

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

MUSLIM ADVOCATES, et al.

Plaintiffs,

v.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT
OF STATE, *et al.*,

Defendants.

Civil Action No. 18-1546 (TSC)

JOINT STATUS REPORT

Defendants, the United States Department of State (“DOS”), United States Department of Homeland Security (“DHS”), United States Customs and Border Protection (“CBP”), United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (“USCIS”) and Plaintiffs, Muslim Advocates and Center for Constitutional Rights (“CCR”), each by its undersigned counsel, submit this joint status report in this Freedom of Information Action in response to the Court’s Minute Order dated February 26, 2019.

Defendants provide the following updates regarding their responses to Plaintiffs’ FOIA requests.

a. DOS:

DOS made productions of non-exempt, responsive material to Plaintiffs on March 25, 2019, April 29, 2019, May 28, 2019, and June 25, 2019. DOS intends to continue providing rolling productions of non-exempt, responsive material to Plaintiffs at a monthly rate, with the next production on July 25, 2019.

b. USCIS:

USCIS has finished its search, and has completed its review of potentially responsive records. In addition to the earlier USCIS production of documents, USCIS has processed 304 pages itself and referred 2045 pages to DHS for review, which remains pending.

c. CBP materials:

CBP has concluded its search for responsive documents and has identified five pages of responsive documents; it released redacted versions of the responsive documents to Plaintiffs on February 5, 2019. Along with responsive records, CBP also provided to Plaintiffs a memorandum from a CBP official explaining the context and nature of the result of CBP's search for responsive records. Plaintiffs are currently reviewing CBP's production and memorandum and will report any issues with the production to the court at the next status report.

d. DHS: As DHS has previously advised the Court, it completed its search and the processing of the approximately 3,709 potentially responsive pages, and was reviewing the pages processed for release to the requester. By email dated May 7, 2019, DHS advised Plaintiffs that it had reviewed 3,709 pages of which 595 pages were being released in full, 2,515 pages were withheld in full, 213 pages were withheld in part pursuant to FOIA exemptions (b)(5) and (b)(6), and 222 pages were determined to be duplicates or non-responsive. DHS further advised that part of the reviewed 3,709 pages contained other equities and therefore sent 27 pages to the Office of Inspector General (OIG) for review and direct response to Plaintiffs and 138 pages for consultation to other agencies. DHS is awaiting responses from some or all of the referrals.

The parties intend to consult again as productions proceed and propose that they file another joint status report on September 9, 2019, pursuant to the Court's Minute Order dated February 26, 2019.

Dated: July 9, 2019

Respectfully submitted,

/s/Sirine Shebaya

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