



Chairman
Appeals Review Panel
c/o Appeals Officer
A/ISS/IPS/PP/LC
US Department of State, SA-2
Room 800
Washington, DC 20522-8100

Via fax, mail and email

Re: Urgent appeal of FOIA Documents, Case Control Number F-2012-23464.

July 18, 2013

Dear Chairman,

This letter raises issues specific to the State Department's refusal to disclose 24 documents within its control to the Global Justice Center (GJC), a legal non-profit organization, on May 20, 2013. Furthermore, we take the occasion of this appeal to set forth the context in which the State Department's actions must be reviewed, including U.S. foreign policy imperatives and binding precepts of international law.

The February 27, 2012 FOIA request by GJC is to inform its "August 12th Campaign," named after the anniversary of the Geneva Conventions. The "August 12th Campaign" comprises of a growing coalition of over 3,000 global organizations and the countries of the United Kingdom, Norway and the Netherlands, challenging the U.S. government's compliance with the Geneva Conventions and related international laws ensuring complete medical treatment for girls and women who are victims of rape and torture in armed conflicts. This directly impacts the urgency with the Global Justice Center requires these documents, as they are essential to a Campaign that address an issue that bears on the live and health of women globally.

The stated basis for withholding in their entirety 24 documents is exemption (b)5 Interagency or intra-agency communications forming part of the deliberative process, attorney-client privilege or attorney work product, which we appeal. We do not agree that the requested documents are exempt and we ask that you reverse the denial of their release. In the absence of disclosing the documents in full to the GJC, we request a list identifying the 24 documents withheld in full by the State Department and why the reason each document is being withheld.

For the reasons stated above, we request: (1) a complete list of all "responsive documents"; and (2) the justification for the withholding of said documents.
If you have any questions, please call the Global Justice Center's Senior Council, Akila

Radhakrishnan at (212) 725-6530 ext. 203. Again, the documents should be sent to me, Janet Benshoof, Global Justice Center, 275 Seventh Ave, Suite 1502, New York, NY 10001. Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Janet Benshoof". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

Janet Benshoof
President and Founder

CC: Sheryl Walter
Director, Office of Information Programs and Services
A/GIS/IPS, SA-2, Room 8100
U.S. Department of State
Washington, D.C. 20522-8100