

April 25, 2006

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Department of Defense
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Re: Request Submitted Under the Freedom of Information Act for Records Concerning Detainees, including "Ghost Detainees/Prisoners," "Unregistered Detainees/Prisoners," and "CIA Detainees/Prisoners"

Dear Freedom of Information Officer:

This letter constitutes a request ("Request") pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. § 552 ("FOIA"). The Request is submitted on behalf of Amnesty International ("AI") and Washington Square Legal Services, Inc. ("WSLS"). AI is a non-government organization and a world-wide movement of members who campaign for internationally-recognized human rights. WSLS is the corporation that houses the International Human Rights Clinic ("the Clinic") of the New York University School of Law ("NYU Law School"). The Clinic is a project of NYU Law School's Center for Human Rights and Global Justice ("CHRGJ").

We are filing this request simultaneously with the Department of Defense (including its components, the Department of the Army, Navy and Air Force, the Marine Corps, and the Defense Intelligence Agency), the Department of Justice (including its components, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and Office of Intelligence Policy and Review), the Department of State, the Central Intelligence Agency, and the Department of Homeland Security (including its components the Office of Intelligence and Analysis, the Directorate for Policy, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, U.S. Coast Guard, and U.S. Customs and Border Protection). By this letter, we also request expedited processing pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(6)(E).

We are seeking the opportunity to inspect and copy, if necessary, all records in the possession of the Department, including any officers, divisions or bureaus thereof, on the topics listed below.

Definitions

For purposes of this request, the following terms shall be understood as described below:

The term "records" includes any and all reports, statements, examinations, memoranda, correspondence (including electronic mail), designs, maps, photographs, microfilms, computer tapes or disks, rules, regulations, codes, handbooks, manuals, or guidelines.

The term "government official" includes any U.S. government employee, and any person providing services to any agency of the United States government on a contractual basis, regardless of his or her rank or ability to speak or make decisions on behalf of the U.S. government.

The term "foreign official" includes any foreign government employee, and any person providing services to any agency of a foreign government on a contractual basis, regardless of his or her rank or ability to speak or make decisions on behalf of the foreign government.

The term "communication" means the giving, receiving, transmitting, or exchanging of information, including, but not limited to, any and all written, printed, telephonic, electronic, and in-person conversations by and with any person, and/or talk, gestures, or documents which memorialize or refer to any communications.

The term "detainee" means any person deprived of their liberty by one or more individuals or agencies who is prevented by any means from leaving the place in which he or she is being held. The term "detention" means depriving any person of their liberty such that they are prevented by any means from leaving the place in which they are held.

The term "place of detention" means any place or facility in which a "detainee" is kept, inside or outside the United States, regardless of whether it is officially recognized as a place of detention.

Scope of Request

Unless otherwise stated, this request refers to *individuals who were, have been, or continue to be deprived of their liberty by or with the involvement of the United States and about whom the United States has not provided public information. These individuals have been referred to, among other things, as "ghost detainees/prisoners," "unregistered detainees/prisoners," "CIA detainees/prisoners" and "Other Governmental Agency Detainees" ("OGA Detainees")*. These individuals have reportedly been held in various locations, including regular and irregular detention facilities, ships, aircraft, and military bases.

Although not limited to any specific geographic area, this request pertains particularly to the following places:

Afghanistan	Azerbaijan	Bulgaria	Djibouti
Egypt	Germany	Indonesia	Iraq
Jordan	Kosovo	Macedonia	Morocco
Pakistan	Poland	Romania	Syria
Thailand	Turkey	Ukraine	
United Kingdom (including Diego Garcia)			
United States (including all territories under the S.M.T.J)			
Uzbekistan	Yemen		

This Request does not seek records related to the formal extradition of individuals.

Requested records pertain to persons apprehended since September 11, 2001.

Background

Numerous media reports indicate that the United States is involved in the secret or irregular apprehension, transfer, and detention of individuals on foreign territory.¹ These reports suggest that the government secretly detains and transports individuals on U.S. ships, military bases, and U.S.-chartered planes, as well as in foreign states.²

¹ See, e.g., Dana Priest, *CIA Holds Terror Suspects in Secret Prisons*, WASH. POST, Nov. 2, 2005, at A1; Jan Cienski, Christopher Condon, Caroline Daniel, Guy Dinmore, Andrei Postelnicu, & Demetri Sevastopulo, *Evidence CIA Has Secret Jails in Europe*, FINANCIAL TIMES (LONDON), Nov. 3, 2005, at 1; Siobhan Gorman & Tom Bowman, *Reports of Secret CIA Prisons Prompt Concern*, L.A. TIMES, Nov. 3, 2005, at A4; Douglas Jehl & David Johnston, *CIA Now Acting Independently to Move Prisoners*, INT'L HERALD TRIB., Mar. 7, 2005, at 4; Dana Priest, *Wrongful Imprisonment: Anatomy of a CIA Mistake: German Citizen Released After Months in Rendition*, WASH. POST., Dec. 4, 2005; Brian Ross and Richard Esposito, *Exclusive: Sources Tell ABC News Top Al Qaeda Figures Held in Secret CIA Prisons*, ABC NEWS, Dec. 5, 2005, at <http://abcnews.go.com/WNT/Investigation/story?id=1375123>; Eric Schmitt and Thom Shanker, *Rumsfeld Issued an Order to Hide Detainee in Iraq*, N.Y. TIMES, June 17, 2004, at A1; *US bars access to terror suspects*, BBC NEWS, Dec. 9, 2005; Josh White, *Army, CIA Agreed on 'Ghost' Prisoners*, WASH. POST, Mar. 11, 2005, at A16; *White House Mum on Secret CIA Prisons*, AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE ENGLISH WIRE, Nov. 2, 2005; *Yemen says U.S. sent prisoners to Europe*, UNITED PRESS INT'L (UPI), Dec. 11, 2005, at <http://www.upi.com/InternationalIntelligence/view.php?StoryID=20051211-051738-9694r>.

² See, *id.* and further e.g., Craig Whitlock, *Europeans Probe Secret CIA Flights; Questions Surround Possible Illegal Transfer of Terrorism Suspects*, WASH. POST, Nov. 17, 2005, at A22; Eric Schmitt & Carolyn Marshall, *In Secret Unit's 'Black Room,' a Grim Portrait of U.S. Abuse*, N.Y. TIMES, Mar. 19, 2006.

Records Requested

Please disclose any records reflecting, discussing or referring to the policy and/or practice concerning:

1. The apprehension, transfer, detention, and interrogation of persons within the Scope of Request, including but not limited to:

(a) The transfer of intelligence by one or more U.S. agencies or government officials to one or more foreign agencies or officials, in connection with the apprehension or detention of a person.

(b) A request or direction by one or more U.S. agencies or government officials to one or more foreign agencies or officials regarding the apprehension of any person, and any related agreement concerning such apprehension.

(c) The apprehension of a person in a foreign country by, with the involvement of, or in the presence of one or more U.S. officials.

(d) The transfer of a person from any country to any other country for the purpose of detention and/or interrogation, at the direction or request or with the knowledge of one or more U.S. agencies or officials.

(e) The transfer of a person from one place of detention to another within the same country at the direction or request or with the knowledge of one or more U.S. agencies or officials.

(f) The detention of a person in a foreign country at the direction or request of one or more U.S. agencies or officials, including any agreement concerning the detention.

(g) One or more U.S. agencies or officials seeking and/or being granted access to a foreign national detained in a foreign country.

(h) One or more U.S. agencies or officials being present in a place of detention in a foreign country. This does not include visits to U.S. citizens by U.S. officials pursuant to the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations.

(i) One or more U.S. agencies having control, direction, or administration of a subdivision, portion, or "cell" of a place of detention in a foreign country.

2. Current and former places of detention where individuals within the Scope of Request have been or are currently held, including but not limited to:

(a) Any place of detention in a foreign country being under the control, direction, or administration of one or more U.S. agencies.

(b) Any place of detention that is not under the control, direction or administration of one or more U.S. agencies, where a detainee is held at the request or instruction of one or more U.S. agencies or officials.

(c) Any subdivision, portion, or "cell" of a place of detention in a foreign country under the control, direction, or administration of one or more U.S. agencies.

(d) Any agreement between the U.S. government or one or more U.S. agencies or officials, and a foreign government or one or more foreign agencies or officials, in relation to a place of detention in a foreign country, regardless of whether that place of detention is foreign or U.S.-controlled.

3. The names and identities of detainees who fall within the scope of this request.³

Fee Waiver

The requesters qualify as "representatives of the news media" and the records sought are not for commercial use. Moreover, this Request "is likely to contribute significantly to the public understanding of the operations or activities of the government and is not primarily in the commercial interest of the requester[s]." 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A)(iii).

Amnesty International is a non-governmental organization and a world-wide movement of members who campaign for internationally recognized human rights. AI publishes reports, press-briefings, newsletters and urgent action requests informing the public about human rights, including torture and disappearances. AI also disseminates information through its website www.amnesty.org.

³ Because of the nature of their detention, the requesters do not know the names or identities of those within the scope of this request. For examples of individuals that the United States has acknowledged detaining, but about whom the United States has not provided public information, see Center for Human Rights and Global Justice, *Fate and Whereabouts Unknown: Detainees in the "War on Terror"* (2005), available at <http://www.nyuhr.org/docs/Whereabouts%20Unknown%20Final.pdf>; and Human Rights Watch, "List of 'Ghost Prisoners' Possibly in CIA Custody (2005), available at <http://hrw.org/english/docs/2005/11/30/usdom12109.htm>. The scope of this request extends far beyond these examples.

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The Center for Human Rights and Global Justice is a research center at NYU Law School. CHRGGJ aims to advance human rights and respect for the rule of law through advocacy, scholarship, education and training. CHRGGJ publishes reports and operates a website www.nyuhr.org discussing human rights issues.

The International Human Rights Clinic is a project of CHRGGJ and an official program at NYU Law School, composed of students and directed by clinical professors, who engage in research and advocacy on human rights issues.

Washington Square Legal Services is a not-for-profit corporation that houses the clinical program of NYU Law School.

The requesters plan to disseminate the information disclosed as a result of this Request through the channels described above.

Expedited Processing

Expedited processing is warranted as there is a “compelling need” for the records sought in this Request. 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(6)(E)(i)(I). This need arises because the requesters are “primarily engaged in disseminating information” and there is an “urgency to inform the public concerning actual or alleged Federal Government Activity.” 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(6)(E)(v)(II). *See also* 32 C.F.R. § 286.4(d)(3)(ii) (DOD); 6 C.F.R. § 5.5(d)(1)(ii) (DHS); 28 C.F.R. § 16.5(d)(1)(ii) (DOJ); 22 C.F.R. § 171.12(b)(2) (DOS).

AI is primarily engaged in disseminating information about human rights, through its reports, newsletters, press-briefings, urgent action requests, and on its website. CHRGGJ is engaged in disseminating information about human rights, including in particular, the Federal Government’s role in upholding human rights. As indicated above, this information is disseminated through published reports and CHRGGJ’s website. The Clinic actively supports this work, and WSLS houses the clinic. As reflected in the media articles cited above, there is an urgent need to provide the public with information relating to the U.S. government’s practices concerning unregistered or ghost detainees.

There is also a “compelling need” because failure to obtain the records on an expedited basis “could reasonably be expected to pose an imminent threat to the life or physical safety of an individual.” 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(6)(E)(v)(I). *See also* 32 C.F.R. § 286.4(d)(3)(i) (DOD); 6 C.F.R. § 5.5(d)(1)(i) (DHS); 28 C.F.R. § 16.5(d)(1)(i) (DOJ); 22 C.F.R. § 171.12(b)(1) (DOS). This Request arises in the context of allegations of ongoing unlawful detention and abuse of individuals with the involvement of U.S. agents abroad. Failure to publicly expose and thereby halt any such practices could reasonably be expected to pose an imminent threat to the physical

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safety and lives of individuals whose identities we are unable to ascertain without the records sought herein.

Furthermore, the records sought in this request are urgently needed because the information would clearly form the basis of "a breaking news story of general public interest," and thus have "a particular value that will be lost if not disseminated quickly," 32 C.F.R. § 286.4(d)(3)(ii)(A). In addition to intense U.S. media interest surrounding issues of U.S. human rights violations abroad, the subjects of this request are the basis of numerous investigations by human rights organizations and the U.S. and foreign governments. For example, the Council of Europe is currently undertaking a widespread investigation into alleged secret detentions in its member states as a result of a human rights report implicating the U.S. government in actions which it has thus far denied.

Expedited processing is also warranted because there is a "humanitarian need" for the information requested, in that its disclosure will "promote the welfare and interest of mankind." 32 C.F.R. § 286.4(d)(3)(iv). Disclosure of the information requested will assist the requesters in preventing torture and abuse of individuals throughout the world.

AI and WSLs certify that the foregoing statements regarding the basis for expedited processing are true and correct to the best of their knowledge and belief. 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(6)(E)(vi). *See also* 32 C.F.R. § 286.4(d)(3)(iii) (DOD); 6 C.F.R. § 5.5(d)(3) (DHS); 28 C.F.R. § 16.5(d)(3) (DOJ); 22 C.F.R. § 171.12(b) (DOS).

* * *

If this Request is denied in whole or part, we ask that you justify all deletions by reference to specific exemptions of the FOIA. We expect release of all segregable portions of otherwise exempt material. We also reserve the right to appeal a decision to withhold any information or to deny a waiver of fees.

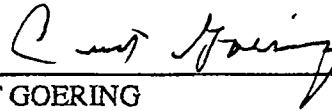
As indicated above, we are applying for expedited processing of this Request. Notwithstanding your determination of that application, we look forward to your reply to the Request **within twenty (20) days**, as required under 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(6)(A)(i).

Thank you for your prompt attention. Please direct all questions and future responses to:

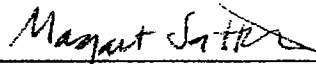
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Sincerely,



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Re: Request Under the Freedom of Information Act for Records Concerning Ghost Detainee Memoranda, Department of Defense Detainee Reporting, Reports to Certain U.N. Committees, and the Draft Convention on Enforced Disappearance

Dear Freedom of Information Officer:

This letter constitutes a request ("Request") pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. § 552 ("FOIA"). The Request is submitted on behalf of Amnesty International ("AI") and Washington Square Legal Services, Inc. ("WSLS"). AI is a non-government organization and a world-wide movement of members who campaign for internationally-recognized human rights. WSLS is the corporation that houses the International Human Rights Clinic ("the Clinic") of the New York University School of Law ("NYU Law School"). The Clinic is a project of NYU Law School's Center for Human Rights and Global Justice ("CHRGJ").

We are filing this request simultaneously with the Department of Defense (including its components, the Department of the Army, Navy and Air Force, the Marine Corps, and the Defense Intelligence Agency), the Department of Justice (including its components, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and Office of Intelligence Policy and Review), the Department of State, the Central Intelligence Agency, and the Department of Homeland Security (including its components the Office of Intelligence and Analysis, the Directorate for Policy, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, U.S. Coast Guard, and U.S. Customs and Border Protection). By this letter, we also request expedited processing pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(6)(E).

We are seeking the opportunity to inspect and copy, if necessary, all records in the possession of the Department, including any officers, divisions or bureaus thereof, on the topics listed below.

Definitions

For purposes of this request, the following terms shall be understood as described below:

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The term "place of detention" means any place or facility in which a "detainee" is kept, inside or outside the United States, regardless of whether it is officially recognized as a place of detention.

Unless otherwise specified, this request relates to all records generated between September 11, 2001 and the present.

Memoranda of Understanding

The practice of persons being kept as “off-the-record” detainees in military prisons has been well documented.¹ In this context, “ghost” or “unregistered” detainees are understood to refer to those detainees who were at some point during their detention, or remain: not “officially” registered at military facilities; “kept off the books”; and/or denied access to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).² Documents produced by the Department of Defense on March 3, 2005 pursuant to an ACLU FOIA request³ and a media report in the

¹ See Josh White, *Army, CIA Agreed on 'Ghost' Prisoners*, WASH. POST, Mar. 11, 2005, at A16. See also Jane Mayer, *A Deadly Interrogation: Can the C.I.A. Legally Kill a Prisoner?*, NEW YORKER, Nov. 14, 2005, at 44 (discussing the practice, particularly with respect to the death of Manadel al-Jamadi). See also the following Department of Defense documents released to the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) pursuant to a *Freedom of Information Act* request, all available at <http://www.aclu.org/torturefoia/released/030905/>: Transcript of deposition of Brig. Gen. Janis L. Karpinski, Appendix to Fay/Jones/Kern Report (July 18, 2004); Statement of MNF-I, C2, IMIR CW2, Annex to Fay/Jones/Kern Report (June 16, 2004); Sworn Statement of E-5, 519th MI Bn, Annex to Fay/Jones/Kern Report (June 4, 2004); Sworn Statement of 372nd MP Co SPC, Annex to Fay/Jones/Kern Report (May 7, 2004); Sworn Statement of 372nd MP Co SPC, Annex to Fay/Jones/Kern Report (May 7, 2004); Sworn Statement of [UNREADABLE], Annex to Fay/Jones/Kern Report; Sworn Statement of Deputy CJ2, CJTF-7, Annex to Fay/Jones/Kern Report; Sworn Statement of SGT, 372nd MP, Camp Victory, Annex to Fay/Jones/Kern Report (May 7, 2004); Sworn Statement of SPC/E4, B Co., 66th MI Group, 202nd MI BN, Annex to Fay/Jones/Kern Report (May 24, 2004); Sworn Statement of SGT, Member of GTMO team, “Shut Up Group,” Annex to Fay/Jones/Kern Report (June 4, 2004); Sworn Statement of CW2, A/519th MI Bn, Annex to Fay/Jones/Kern Report (May 19, 2004); Sworn Statement of SGT, 372nd MP Co, Annex to Fay/Jones/Kern Report (May 7, 2004); Statement of B/Co, 470th MI Grp. SGT, Annex to Fay/Jones/Kern Report (May 18, 2004). See further HUMAN RIGHTS FIRST, *BEHIND THE WIRE: AN UPDATE TO ENDING SECRET DETENTIONS 6* (2005), available at http://www.humanrightsfirst.org/us_law/PDF/behind-the-wire-033005.pdf (providing overview of the practice of ghosting in military facilities); HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH, *THE UNITED STATES' DISAPPEARED: THE CIA'S LONG-TERM "GHOST DETAINEES"* 5-15 (2004), available at <http://www.hrw.org/backgrounder/usa/us1004/us1004.pdf> (outlining practice of keeping CIA prisoners in military detention generally).

² *Id.*

³ See Sworn Statement of [UNREADABLE], Annex to Fay/Jones/Kern Report, in Department of Defense FOIA Release, at 000719-000725, available at <http://www.aclu.org/torturefoia/released/030905/> (“OGA and TF-121 routinely brought in detainees for a short period of time. The A/519th soldiers initiated the term 'ghost.' They stated they used this term as the detainees were not in-processed in the normal way via the MP database and were not yet categorized. It was difficult to track these particular detainees and I and other officers recommended that a Memorandum of Understanding be written up between OGA, the 205th MI BDE and the 800th MP BDE to establish procedures for a ghost detainee”); Sworn Statement of Deputy CJ2, CJTF-7, Annex to Fay/Jones/Kern Report, in Department of Defense FOIA Release, at 000726-000729, available at <http://www.aclu.org/torturefoia/released/030905/> (“...in reference to Ghost detainees, OGA would bring in detainees for a short period of time. [REDACTED] brought them in. These particular ghost detainees were not yet categorized and OGA was working on that. It was very difficult keeping track of these OGA because they were not processed until OGA decided to turn them over to us. COL PAPPAS was not happy with that procedure.

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Washington Post dated March 11, 2005⁴ indicate that this arrangement for "ghosting" was not "ad hoc" but was embodied in a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between military officials and the CIA.⁵ The exact contours of this arrangement are not publicly known as a copy of this MOU was not included in the documents released by the Department of Defense.⁶

Records Requested

We seek the following records relating to the arrangement described above:

1. Any memorandum of understanding, or other record reflecting an agreement or proposed agreement between agencies, or between any agency and any subdivision or official, concerning the handling of unregistered or ghost detainees. This includes but is not limited to:
 - (a) Any record reflecting communications about whether or not to draft any memorandum of understanding or agreement regarding unregistered or ghost detainees.
 - (b) Any record reflecting communications about the content of any memorandum of understanding or agreement regarding unregistered or ghost detainees.
2. Any record reflecting a policy, whether formal or informal, about the reception, detention, or movement of unregistered or ghost detainees.
3. Any memorandum of understanding, or other record reflecting an agreement between any agencies, or between any subdivision or official or any other agency, regarding the transfer of detainees from the custody of one agency to that of another.

[REDACTED] recommended that a Memorandum of Understanding be written up between OGA and MI on the procedures to drop off a ghost detainee. COL PAPPAS met with OGA and TF-121 and the memorandum on procedures for dropping ghost detainees was signed").

⁴ Josh White, *Army, CIA Agreed on 'Ghost' Prisoners*, WASH. POST, Mar. 11, 2005, at A16.

⁵ *Id.*

⁶ Press Release, American Civil Liberties Union, *Newly Released Army Documents Point to Agreement Between Defense Department and CIA on "Ghost" Detainees, ACLU Says: Declassified Annexes to Fay Report, Which Denied Link, Contain Further Evidence of Brutal Army Abuses* (Mar. 10, 2005), *available at* <http://www.aclu.org/safefree/general/17597prs20050310.html>.

Department of Defense Detainee Reporting

The Ronald W. Reagan National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2005, Pub. L. No. 108-375, 118 Stat. 1811 (2004) (“the Act”), requires the Department of Defense to submit an annual report regarding certain detainees.

Records Requested

4. Any record generated in connection with the reporting requirement under Section 1093(c) of the Act, regardless of whether or not such record was actually submitted in the final report, and any record submitted to the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate and the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives pursuant to Section 1093(c) of the Act.⁷ This includes but is not limited to records reflecting:

- (a) Any notice of investigation into any violation of international obligations or laws of the United States regarding the treatment of individuals detained by the U.S. Armed Forces or by a person providing services to the Department of Defense on a contractual basis.
- (b) Any discussions regarding whether any investigation described in Request 4(a) should be reported.
- (c) The number and names of detainees held in Department of Defense custody, or released from Department of Defense custody during the time period covered by the report, broken down into the greatest number of time intervals for which such information is available.
- (d) The number and names of detainees detained by the Department of Defense as “enemy prisoners of war,” “civilian internees,” and “unlawful combatants,” broken down into the greatest number of time intervals for which such information is available.
- (e) The number and names of detainees detained by the Department of Defense under any status other than “enemy prisoners of war,” “civilian internees,” and “unlawful

⁷ Section 1093(e) of the Act mandates that the reports “be submitted, to the extent practicable, in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex as necessary to protect the national security of the United States.” To the extent any records or portions of records responsive to this request are classified, please provide basic information as to the date, sender, recipient, and subject matter of the classified records.

combatants,” broken down into the greatest number of time intervals for which such information is available.

- (f) The transfer or proposed transfer of detainees by the Department of Defense to the jurisdiction of other countries, and the countries to which those detainees were transferred.
- (g) Any communications regarding decisions to include or not include information in the Department of Defense’s report under Section 1093(c) of the Act and decisions as to whether to submit any information in unclassified or classified form pursuant to Section 1093(d) of the Act.

United States Report to the Committee Against Torture

On May 6, 2005, the U.S. submitted its Second Periodic Report to the United Nations (“U.N.”) Committee Against Torture, as required by the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

Records Requested

All records reflecting:

5. Communications regarding the United States’ Second Periodic Report to the Committee Against Torture, including but not limited to:

- (a) Communications regarding whether any individual, place of detention, or practice should be mentioned or discussed in the report to the Committee Against Torture.
- (b) Communications with a foreign government, or agency of a foreign government, regarding any provision of the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment relating to apprehension, transfer and detention, (including Articles 1, 3, 5, 16), or whether any individual, place of detention, or practice should be mentioned or discussed in the report.
- (c) Proposed language or earlier drafts of the report to the Committee Against Torture.

United States Report to the Human Rights Committee

On November 28, 2005, the U.S. submitted its Third Periodic Report to the U.N. Human Rights Committee, as required by the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

Records Requested

All records reflecting:

6. Communications regarding the United States' Third Periodic Report to the Human Rights Committee, including but not limited to:

- (a) Communications regarding whether any individual, place of detention, or practice should be mentioned or discussed in the report to the Human Rights Committee.
- (b) Communications with a foreign government, or agency of a foreign government, regarding any provision of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights relating to apprehension, transfer and detention, (including Articles 6, 7, 9), or whether any individual, place of detention, or practice should be mentioned or discussed in the report.
- (c) Proposed language or earlier drafts of the report to the Human Rights Committee.

The Convention on the Protection of all Persons from Enforced Disappearance

On September 23, 2005, a U.N. working group concluded the draft text of the Convention on the Protection of all Persons from Enforced Disappearance. In 2006, the draft convention will be submitted to the U.N. Commission on Human Rights and the U.N. General Assembly, before being opened for signature and ratification.

Records Requested

7. Any record reflecting communications regarding the negotiation or drafting of the draft Convention on the Protection of all Persons from Enforced Disappearance.

8. Any record reflecting communications with a foreign government, or an agency or official of a foreign government, regarding the drafting of the draft Convention on the Protection of all Persons from Enforced Disappearance.

Fee Waiver

The requesters qualify as "representatives of the news media" and the records sought are not for commercial use. Moreover, this Request "is likely to contribute significantly to the public understanding of the operations or activities of the government and is not primarily in the commercial interest of the requester[s]." 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A)(iii).

Amnesty International is a non-government organization and a world-wide movement of members who campaign for internationally recognized human rights. AI publishes reports, press-briefings, newsletters and urgent action requests informing the public about human rights, including the prohibition on torture and the prohibition on disappearances. AI also disseminates information through its website www.amnesty.org.

The Center for Human Rights and Global Justice is a research center at NYU Law School. CHRJGJ aims to advance human rights and respect for the rule of law through advocacy, scholarship, education and training. CHRJGJ publishes reports and operates a website www.nyuhr.org discussing human rights issues.

The International Human Rights Clinic is a project of CHRJGJ and an official program at NYU Law School, composed of students and directed by clinical professors, who engage in research and advocacy on human rights issues.

Washington Square Legal Services is a not-for-profit corporation that houses the clinical program of NYU Law School.

The requesters plan to disseminate the information disclosed as a result of this FOIA request through the channels described above.

Expedited Processing

Expedited processing is warranted as there is a "compelling need" for the records sought in this request. 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(6)(E)(i)(I). The requesters are primarily engaged in "disseminating information" and there is an "urgency to inform the public concerning the actual or alleged Federal Government Activity." 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(6)(E)(v)(II). *See also* 32 C.F.R. § 286.4(d)(3)(ii) (DOD); 6 C.F.R. § 5.5(d)(1)(ii) (DHS); 28 C.F.R. § 16.5(d)(1)(ii) (DOJ); 22 C.F.R. § 171.12(b)(2) (DOS).

AI is primarily engaged in disseminating information about human rights, through its reports, newsletters, press-briefings, urgent action requests, and on its website. CHRJGJ is engaged in disseminating information about human rights, including in particular, the Federal Government's role in upholding human rights. As indicated above, this information is disseminated through published reports and CHRJGJ's website. The Clinic actively supports this work, and WSLS houses the clinic. As reflected in the media reports discussed above, there is an urgent need to provide the public with information relating to the U.S. government's practices concerning unregistered or ghost detainees.

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There is also a “compelling need” because failure to obtain the records on an expedited basis “could reasonably be expected to pose an imminent threat to the life or physical safety of an individual.” 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(6)(E)(v)(I). *See also* 32 C.F.R. § 286.4(d)(3)(i) (DOD); 6 C.F.R. § 5.5(d)(1)(i) (DHS); 28 C.F.R. § 16.5(d)(1)(i) (DOJ); 22 C.F.R. § 171.12(b)(1) (DOS). This Request arises in the context of allegations of ongoing unlawful detention and abuse of individuals with the involvement of U.S. agents abroad. Failure to publicly expose and thereby halt the practices prompting this Request could reasonably be expected to pose an imminent threat to the physical safety and lives of such individuals.

Furthermore, the records sought in this request are urgently needed because the information would clearly form the basis of “a breaking news story of general public interest,” and thus have “a particular value that will be lost if not disseminated quickly,” 32 C.F.R. § 286.4(d)(3)(ii)(A). In addition to intense U.S. media interest surrounding issues of U.S. human rights violations abroad, the subjects of this request are the basis of numerous investigations by human rights organizations and the U.S. and foreign governments. For example, the Council of Europe is currently undertaking a widespread investigation into alleged secret detentions in its member states as a result of a human rights report implicating the U.S. government in actions which it has thus far denied.

Expedited processing is also warranted because there is a “humanitarian need” for the information requested, in that its disclosure will “promote the welfare and interest of mankind.” 32 C.F.R. § 286.4(d)(3)(iv). Disclosure of the information requested will assist the requesters in preventing torture and abuse of individuals throughout the world.

AI and WSLs certify that the foregoing statements regarding the basis for expedited processing are true and correct to the best of their knowledge and belief. 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(6)(E)(vi). *See also* 32 C.F.R. § 286.4(d)(3)(iii) (DOD); 6 C.F.R. § 5.5(d)(3) (DHS); 28 C.F.R. § 16.5(d)(3) (DOJ); 22 C.F.R. § 171.12(b) (DOS).

* * *

If this Request is denied in whole or part, we ask that you justify all deletions by reference to specific exemptions of the FOIA. We expect release of all segregable portions of otherwise exempt material. We also reserve the right to appeal a decision to withhold any information or to deny a waiver of fees.

As indicated above, we are applying for expedited processing of this Request. Notwithstanding your determination of that application, we look forward to your reply to the Request **within twenty (20) days**, as required under 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(6)(A)(i).

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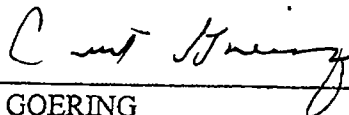
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Thank you for your prompt attention. Please direct all questions and future responses to:

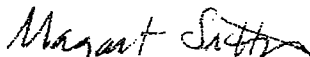
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If you need someone to reach by telephone or email, you may also contact Kyle DeYoung at WilmerHale at (202) 663-6785.

Sincerely,



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