

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

JUDICIAL WATCH, INC.,
425 Third Street, S.W., Suite 800
Washington, DC 20024,

Plaintiff,

v.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE,
1600 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1600,

Defendant.

Case: 1:11-cv-00890
Assigned To : Boasberg, James E.
Assign. Date : 5/13/2011
Description: FOIA/Privacy Act

COMPLAINT

Plaintiff Judicial Watch, Inc. brings this action against Defendant U.S. Department of Defense 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 425 Third Street, S.W., Suite 800, 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 requests access to the public records of 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 1600 Defense Pentagon, Washington, DC 20301-1600. Defendant has possession, custody, and control of records to which Plaintiff seeks access.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

5. On May 2, 2011, Plaintiff sent a FOIA request to Defendant seeking access to all photographs and/or video recordings of Osama (Usama) Bin Laden taken during and/or after the U.S. military operation in Pakistan on or about May 1, 2011.

6. By letter dated May 9, 2011, Defendant acknowledged receipt of Plaintiff's FOIA request and designated the request as case number 11-F-0931. In addition, Defendant advised Plaintiff:

At this time, we are unable to make a release determination on your request within the 20-day statutory time period. Although the FOIA contains provisions for an extension of 10 more business days, that additional time will not be sufficient to complete the work required to process your request and arrive at a final release decision.

7. Pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(6)(A) and 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(6)(B)(i), Defendant is required to respond to Plaintiff's FOIA request within thirty (30) working days or by June 10, 2011.

8. Because Defendant has advised Plaintiff that it will fail to make a determination on Plaintiff's FOIA request within the time limit set forth in 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(6)(A) 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(6)(B)(i), Plaintiff is deemed to have exhausted any and all administrative remedies with respect to its FOIA request. 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(6)(C).

COUNT 1
(Violation of FOIA, 5 U.S.C. § 552)

9. Plaintiff realleges paragraphs 1 through 8 as if fully stated herein.

10. Defendant is unlawfully withholding records requested by Plaintiff pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 552.

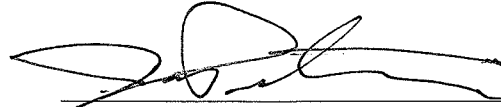
11. Plaintiff is being irreparably harmed by reason of Defendant's unlawful withholding of requested records, and Plaintiff will continue to be irreparably harmed unless Defendant is compelled to conform its conduct to the requirements of the law.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff respectfully requests that the Court: (1) order Defendant to conduct a search for any and all records responsive to Plaintiff's FOIA request and demonstrate that it employed search methods reasonably likely to lead to the discovery of records responsive to Plaintiff's FOIA request; (2) order Defendant to produce, by a date certain, any and all non-exempt records responsive to Plaintiff's FOIA request and a *Vaughn* index of any responsive records withheld under claim of exemption; (3) enjoin Defendant from continuing to withhold any and all non-exempt records responsive to Plaintiff's FOIA request; (4) grant Plaintiff an award of attorneys' 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.

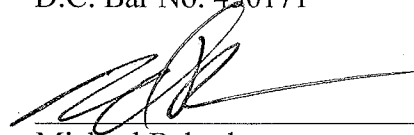
Dated: May 13, 2011

Respectfully submitted,

JUDICIAL WATCH, INC.



James F. Peterson
D.C. Bar No. 450171



Michael Bekesha
D.C. Bar No. 995749
425 Third Street, S.W., Suite 800
Washington, DC 20024
(202) 646-5172

Attorneys for Plaintiff