



U.S. Department of Justice
Office of Information Policy
Sixth Floor
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Washington, DC 20530-0001

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William Fernandes
MuckRock News
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Re: Appeal No. A-2022-00743

Request No. F21-00139
CDT:HMV

VIA: Email - 3/14/2022

Dear William Fernandes:

You appealed from the action of the Office of Professional Responsibility (OPR) on your Freedom of Information Act request for access to records concerning various topics. I note that your appeal concerns OPR's determination that your request was not reasonably described.

After carefully considering your appeal, I am affirming OPR's action on your request. A proper FOIA request for records must reasonably describe the records sought. See 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(3)(A); see also 28 C.F.R. § 16.3(b)(2021). OPR informed you that you did not reasonably describe the subject of your request. Further, please be advised that the FOIA does not require federal agencies to answer questions, create records, or conduct research in response to a FOIA request, but rather is limited to requiring agencies to provide access to reasonably described, nonexempt records. See *Students Against Genocide v. Dep't of State*, 257 F.3d 828, 837 (D.C. Cir. 2001); Nat'l Sec. Counselors v. CIA, 898 F. Supp. 2d 233, 269 (D.D.C. 2012). I have determined that OPR's response was correct.

Please be advised that this Office's decision was made only after a full review of this matter. Your appeal was assigned to an attorney with this Office who thoroughly reviewed and analyzed your appeal, your underlying request, and the action of OPR in response to your request.

If you are dissatisfied with my action on your appeal, the FOIA permits you to file a lawsuit in federal district court in accordance with 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(B).

For your information, the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) offers

mediation services to resolve disputes between FOIA requesters and Federal agencies as a non-exclusive alternative to litigation. Using OGIS services does not affect your right to pursue litigation. The contact information for OGIS is as follows: Office of Government Information Services, National Archives and Records Administration, Room 2510, 8601 Adelphi Road, College Park, Maryland 20740-6001; email at ogis@nara.gov; telephone at 202-741-5770; toll free at 1-877-684-6448; or facsimile at 202-741-5769. If you have any questions regarding the action this Office has taken on your appeal, you may contact this Office's FOIA Public Liaison for your appeal. Specifically, you may speak with the undersigned agency official by calling (202) 514-3642.

Sincerely,



X

Christina D. Troiani,
Associate Chief for Matthew Hurd, Chief,
Administrative Appeals Staff