the 20 days provided by the statute due to “unusual circumstances.” See 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(6)(B)(i)-(iii). In this instance, the unusual circumstances include the need to search for and collect requested records from other Department offices or Foreign Service posts.

If you have any questions regarding your request, would like to narrow the scope or arrange an alternative time frame to speed its processing, or would like an estimated date of completion, please contact our FOIA Requester Service Center or our FOIA Public Liaison by email at [FOIAstatus@state.gov](mailto:FOIAstatus@state.gov) or telephone at 202-261-8484. Additionally, you may contact the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) at the National Archives and Records Administration to inquire about the FOIA mediation services they offer. The contact information for OGIS is as follows: Office of Government Information Services, National Archives and Records Administration, [8601 Adelphi Road](#)-OGIS, College Park, Maryland 20740-6001, email at [ogis@nara.gov](mailto:ogis@nara.gov); telephone at 202-741-5770; toll free at 1-877-684-6448; or facsimile at 202-741-5769.

\*\*THIS EMAIL BOX IS NOT MONITORED, PLEASE DO NOT REPLY TO THIS EMAIL.\*\*



AFL FOIA <foia@aflegal.org>

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## F-2024-11342 Update Needed

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FOIAStatus@state.gov <FOIAStatus@state.gov>

Fri, Jun 7, 2024 at 9:12 AM

To: foia@aflegal.org

Dear Mr. Rubinstein:

Thank you for submitting FOIA request F-2024-11342. We are currently processing your case but need clarification to proceed. Per this request, you are seeking information regarding:

"I. Custodians

- A. Antony Blinken
- B. Victoria Nuland
- C. Hady Amr

II. Relevant Time Frame

May 7, 2024 – May 10, 2024; April 12, 2024 – April 15, 2024; and October 6, 2023 – October 9, 2023.

III. Records Requested

A. All communications (including but not limited to emails, text messages, and messages sent through encrypted messaging applications) between the custodians during the relevant time frame.

B. All records of communications or calendar entries in the possession or control of each custodian containing the words or phrases: "Israel" OR "Hammas" OR "Palestinian Authority" OR "Gaza" AND "civilian" OR "aid" OR "humanitarian" OR "IRGC" OR "Iran" OR "Hezbollah" OR "Lebanon" OR "CIA" OR "Congress" OR "Noll," OR "retaliation" OR "intelligence" OR "POTUS" OR "White House" OR "Fenzel" OR "USSC" OR "United States Security Coordinator" OR "Palestinian National Security Forces" OR "Palestinian Security Forces."

C. All records of communications or calendar entries in the possession or control of each custodian containing the words or phrases "Lebanese Armed Forces" OR "Lebanese Army" OR "Iran" OR "IRGC" OR "Fenzel" OR "USSC" OR "United States Security Coordinator" OR "Palestinian National Security Forces" OR "Palestinian Security Forces."

D. All records of communications (including, but not limited to, emails, text messages, and messages sent through encrypted messaging applications) between any custodian listed above and any account with an "EOP.GOV" domain."

As presently described, this request pulls thousands of records. To better assist you, I am requesting clarification to narrow its scope. This can be achieved by taking one or more of the following actions:

1. Reduce the number the terms listed as search parameters
2. Use more specific terms as search parameters
3. Provide a specific research question

If we do not receive a response by June 21, 2024, your case will be administratively closed. Thank you in advance for your response.

Respectfully,  
Joseph



AFL FOIA <foia@aflegal.org>

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## Status Update for Request #F-2024-11342 with DOS

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**foiastatus@state.gov** <foiastatus@state.gov>  
To: foia@aflegal.org

Fri, Jun 7, 2024 at 9:13 AM

Dear Reed Rubinstein,

The status of your FOIA request #F-2024-11342 has been updated to the following status 'On Hold - Need Info/Clarification'. To learn more, please log into the DoS FOIA Portal via the Application URL below.

<https://pal.foia.state.gov>

Regards,  
DOS



AFL FOIA <foia@aflegal.org>

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## F-2024-11342 Update Needed

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AFL FOIA <foia@aflegal.org>

Fri, Jun 7, 2024 at 9:34 AM

To: FOIAStatus@state.gov

Bcc: Juli Haller <juli.haller@aflegal.org>, Michael Ding <michael.ding@aflegal.org>

Good morning, Joseph, and thank you for your email. The time frame is quite compressed, but we are nonetheless happy to reduce the number of search terms to speed the process.

Here is a revised request B: All records of communications or calendar entries in the possession or control of each custodian containing the words or phrases: "Hamas" OR "Palestinian Authority" OR "Gaza" **AND** "IRGC" OR "Iran" OR "CIA" OR "Noll," OR "Fenzel" OR "USSC."

Here is a revised request C: All communications or calendar entries in the possession or control of each custodian containing the words or phrases "Lebanese Armed Forces" OR "Lebanon" **AND** "Iran" OR "IRGC" OR Hezbollah OR "Fenzel" OR "USSC" OR "CIA."

Please let us know if you need anything else.

America First Legal Foundation

[Quoted text hidden]



AFL FOIA <foia@aflegal.org>

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## Status Update for Request #F-2024-11342 with DOS

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**foiastatus@state.gov** <foiastatus@state.gov>  
To: foia@aflegal.org

Fri, Jun 7, 2024 at 4:19 PM

Dear Reed Rubinstein,

The status of your FOIA request #F-2024-11342 has been updated to the following status 'In Process'. To learn more, please log into the DoS FOIA Portal via the Application URL below.

<https://pal.foia.state.gov>

Regards,  
DOS



AFL FOIA <foia@aflegal.org>

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## F-2024-11342 Update Needed

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foiastatus@state.gov <foiastatus@state.gov>  
To: foia@aflegal.org

Mon, Jun 10, 2024 at 3:16 PM

Dear Mr. Rubinstein:

Thank you for your reply. We appreciate the clarification provided for points B and C and will be able to provide you with records for these queries. While it does greatly help that you selected a compressed time frame, these custodians produce many records and EOP.gov domains are common, so points A and D still produce an excessive number of records. Would you be willing to provide context for points A and D? Choosing keywords and/or posing a question to refine these points will allow us to find the right records faster for you.

Best wishes,  
Joseph

**From:** AFL FOIA <foia@aflegal.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 7, 2024 9:34 AM  
**To:** FOIA Status <FOIAStatus@state.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: F-2024-11342 Update Needed

Good morning, Joseph, and thank you for your email. The time frame is quite compressed, but we are nonetheless happy to reduce the number of search terms to speed the process.

Here is a revised request B: All records of communications or calendar entries in the possession or control of each custodian containing the words or phrases: "Hamas" OR "Palestinian Authority" OR "Gaza" **AND** "IRGC" OR "Iran" OR "CIA" OR "Noll," OR "Fenzel" OR "USSC."

Here is a revised request C: All communications or calendar entries in the possession or control of each custodian containing the words or phrases "Lebanese Armed Forces" OR "Lebanon" **AND** "Iran" OR "IRGC" OR Hezbollah OR "Fenzel" OR "USSC" OR "CIA."

Please let us know if you need anything else.

America First Legal Foundation

[Quoted text hidden]



AFL FOIA <foia@aflegal.org>

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## Status Update for Request #F-2024-11342 with DOS

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**foiastatus@state.gov** <foiastatus@state.gov>  
To: foia@aflegal.org

Mon, Jun 10, 2024 at 3:18 PM

Dear Reed Rubinstein,

The status of your FOIA request #F-2024-11342 has been updated to the following status 'On Hold - Fee Related'. To learn more, please log into the DoS FOIA Portal via the Application URL below.

<https://pal.foia.state.gov>

Regards,  
DOS



AFL FOIA <foia@aflegal.org>

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## F-2024-11342 Update Needed

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AFL FOIA <foia@aflegal.org>

Mon, Jun 10, 2024 at 3:34 PM

To: foiastatus@state.gov

Hello Joseph, thank you for reaching out. For A and D, let's limit it to communications containing these words:  
"Israel" **AND** "Gaza" OR "IRGC" OR "Iran" OR "CIA" OR "Noll," OR "Fenzel" OR "USSC" OR "Lebanon" OR "Hezbollah".  
Would that work?

Many thanks.

America First Legal Foundation

[Quoted text hidden]



AFL FOIA <foia@aflegal.org>

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## Status Update for Request #F-2024-11342 with DOS

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**foiastatus@state.gov** <foiastatus@state.gov>  
To: foia@aflegal.org

Wed, Jun 12, 2024 at 8:59 AM

Dear Reed Rubinstein,

The status of your FOIA request #F-2024-11342 has been updated to the following status 'In Process'. To learn more, please log into the DoS FOIA Portal via the Application URL below.

<https://pal.foia.state.gov>

Regards,  
DOS



AFL FOIA <foia@aflegal.org>

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## F-2024-11342 Update Needed

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**FOIAStatus@state.gov** <FOIAStatus@state.gov>  
To: foia@aflegal.org

Wed, Jun 12, 2024 at 9:07 AM

Dear Mr. Rubinstein:

Thank you for your email. Yes, those keywords will work and allow us to better provide you with records. We greatly appreciate your cooperation.

Best wishes,  
Joseph

**From:** AFL FOIA <foia@aflegal.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 10, 2024 3:34 PM  
**To:** FOIA Status <FOIAStatus@state.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: F-2024-11342 Update Needed

Hello Joseph, thank you for reaching out. For A and D, let's limit it to communications containing these words: "Israel" **AND** "Gaza" OR "IRGC" OR "Iran" OR "CIA" OR "Noll," OR "Fenzel" OR "USSC" OR "Lebanon" OR "Hezbollah". Would that work?

Many thanks.

America First Legal Foundation

[Quoted text hidden]



June 10, 2024

**Via FOIA Portal**

Office of Information Programs and Services (A/GIS/IPS)  
U.S. Department of State  
2201 C Street NW  
Room B-266  
Washington, DC 20520

**Freedom of Information Act Request: Emails and Calendars for June 7, 2024, through June 10, 2024**

Dear FOIA Officer:

America First Legal Foundation is a national, nonprofit organization working to promote the rule of law in the United States, prevent executive overreach, and ensure due process and equal protection for all Americans, all to promote public knowledge and understanding of the law and individual rights guaranteed under the Constitution and laws of the United States. To that end, we file Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests on issues of pressing concern, then disseminate the information we obtain, making documents broadly available to the public, scholars, and the media. Using our editorial skills to turn raw materials into distinct work, we distribute that work to a national audience through traditional and social media platforms. AFL's X page has over 235,700 followers, and the X page of our Founder and President has over 637,700 followers.

**I. Custodians**

- A. Antony Blinken, Secretary of State
- B. Barbara A. Leaf, Assistant Secretary of State, Bureau for Near Eastern Affairs
- C. Hady Amr, Special Representative for Palestinian Affairs, Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs.
- D. Lt. Gen. Michael R. Fenzel, Office of United States Security Coordinator (USSC)
- E. Mathew Miller, Office of the Spokesperson

611 Pennsylvania Ave SE #231  
Washington, DC 20003

320 South Madison Avenue  
Monroe, Georgia 30655

## II. Records Requested

- A. All emails, text messages, and messages sent or received by each custodian through encrypted messaging applications for the time period between 9:00 am (Eastern Standard Time) June 7, 2024, and 10:35 am June 10, 2024.
- B. Each custodian's calendar for June 7, 2024, through June 10, 2024.

## III. Processing and Fee Waiver

Processing should strictly comply with the processing guidance in the Attorney General's Memorandum on Freedom of Information Act Guidelines.<sup>1</sup> We have been advised that Mr. Blinken, Mr. Amr, and Lt. Gen. Fenzel may be using personal email accounts, devices, and messaging applications to conduct agency business.<sup>2</sup> Therefore, please be sure to search all such accounts, devices, and applications where responsive records might be found. If you have any questions about our request or believe further discussions regarding search and processing would facilitate the more efficient production of requested records, please get in touch with us at FOIA@aflegal.org.

Per 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A)(iii) and your agency's fee waiver regulations, AFL requests a waiver of all search and duplication fees. AFL has a demonstrated ability and intention to effectively convey the information broadly to the public; our status as a representative of the news media has been recognized by other agencies; we have been granted fee waivers by the Departments of State, Defense, Education, Energy, Health and Human Services, Justice, Interior, and Homeland Security. As a non-profit organization, AFL has no commercial interest in this request, which is made entirely to serve the public interest. Finally, disclosure of the information is in the public interest because it is likely to contribute significantly to public understanding of the operations or activities of the government and of government operations. *See* 22 C.F.R. § 171.16(j). We are available to provide additional information in writing or offline to support this request. Please contact us immediately if our fee waiver is not granted in full.

## IV. Conclusion

To accelerate your release of responsive records, AFL welcomes production on an agreed-upon rolling basis. Please email responsive records in electronic format to foia@aflegal.org. Alternatively, please send responsive records in native or PDF

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<sup>1</sup> U.S. DEPT JUST. (Mar. 15, 2022), <https://bit.ly/3zvpxb6>.

<sup>2</sup> *See, e.g.,* Nahal Toosi and Joe Gould, *FBI Probes Whether Iran Envoy Malley Committed Crimes in Handling of Classified Info*, POLITICO (May 10, 2024), <https://politi.co/4bvHCqX>.

format on a USB drive to America First Legal Foundation, 611 Pennsylvania Ave SE #231, Washington, DC 20003.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

/s/ Reed D. Rubinstein

America First Legal Foundation



AFL FOIA <foia@aflegal.org>

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**Ref: F-2024-12658**

1 message

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**foiastatus@state.gov** <foiastatus@state.gov>  
To: foia@aflegal.org

Mon, Jun 10, 2024 at 11:58 AM

Dear Reed Rubinstein:

Thank you for filing your information access request to the U.S. Department of State. Your request number is F-2024-12658.

You will receive a formal acknowledgement to your request in no later than 10 working days. If the Department requires additional information from you, then you will also be notified.

Should you have any questions about your request, you may also contact us at:

[FOIAStatus@state.gov](mailto:FOIAStatus@state.gov)

Regards,  
Requesters Communications Branch  
Office of Information Programs and Services  
U.S. Department of State



AFL FOIA <foia@aflegal.org>

---

## Status Update for Request #F-2024-12658 with DOS

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**foiastatus@state.gov** <foiastatus@state.gov>  
To: foia@aflegal.org

Mon, Jun 10, 2024 at 11:58 AM

Dear Reed Rubinstein,

The status of your FOIA request #F-2024-12658 has been updated to the following status 'Received'. To learn more, please log into the DoS FOIA Portal via the Application URL below.

<https://pal.foia.state.gov>

Regards,  
DOS



AFL FOIA <foia@aflegal.org>

---

**Ref: F-2024-12658, Freedom of Information Act Acknowledgement**

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**A\_FOIAacknowledgement@groups.state.gov** <A\_FOIAacknowledgement@groups.state.gov>

Tue, Jun 25, 2024 at 9:35 AM

To: foia@aflegal.org

**\*THIS EMAIL BOX IS NOT MONITORED, PLEASE DO NOT REPLY TO THIS EMAIL.\*\***

Dear Mr. Rubinstein:

This email acknowledges receipt of your June 10, 2024, Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) (5 U.S.C. § 552) request received by the U.S. Department of State, Office of Information Programs and Services on June 10, 2024.

You are seeking a copy of "All emails, text messages, and messages sent or received by each custodian through encrypted messaging applications for the time period between 9:00 am (Eastern Standard Time) June 7, 2024, and 10:35 am June 10, 2024. Calendars and records of Secretary Blinken and others. Please see the PDFattachment for the full request." (Date Range for Record Search: From 06/07/2024 To 06/10/2024). **Unless you advise otherwise, we will treat as non-responsive any compilations of publicly available news reports and any publicly available documents not created by the U.S. government, such as mass-distribution emails from news media. This Office assigned your request the subject reference number and placed it in the complex processing track where it will be processed as quickly as possible. See 22 CFR § 171.11(h).**

This Office will not be able to respond within the 20 days provided by the statute due to "unusual circumstances." See 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(6)(B)(i)-(iii). In this instance, the unusual circumstances include the need to search for and collect requested records from other Department offices or Foreign Service posts.

If you have any questions regarding your request, would like to narrow the scope or arrange an alternative time frame to speed its processing, or would like an estimated date of completion, please contact our FOIA Requester Service Center or our FOIA Public Liaison by email at [FOIAstatus@state.gov](mailto:FOIAstatus@state.gov) or telephone at 202-261-8484. Additionally, you may contact the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) at the National Archives and Records Administration to inquire about the FOIA mediation services they offer. The contact information for OGIS is as follows: Office of Government Information Services, National Archives and Records Administration, [8601 Adelphi Road](#)-OGIS, College Park, Maryland 20740-6001, email at [ogis@nara.gov](mailto:ogis@nara.gov) ; telephone at 202-741-5770; toll free at 1-877-684-6448; or facsimile at 202-741-5769.

**\*\*THIS EMAIL BOX IS NOT MONITORED, PLEASE DO NOT REPLY TO THIS EMAIL.\*\***





AFL FOIA <foia@aflegal.org>

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## Status Update for Request #F-2024-12658 with DOS

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foiastatus@state.gov <foiastatus@state.gov>

Thu, Oct 24, 2024 at 1:12 PM

To: foia@aflegal.org

Dear Reed Rubinstein,

The status of your FOIA request #F-2024-12658 has been updated to the following status 'In Process'. To learn more, you may log into the DoS FOIA Portal via the Application URL at <https://pal.foia.state.gov>.

If that status is "On Hold", please review the email you received and provide the requested information. If you did not receive an email, please contact the FOIA Requester Service Center via email at [FOIAStatus@state.gov](mailto:FOIAStatus@state.gov).

If that status is "Closed" or "Documents Delivered", then the Department's response will be emailed or mailed (via US Postal Service). Please check your email account (including junk/spam mail) for the Department's response OR allow 7 to 10 business days to receive the Department's response by US Postal Service mail.

Regards,  
DOS



August 27, 2024

**Via FOIA Portal**

U. S. Department of State  
Office of Information Programs and Services  
2201 C Street N.W., Suite B266  
Washington, D.C. 20520-0000

**Freedom of Information Act Request: Blinken Emails for October 7 – 14, 2023**

Dear FOIA Officer:

America First Legal Foundation is a national, nonprofit organization working to promote the rule of law in the United States, prevent executive overreach, and ensure due process and equal protection for all Americans, all to promote public knowledge and understanding of the law and individual rights guaranteed under the Constitution and laws of the United States. To that end, we file Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests on issues of pressing concern, then disseminate the information we obtain, making documents broadly available to the public, scholars, and the media. Using our editorial skills to turn raw materials into distinct work, we distribute that work to a national audience through traditional and social media platforms. AFL's X page has over 262,500 followers, and the X page of our Founder and President has over 707,700 followers.

**I. Custodians**

- A. Antony Blinken, Secretary of State
- B. Suzy George, Chief of Staff
- C. Tom Sullivan, Deputy Chief of Staff

**II. Records Requested**

- A. All emails, text messages, and messages through encrypted messaging applications sent or received by each custodian between 5:00 am October 7, 2023, and 11:59 pm October 14, 2023, containing any of the following words or terms: "Lebanon," "Hezbollah," "LAF," "Blue Line," "Ghajar," "Golan," "Shebaa," "Shouba," "Nasrallah," "Beirut," OR "UNIFIL."

611 Pennsylvania Ave SE #231  
Washington, DC 20003

320 South Madison Avenue  
Monroe, Georgia 30655

- B. Each custodian's calendar for October 7, 2023, through October 14, 2023, inclusive.

### III. Processing and Fee Waiver

Processing should strictly comply with the Attorney General's Memorandum on Freedom of Information Act Guidelines.<sup>1</sup> We understand that Mr. Blinken and Mr. Sullivan may be using personal email accounts, devices, and/or nongovernment messaging applications to conduct agency business.<sup>2</sup> Therefore, please be sure to search all such accounts, devices, and applications where responsive records might be found. If you have any questions about our request or believe further discussions regarding search and processing would facilitate the more efficient production of requested records, please get in touch with us at FOIA@aflegal.org.

Per 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A)(iii) and your agency's fee waiver regulations, AFL requests a waiver of all search and duplication fees. AFL has a demonstrated ability and intention to effectively convey the information broadly to the public; our status as a representative of the news media has been recognized by other agencies; we have been granted fee waivers by your Department and by the Departments of Defense, Education, Energy, Health and Human Services, Justice, Interior, and Homeland Security. As a non-profit organization, AFL has no commercial interest in this request, which is made entirely to serve the public interest. Finally, disclosure of the information is in the public interest because it is likely to contribute significantly to public understanding of the government's activities or operations. *See* 22 C.F.R. § 171.16(j). We are available to provide additional information in writing or offline to support this request.

### IV. Conclusion

To accelerate your release of responsive records, AFL welcomes production on an agreed-upon rolling basis. Please email responsive records in electronic format to foia@aflegal.org. Alternatively, please send responsive records in native or PDF format on a USB drive to America First Legal Foundation, 611 Pennsylvania Ave SE #231, Washington, DC 20003. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

/s/ Reed D. Rubinstein  
America First Legal Foundation

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<sup>1</sup> U.S. DEPT JUST. (Mar. 15, 2022), <https://bit.ly/3zvpxb6>.

<sup>2</sup> *See, e.g.,* Nahal Toosi and Joe Gould, *FBI Probes Whether Iran Envoy Malley Committed Crimes in Handling of Classified Info*, POLITICO (May 10, 2024), <https://politi.co/4bvHCqX>.



AFL FOIA <foia@aflegal.org>

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**Ref: F-2024-18850**

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**foiastatus@state.gov** <foiastatus@state.gov>  
To: foia@aflegal.org

Tue, Aug 27, 2024 at 2:12 PM

Dear Reed Rubinstein:

Thank you for filing your information access request to the U.S. Department of State. Your request number is F-2024-18850.

You will receive a formal acknowledgement to your request in no later than 10 working days. If the Department requires additional information from you, then you will also be notified.

Should you have any questions about your request, you may also contact us at:

[FOIAStatus@state.gov](mailto:FOIAStatus@state.gov)

Regards,  
Requesters Communications Branch  
Office of Information Programs and Services  
U.S. Department of State



AFL FOIA <foia@aflegal.org>

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## Status Update for Request #F-2024-18850 with DOS

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**foiastatus@state.gov** <foiastatus@state.gov>  
To: foia@aflegal.org

Tue, Aug 27, 2024 at 2:12 PM

Dear Reed Rubinstein,

The status of your FOIA request #F-2024-18850 has been updated to the following status 'Received'. To learn more, please log into the DoS FOIA Portal via the Application URL below.

<https://pal.foia.state.gov>

Regards,  
DOS



AFL FOIA &lt;foia@aflegal.org&gt;

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**Ref: F-2024-18850, Freedom of Information Act Acknowledgement**

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A\_FOIAacknowledgement@groups.state.gov &lt;A\_FOIAacknowledgement@groups.state.gov&gt;

Thu, Sep 19, 2024 at  
9:40 AM

To: foia@aflegal.org

**\*THIS EMAIL BOX IS NOT MONITORED, PLEASE DO NOT REPLY TO THIS EMAIL.\*\***

Dear Mr. Rubinstein:

This email acknowledges receipt of your August 27, 2024, Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) (5 U.S.C. § 552) request received by the U.S. Department of State, Office of Information Programs and Services on August 27, 2024.

You are seeking a copy of request for Blinken emails October 7-14, 2023: I. Custodians A. Antony Blinken, Secretary of State B. Suzy George, Chief of Staff C. Tom Sullivan, Deputy Chief of Staff II. Records Requested A. All emails, text messages, and messages through encrypted messaging applications sent or received by each custodian between 5:00 am October 7, 2023, and 11:59 pm October 14, 2023, containing any of the following words or terms: "Lebanon," "Hezbollah," "LAF," "Blue Line," "Ghajar," "Golan," "Shebaa," "Shouba," "Nasrallah," "Beirut," OR "UNIFIL." B. Each custodian's calendar for October 7, 2023, through October 14, 2023, inclusive.. Unless you advise otherwise, we will treat as non-responsive any compilations of publicly available news reports and any publicly available documents not created by the U.S. government, such as mass-distribution emails from news media. This Office assigned your request the subject reference number and placed it in the complex processing track where it will be processed as quickly as possible. See 22 CFR § 171.11(h).

This Office will not be able to respond within the 20 days provided by the statute due to "unusual circumstances." See 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(6)(B)(i)-(iii). In this instance, the unusual circumstances include the need to search for and collect requested records from other Department offices or Foreign Service posts.

You will not be charged FOIA processing fees.

If you have any questions regarding your request, would like to narrow the scope or arrange an alternative time frame to speed its processing, or would like an estimated date of completion, please contact our FOIA Requester Service Center or our FOIA Public Liaison by email at [FOIAstatus@state.gov](mailto:FOIAstatus@state.gov) or telephone at 202-261-8484. Additionally, you may contact the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) at the National Archives and Records Administration to inquire about the FOIA mediation services they offer. The contact information for OGIS is as follows: Office of Government Information Services, National Archives and Records Administration, [8601 Adelphi Road](https://www.archives.gov/ogis)-OGIS, College Park, Maryland 20740-6001, email at [ogis@nara.gov](mailto:ogis@nara.gov) ; telephone at 202-741-5770; toll free at 1-877-684-6448; or facsimile at 202-741-5769.

**\*\*THIS EMAIL BOX IS NOT MONITORED, PLEASE DO NOT REPLY TO THIS EMAIL.\*\***



AFL FOIA <foia@aflegal.org>

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## Status Update for Request #F-2024-18850 with DOS

1 message

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**foiastatus@state.gov** <foiastatus@state.gov>  
To: foia@aflegal.org

Fri, Sep 20, 2024 at 3:19 PM

Dear Reed Rubinstein,

The status of your FOIA request #F-2024-18850 has been updated to the following status 'In Process'. To learn more, you may log into the DoS FOIA Portal via the Application URL at <https://pal.foia.state.gov>. The Department's response was sent to you via email or mailed via the US Postal Service. Therefore, please do one of the following:

- Check your email account (including junk/spam mail) for the Department's response.

OR

- Allow 7 to 10 business days to receive the Department's response by mail via the US Postal Service.

Regards,  
DOS

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

**CLEAR FORM**

AMERICA FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION

*Plaintiff*

v.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE

*Defendant*

Civil Action No. 24-3115

**SUMMONS IN A CIVIL ACTION**

To: *(Defendant's name and address)*  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE,  
2201 C St NW  
Washington, DC 20451

A lawsuit has been filed against you.

Within 30 days after service of this summons on you (not counting the day you received it) you must serve on the plaintiff an answer to the attached complaint or a motion under Rule 12 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. The answer or motion must be served on the plaintiff or plaintiff's attorney, whose name and address are:

William Scolinos  
AMERICA FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION  
611 Pennsylvania Ave SE #231  
Washington, DC 20003

If you fail to respond, judgment by default may be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint. You also must file your answer or motion with the court.

*ANGELA D. CAESAR, CLERK OF COURT*

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Signature of Clerk or Deputy Clerk*

Civil Action No. 24-3115

**PROOF OF SERVICE***(This section should not be filed with the court unless required by Fed. R. Civ. P. 4 (l))*

This summons for *(name of individual and title, if any)* \_\_\_\_\_  
 was received by me on *(date)* \_\_\_\_\_.

☐ I personally served the summons on the individual at *(place)* \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ on *(date)* \_\_\_\_\_; or

☐ I left the summons at the individual's residence or usual place of abode with *(name)* \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_, a person of suitable age and discretion who resides there,  
 on *(date)* \_\_\_\_\_, and mailed a copy to the individual's last known address; or

☐ I served the summons on *(name of individual)* \_\_\_\_\_, who is  
 designated by law to accept service of process on behalf of *(name of organization)* \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ on *(date)* \_\_\_\_\_; or

☐ I returned the summons unexecuted because \_\_\_\_\_; or

☐ Other *(specify)*: \_\_\_\_\_.

My fees are \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for travel and \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for services, for a total of \$ 0.00.

I declare under penalty of perjury that this information is true.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Server's signature*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Printed name and title*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Server's address*

Additional information regarding attempted service, etc:

Print

Save As...

Reset

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

**CLEAR FORM**

AMERICA FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION

*Plaintiff*

v.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE

*Defendant*

Civil Action No. 24-3115

**SUMMONS IN A CIVIL ACTION**

To: *(Defendant's name and address)*

c/o Attorney General Merrick Garland  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
950 Pennsylvania Ave. NW  
Washington, DC 20530

A lawsuit has been filed against you.

Within 30 days after service of this summons on you (not counting the day you received it) you must serve on the plaintiff an answer to the attached complaint or a motion under Rule 12 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. The answer or motion must be served on the plaintiff or plaintiff's attorney, whose name and address are:

William Scolinos  
AMERICA FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION  
611 Pennsylvania Ave SE #231  
Washington, DC 20003

If you fail to respond, judgment by default may be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint. You also must file your answer or motion with the court.

*ANGELA D. CAESAR, CLERK OF COURT*

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Signature of Clerk or Deputy Clerk*

Civil Action No. 24-3115

**PROOF OF SERVICE***(This section should not be filed with the court unless required by Fed. R. Civ. P. 4 (l))*

This summons for *(name of individual and title, if any)* \_\_\_\_\_  
 was received by me on *(date)* \_\_\_\_\_.

☐ I personally served the summons on the individual at *(place)* \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ on *(date)* \_\_\_\_\_; or

☐ I left the summons at the individual's residence or usual place of abode with *(name)* \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_, a person of suitable age and discretion who resides there,  
 on *(date)* \_\_\_\_\_, and mailed a copy to the individual's last known address; or

☐ I served the summons on *(name of individual)* \_\_\_\_\_, who is  
 designated by law to accept service of process on behalf of *(name of organization)* \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ on *(date)* \_\_\_\_\_; or

☐ I returned the summons unexecuted because \_\_\_\_\_; or

☐ Other *(specify)*: \_\_\_\_\_.

My fees are \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for travel and \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for services, for a total of \$ 0.00.

I declare under penalty of perjury that this information is true.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Server's signature*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Printed name and title*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Server's address*

Additional information regarding attempted service, etc:

Print

Save As...

Reset

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**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

**CLEAR FORM**

AMERICA FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION

*Plaintiff*

v.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE

*Defendant*

)  
)  
)  
)  
)  
)  
)

Civil Action No. 24-3115

**SUMMONS IN A CIVIL ACTION**

To: *(Defendant's name and address)*

U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia  
Civil Process Clerk 601 D Street NW  
Washington, DC 20530  
Email service to: USADC.ServiceCivil@usdoj.gov

A lawsuit has been filed against you.

Within 30 days after service of this summons on you (not counting the day you received it) you must serve on the plaintiff an answer to the attached complaint or a motion under Rule 12 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. The answer or motion must be served on the plaintiff or plaintiff's attorney, whose name and address are:

William Scolinos  
AMERICA FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION  
611 Pennsylvania Ave SE #231  
Washington, DC 20003

If you fail to respond, judgment by default may be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint. You also must file your answer or motion with the court.

*ANGELA D. CAESAR, CLERK OF COURT*

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Signature of Clerk or Deputy Clerk*

Civil Action No. 24-3115

**PROOF OF SERVICE***(This section should not be filed with the court unless required by Fed. R. Civ. P. 4 (l))*

This summons for *(name of individual and title, if any)* \_\_\_\_\_  
 was received by me on *(date)* \_\_\_\_\_.

☐ I personally served the summons on the individual at *(place)* \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ on *(date)* \_\_\_\_\_; or

☐ I left the summons at the individual's residence or usual place of abode with *(name)* \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_, a person of suitable age and discretion who resides there,  
 on *(date)* \_\_\_\_\_, and mailed a copy to the individual's last known address; or

☐ I served the summons on *(name of individual)* \_\_\_\_\_, who is  
 designated by law to accept service of process on behalf of *(name of organization)* \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ on *(date)* \_\_\_\_\_; or

☐ I returned the summons unexecuted because \_\_\_\_\_; or

☐ Other *(specify)*: \_\_\_\_\_.

My fees are \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for travel and \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for services, for a total of \$ 0.00.

I declare under penalty of perjury that this information is true.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Server's signature*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Printed name and title*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Server's address*

Additional information regarding attempted service, etc:

Print

Save As...

Reset

## CIVIL COVER SHEET

JS-44 (Rev. 11/2020 DC)

<b>I. (a) PLAINTIFFS</b> AMERICA FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION  (b) COUNTY OF RESIDENCE OF FIRST LISTED PLAINTIFF <u>11001</u> (EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)	<b>DEFENDANTS</b> UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE  COUNTY OF RESIDENCE OF FIRST LISTED DEFENDANT <u>11001</u> (IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY) <small>NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF THE TRACT OF LAND INVOLVED</small>
(c) ATTORNEYS (FIRMNAME, ADDRESS, AND TELEPHONE NUMBER) William Scolinos, Michael Ding, (AMERICA FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION, 611 Pennsylvania Avenue SE #231, Washington, DC 20003, (301) 965-0179)	ATTORNEYS (IF KNOWN)

<b>II. BASIS OF JURISDICTION</b> (PLACE AN x IN ONE BOX ONLY)	<b>III. CITIZENSHIP OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES</b> (PLACE AN x IN ONE BOX FOR PLAINTIFF AND ONE BOX FOR DEFENDANT) <b>FOR DIVERSITY CASES ONLY!</b>																								
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 48%;"> <input type="radio"/> 1 U.S. Government Plaintiff         </div> <div style="width: 48%;"> <input type="radio"/> 3 Federal Question (U.S. Government Not a Party)         </div> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; margin-top: 10px;"> <div style="width: 48%;"> <input checked="" type="radio"/> 2 U.S. Government Defendant         </div> <div style="width: 48%;"> <input type="radio"/> 4 Diversity (Indicate Citizenship of Parties in item III)         </div> </div>	<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th style="text-align: center;">PTF</th> <th style="text-align: center;">DFT</th> <th></th> <th style="text-align: center;">PTF</th> <th style="text-align: center;">DFT</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Citizen of this State</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="radio"/> 1</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="radio"/> 1</td> <td>Incorporated or Principal Place of Business in This State</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="radio"/> 4</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="radio"/> 4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Citizen of Another State</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="radio"/> 2</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="radio"/> 2</td> <td>Incorporated and Principal Place of Business in Another State</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="radio"/> 5</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="radio"/> 5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Citizen or Subject of a Foreign Country</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="radio"/> 3</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="radio"/> 3</td> <td>Foreign Nation</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="radio"/> 6</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="radio"/> 6</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		PTF	DFT		PTF	DFT	Citizen of this State	<input type="radio"/> 1	<input type="radio"/> 1	Incorporated or Principal Place of Business in This State	<input type="radio"/> 4	<input type="radio"/> 4	Citizen of Another State	<input type="radio"/> 2	<input type="radio"/> 2	Incorporated and Principal Place of Business in Another State	<input type="radio"/> 5	<input type="radio"/> 5	Citizen or Subject of a Foreign Country	<input type="radio"/> 3	<input type="radio"/> 3	Foreign Nation	<input type="radio"/> 6	<input type="radio"/> 6
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Citizen or Subject of a Foreign Country	<input type="radio"/> 3	<input type="radio"/> 3	Foreign Nation	<input type="radio"/> 6	<input type="radio"/> 6																				

## IV. CASE ASSIGNMENT AND NATURE OF SUIT

(Place an X in one category, A-N, that best represents your Cause of Action and one in a corresponding Nature of Suit)

<input type="radio"/> <b>A. Antitrust</b>  <input type="checkbox"/> 410 Antitrust	<input type="radio"/> <b>B. Personal Injury/Malpractice</b>  <input type="checkbox"/> 310 Airplane <input type="checkbox"/> 315 Airplane Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 320 Assault, Libel & Slander <input type="checkbox"/> 330 Federal Employers Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 340 Marine <input type="checkbox"/> 345 Marine Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 350 Motor Vehicle <input type="checkbox"/> 355 Motor Vehicle Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 360 Other Personal Injury <input type="checkbox"/> 362 Medical Malpractice <input type="checkbox"/> 365 Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 367 Health Care/Pharmaceutical Personal Injury Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 368 Asbestos Product Liability	<input type="radio"/> <b>C. Administrative Agency Review</b>  <input type="checkbox"/> 151 Medicare Act  <u>Social Security</u> <input type="checkbox"/> 861 HIA (1395ff) <input type="checkbox"/> 862 Black Lung (923) <input type="checkbox"/> 863 DIWC/DIWW (405(g)) <input type="checkbox"/> 864 SSID Title XVI <input type="checkbox"/> 865 RSI (405(g)) <u>Other Statutes</u> <input type="checkbox"/> 891 Agricultural Acts <input type="checkbox"/> 893 Environmental Matters <input type="checkbox"/> 890 Other Statutory Actions (If Administrative Agency is Involved)	<input type="radio"/> <b>D. Temporary Restraining Order/Preliminary Injunction</b>  Any nature of suit from any category may be selected for this category of case assignment.  *(If Antitrust, then A governs)*
<input type="radio"/> <b>E. General Civil (Other)</b> OR <input type="radio"/> <b>F. Pro Se General Civil</b>			
<u>Real Property</u> <input type="checkbox"/> 210 Land Condemnation <input type="checkbox"/> 220 Foreclosure <input type="checkbox"/> 230 Rent, Lease & Ejectment <input type="checkbox"/> 240 Torts to Land <input type="checkbox"/> 245 Tort Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 290 All Other Real Property  <u>Personal Property</u> <input type="checkbox"/> 370 Other Fraud <input type="checkbox"/> 371 Truth in Lending <input type="checkbox"/> 380 Other Personal Property Damage <input type="checkbox"/> 385 Property Damage Product Liability	<u>Bankruptcy</u> <input type="checkbox"/> 422 Appeal 28 USC 158 <input type="checkbox"/> 423 Withdrawal 28 USC 157  <u>Prisoner Petitions</u> <input type="checkbox"/> 535 Death Penalty <input type="checkbox"/> 540 Mandamus & Other <input type="checkbox"/> 550 Civil Rights <input type="checkbox"/> 555 Prison Conditions <input type="checkbox"/> 560 Civil Detainee – Conditions of Confinement  <u>Property Rights</u> <input type="checkbox"/> 820 Copyrights <input type="checkbox"/> 830 Patent <input type="checkbox"/> 835 Patent – Abbreviated New Drug Application <input type="checkbox"/> 840 Trademark <input type="checkbox"/> 880 Defend Trade Secrets Act of 2016 (DTSA)	<u>Federal Tax Suits</u> <input type="checkbox"/> 870 Taxes (US plaintiff or defendant) <input type="checkbox"/> 871 IRS-Third Party 26 USC 7609  <u>Forfeiture/Penalty</u> <input type="checkbox"/> 625 Drug Related Seizure of Property 21 USC 881 <input type="checkbox"/> 690 Other  <u>Other Statutes</u> <input type="checkbox"/> 375 False Claims Act <input type="checkbox"/> 376 Qui Tam (31 USC 3729(a)) <input type="checkbox"/> 400 State Reapportionment <input type="checkbox"/> 430 Banks & Banking <input type="checkbox"/> 450 Commerce/ICC Rates/etc <input type="checkbox"/> 460 Deportation <input type="checkbox"/> 462 Naturalization Application	<input type="checkbox"/> 465 Other Immigration Actions <input type="checkbox"/> 470 Racketeer Influenced & Corrupt Organization <input type="checkbox"/> 480 Consumer Credit <input type="checkbox"/> 485 Telephone Consumer Protection Act (TCPA) <input type="checkbox"/> 490 Cable/Satellite TV <input type="checkbox"/> 850 Securities/Commodities/Exchange <input type="checkbox"/> 896 Arbitration <input type="checkbox"/> 899 Administrative Procedure Act/Review or Appeal of Agency Decision <input type="checkbox"/> 950 Constitutionality of State Statutes <input type="checkbox"/> 890 Other Statutory Actions (if not administrative agency review or Privacy Act)

<input type="radio"/> <b>G. Habeas Corpus/ 2255</b>  <input type="checkbox"/> 530 Habeas Corpus – General <input type="checkbox"/> 510 Motion/Vacate Sentence <input type="checkbox"/> 463 Habeas Corpus – Alien Detainee	<input type="radio"/> <b>H. Employment Discrimination</b>  <input type="checkbox"/> 442 Civil Rights – Employment (criteria: race, gender/sex, national origin, discrimination, disability, age, religion, retaliation)  *(If pro se, select this deck)*	<input checked="" type="radio"/> <b>I. FOIA/Privacy Act</b>  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 895 Freedom of Information Act <input type="checkbox"/> 890 Other Statutory Actions (if Privacy Act)  *(If pro se, select this deck)*	<input type="radio"/> <b>J. Student Loan</b>  <input type="checkbox"/> 152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loan (excluding veterans)
<input type="radio"/> <b>K. Labor/ERISA (non-employment)</b>  <input type="checkbox"/> 710 Fair Labor Standards Act <input type="checkbox"/> 720 Labor/Mgmt. Relations <input type="checkbox"/> 740 Labor Railway Act <input type="checkbox"/> 751 Family and Medical Leave Act <input type="checkbox"/> 790 Other Labor Litigation <input type="checkbox"/> 791 Empl. Ret. Inc. Security Act	<input type="radio"/> <b>L. Other Civil Rights (non-employment)</b>  <input type="checkbox"/> 441 Voting (if not Voting Rights Act) <input type="checkbox"/> 443 Housing/Accommodations <input type="checkbox"/> 440 Other Civil Rights <input type="checkbox"/> 445 Americans w/Disabilities – Employment <input type="checkbox"/> 446 Americans w/Disabilities – Other <input type="checkbox"/> 448 Education	<input type="radio"/> <b>M. Contract</b>  <input type="checkbox"/> 110 Insurance <input type="checkbox"/> 120 Marine <input type="checkbox"/> 130 Miller Act <input type="checkbox"/> 140 Negotiable Instrument <input type="checkbox"/> 150 Recovery of Overpayment & Enforcement of Judgment <input type="checkbox"/> 153 Recovery of Overpayment of Veteran's Benefits <input type="checkbox"/> 160 Stockholder's Suits <input type="checkbox"/> 190 Other Contracts <input type="checkbox"/> 195 Contract Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 196 Franchise	<input type="radio"/> <b>N. Three-Judge Court</b>  <input type="checkbox"/> 441 Civil Rights – Voting (if Voting Rights Act)

**V. ORIGIN**  
☒ 1 Original Proceeding  
 ☐ 2 Removed from State Court  
 ☐ 3 Remanded from Appellate Court  
 ☐ 4 Reinstated or Reopened  
 ☐ 5 Transferred from another district (specify)  
 ☐ 6 Multi-district Litigation  
 ☐ 7 Appeal to District Judge from Mag. Judge  
 ☐ 8 Multi-district Litigation – Direct File

**VI. CAUSE OF ACTION (CITE THE U.S. CIVIL STATUTE UNDER WHICH YOU ARE FILING AND WRITE A BRIEF STATEMENT OF CAUSE.)**  
 Suit to enforce the FOIA, 5 U.S.C. 552

<b>VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS ACTION UNDER F.R.C.P. 23	<b>DEMAND \$</b> <b>JURY DEMAND:</b>	Check YES only if demanded in complaint YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>VIII. RELATED CASE(S) IF ANY</b>	(See instruction)	YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	If yes, please complete related case form

DATE: 11/1/2024	SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY OF RECORD: /s/ William Scolinos
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**INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING CIVIL COVER SHEET JS-44**  
 Authority for Civil Cover Sheet

The JS-44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replaces nor supplements the filings and services of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. Consequently, a civil cover sheet is submitted to the Clerk of Court for each civil complaint filed. Listed below are tips for completing the civil coversheet. These tips coincide with the Roman Numerals on the cover sheet.

- I.** COUNTY OF RESIDENCE OF FIRST LISTED PLAINTIFF/DEFENDANT (b) County of residence: Use 11001 to indicate plaintiff if resident of Washington, DC, 88888 if plaintiff is resident of United States but not Washington, DC, and 99999 if plaintiff is outside the United States.
- III.** CITIZENSHIP OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES: This section is completed only if diversity of citizenship was selected as the Basis of Jurisdiction under Section II.
- IV.** CASE ASSIGNMENT AND NATURE OF SUIT: The assignment of a judge to your case will depend on the category you select that best represents the primary cause of action found in your complaint. You may select only one category. You must also select one corresponding nature of suit found under the category of the case.
- VI.** CAUSE OF ACTION: Cite the U.S. Civil Statute under which you are filing and write a brief statement of the primary cause.
- VIII.** RELATED CASE(S), IF ANY: If you indicated that there is a related case, you must complete a related case form, which may be obtained from the Clerk's Office.

Because of the need for accurate and complete information, you should ensure the accuracy of the information provided prior to signing the form.