

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

JUDICIAL WATCH, INC.,)
501 School Street, S.W., Suite 700)
Washington, DC 20024,)
)
Plaintiff,)
)
v.)
)
FEDERAL BUREAU OF)
INVESTIGATION)
J. Edgar Hoover Building)
935 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW)
Washington, D.C. 20535-0001)
)
Defendant.)
_____)

(Case: 1:10-cv-00071
Assigned To : Kollar-Kotelly, Colleen
Assign. Date : 1/14/2010
Description: FOIA/Privacy Act

**COMPLAINT FOR DECLARATORY AND
INJUNCTIVE RELIEF**

Plaintiff Judicial Watch, Inc. brings this action against Defendant Federal Bureau of Investigation to compel compliance with the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. § 552 (“FOIA”). As grounds therefor, Plaintiff alleges as follows:

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

1. The Court has jurisdiction over this action pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(B) and 28 U.S.C. § 1331.
2. Venue is proper in this district pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(e).

PARTIES

3. Plaintiff is a non-profit, educational foundation organized under the laws of the District of Columbia and having its principal place of business at 501 School Street, S.W., Suite 700, Washington, DC 20024. Plaintiff seeks to promote integrity, transparency, and

accountability in government and fidelity to the rule of law. In furtherance of its public interest mission, Plaintiff regularly serves FOIA requests on federal, state, and local government agencies, entities, and offices, and disseminates its findings to the public.

4. Defendant is an agency of the United States government and is headquartered at 935 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20535-0001. Defendant has possession, custody, and control of records to which Plaintiff seeks access.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

5. On September 10, 2009, Plaintiff sent a FOIA request to Defendant seeking access to all communications with/between the FBI and the United Kingdom concerning the August 20, 2009 release of Abdel Baset al-Megrahi, the former Libyan intelligence officer who was convicted of 270 counts of murder for the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland.

6. Pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(6)(A)(i), Defendant was required to respond to Plaintiff's September 10, 2009 FOIA request within twenty (20) working days or by October 8, 2009.

7. Defendant acknowledged receipt of Plaintiff's FOIA request by letter dated September 16, 2009 and assigned the request number 1137181-000.

8. As of the date of the Complaint, Defendant has failed to produce any records responsive to Plaintiff's request or demonstrate that responsive records are exempt from production. Nor has Defendant indicated when or whether any responsive records will be produced.

9. Because Defendant failed to comply with the time limits set forth in 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(6)(A) and 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(6)(B), Plaintiff is deemed to have exhausted any and all administrative remedies with respect to its September 10, 2009 FOIA request, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(6)(C).

COUNT 1
(Violation of FOIA)

10. Plaintiff realleges paragraphs 1 through 9 as if fully stated herein.

11. Defendant has violated FOIA by failing to produce any and all non-exempt records responsive to Plaintiff's September 10, 2009 request within the time limits required by 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(6)(A) and 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(6)(B).

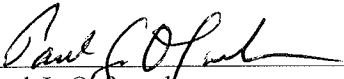
12. Plaintiff is being irreparably harmed by reason of Defendant's violation of FOIA, and Plaintiff will continue to be irreparably harmed unless Defendant is compelled to conform its conduct to the requirements of the law.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff respectfully requests that the Court: (1) declare Defendant's failure to comply with FOIA to be unlawful; (2) order Defendant to search for and produce any and all non-exempt records responsive to Plaintiff's September 10, 2009 request and a *Vaughn* index of allegedly exempt records responsive to the request by a date certain; (3) enjoin Defendant from continuing to withhold any and all non-exempt records responsive to the request; (4) grant Plaintiff an award of attorney's fees and other litigation costs reasonably incurred in this action pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(E); and (5) grant Plaintiff such other relief as the Court deems just and proper.

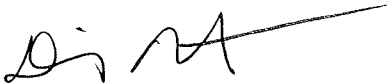
Dated: January 14, 2009

Respectfully submitted,

JUDICIAL WATCH, INC.



Paul J. Orfanedes
D.C. Bar No. 429716



David F. Rothstein
D.C. Bar No. 450035
Suite 500
501 School Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20024
(202) 646-5172

Attorneys for Plaintiff