



October 25, 2022

VIA EMAIL

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

Freedom of Information Act Request: Fact Sheet Dated March 26, 2022

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 public 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 email list contains over 34,100 unique addresses, our Facebook page has 80,000 followers, our Twitter page has 20,600 followers, the Twitter page of our Founder and President has nearly 225,000 followers, and we have another 31,000 followers on GETTR.

AFL now requests the following records under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), 5 U.S.C. § 552(a).

I. Custodians

- A. Office of the Spokesperson
- B. The U.S. Palestinian Affairs Unit

II. Requested Records

- A. All records about, regarding, or referencing the "Fact Sheet" issued by the Office of the Spokesperson, dated March 26, 2022, and titled "U.S. Support for

the Palestinian People”, <https://www.state.gov/u-s-support-for-the-palestinian-people/>. The time frame for this item is February 26, 2022, to the date of processing.

B. The above-referenced “Fact Sheet” states that the U.S. Palestinian Affairs Unit (PAU) Public Diplomacy Section “also partners with Palestinian and American organizations to support projects in Jerusalem, the West Bank and Gaza that increase exchange between our two peoples and advance shared goals on topics such as education, entrepreneurship, environmental protection, English language learning, science and technology, art and culture, gender equality, human rights, and democracy, among others. These include university linkage projects connecting American and Palestinian universities directly for exchange and collaboration for students and faculty.” With respect to this statement, we request:

1. All records about, identifying, regarding, or referencing the Palestinian and American organizations that the PAU partners with to support projects in Jerusalem, the West Bank, and Gaza.
2. All records about or identifying each supported “project”.
3. All records about or identifying the American universities that are part of the “university linkage projects connecting American and Palestinian universities directly”.

The time frame for this item is February 1, 2021, to the date of processing.

C. The above-referenced “Fact Sheet” states “Our American Spaces in Jerusalem, Ramallah, and Hebron serve as venues and hubs for many of these programs.” With respect to this statement, we request all records identifying, about, regarding, or referencing each such “American Space,” including the street address and budget of each. The time frame for this item is February 1, 2021, to the date of processing.

D. All processing records for items A – C.

III. Processing

The Attorney General’s Memorandum on Freedom of Information Act Guidelines controls the processing of this request.¹ If you have any questions then please contact the undersigned at FOIA@aflegal.org.

IV. Fee Waiver

Per 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A)(iii) and agency regulations, AFL requests a waiver of all search and duplication fees. Fee waivers are appropriate where, as here, “disclosure

¹ U.S. Dep’t of Justice (Mar. 15, 2022), <https://bit.ly/3zvpxb6>.

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 is not primarily in the commercial interest of the requester.” AFL’s request concerns identifiable operations or activities of the government, and the information requested is likely to contribute significantly to the public understanding of the Biden Administration’s policies.

Also, AFL is a qualified non-commercial public education and news media requester. AFL has demonstrated its commitment to the public disclosure of documents and creation of editorial content. We distribute our work widely, posting government records for the benefit of the public, Congress, policymakers, and scholars, and creating and disseminating distinct work on media outlets of all sorts through the exercise of our editorial skills. As a nonprofit organization primarily engaged in the dissemination of information to educate the public, AFL does not have a commercial purpose and the release of the information requested is not primarily in AFL’s financial interest. Our status as a qualified non-commercial public education and news media requester has been recognized by the Departments of Defense, Education, Energy, Interior, Health and Human Services, Homeland Security, State, and the Office of the Director of National Intelligence. If AFL’s request for a fee waiver is not granted in full, then please contact us immediately.

V. Production

To accelerate release of responsive records, AFL welcomes production on an agreed rolling basis. If possible, please provide responsive records in an electronic format by email. Alternatively, please provide responsive records in native format or in PDF format on a USB drive. Please send any responsive records being transmitted by mail to America First Legal Foundation, 611 Pennsylvania Ave SE #231, Washington, DC 20003.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Sincerely yours,

Reed D. Rubinstein
America First Legal Foundation