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

FREEDOM WATCH, INC., 2020 Pennsylvania Ave. N.W. Suite 345 Washington, D.C.. 20006

Plaintiff,

v.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE, Defense Intelligence Agency 1400 Defense Pentagon Washington, D.C. 20301

Defendant.

#### **COMPLAINT**

Plaintiff Freedom Watch, Inc. ("Plaintiff") brings this action against Defendant U.S. Department of Defense and its Defense Intelligence Agency ("collectively Defendant DoD") to compel compliance with the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. § 552 ("FOIA"). As grounds therefore, Plaintiff alleges as follows:

#### JURISDICTION AND VENUE

1. This 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 Freedom Watch, Inc. is a 501(c)(3), non-profit, public interest foundation organized under the laws of the District of Columbia and having its principal place of business at 2020 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W., Suite 345, Washington, D.C. 20006. Among its public interest activities and missions, Plaintiff seeks to promote openness with the federal government and its

#### Case 1:19-cv-02143 Document 1 Filed 07/18/19 Page 2 of 14

actions. Plaintiff regularly requests records under FOIA to shed light on the operations of the federal government and to educate the public about these operations. Plaintiff then analyzes the agency records and disseminates the results of its analysis to the public.

4. Defendant DoD is an agency of the U.S. government. Defendant has possession, custody, and control of records to which Plaintiff seeks access. DoD is headquartered at 1400 Defense Pentagon, Washington, D.C. 20301.

#### **STATEMENT OF FACTS**

5. On December 22, 2011, Plaintiff sent a FOIA request to Defendant DoD seeking the production of agency records relating to extraterrestrial visits, UFO encounters, Area 51, the Roswell incident and extraterrestrial life information regarding the United Nations, Great Britain and the United States.

6. Defendant DoD was required to determine whether to comply with Plaintiff's FOIA request within twenty (20) days, excepting Saturdays, Sundays and legal public holidays, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(6)(A). Pursuant to this same provision, Defendant DoD also was required to notify Plaintiff immediately of this determination, the reasons therefore, and the right to appeal any adverse determination to the head of the agency. Plaintiff finally received Defendant DoD's response on March 26, 2019, *almost eight (8) years* after Plaintiff's original FOIA request, *See* Exhibit 1, with a so-called production of documents of about three (3) inches. The great majority of the *de minimus* production of records was in Russian and was not responsive to the original request, filed about 8 years earlier.

7. On May 29, 2019, Plaintiff timely appealed Defendant DoD's March 26, 2019 decision.

2

#### Case 1:19-cv-02143 Document 1 Filed 07/18/19 Page 3 of 14

8. On June 27, 2019, Defendant DoD responded, claiming that its "workload is in excess of 1,600 requests." *See* Exhibit 2. This is tantamount to a denial and complete bad faith obstruction of justice, as it is clear that Defendant DoD is suppressing and illegally withholding relevant records as part of a cover-up.

As of the date of this Complaint, Defendant DoD has failed to make a bona fide, 9. good faith determination about whether they will fully comply, or for that matter comply at all, with Plaintiff's FOIA request. Defendant DoD dishonestly produced non-responsive documents conveniently and overwhelmingly in Russian and failed to indicate when any responsive records will be produced, or demonstrated that specific responsive records are exempt from production. Defendant DoD is stonewalling Plaintiff's FOIA request, particularly given the media coverage of these issues. In fact, just a few weeks ago, U.S. Senators received a classified briefing on confirmed sightings UFOs by our military pilots and others, and it is now widely accepted that the U.S. government possesses voluminous records and information about the existence of UFO's and related matters as set forth in Plaintiff's FOIA request. https://www.cnn.com/2019/06/20/politics/ufo-sightings-navy-briefs-us-senators/index.html. See Exhibit 3. A total cover-up has been and continues to be underway.

#### CAUSE OF ACTION COUNT 1 (Violation of FOIA, 5 U.S.C. § 552)

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

11. Defendant DoD is unlawfully withholding records requested by Plaintiff's FOIA request pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 552 as set forth herein.

#### Case 1:19-cv-02143 Document 1 Filed 07/18/19 Page 4 of 14

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

13. Plaintiff respectfully requested and requests a FOIA fee waiver pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 552, as Plaintiff is a non-profit, public interest organization that seeks to promote openness within the federal government and their actions. Plaintiff regularly requests records under FOIA to shed light on the operations of the federal government and to educate the public about these operations. Plaintiff then analyzes the agency records and disseminates the results of its analysis to the public at large. This is a matter of extreme public importance and interest.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff respectfully request that the Court: (1) order Defendant DoD to expeditiously conduct a search for any and all responsive records 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 DoD to produce, by a certain date, any and all non-exempt records responsive to Plaintiff's FOIA request and a *Vaughn* index of any responsive records withheld under claim of exception; (3) enjoin Defendant DoD from continuing to withhold any and all non-exempt records responsive to Plaintiff's FOIA request; (4) grant Plaintiff a fee waiver for produced records and 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, including attorneys fees and costs for this enforcement action resulting from Defendant DoD's continuing cover-up in bad faith. Dated: July 18, 2019

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Larry Klayman

Larry Klayman, Esq. Freedom Watch, Inc. D.C. Bar No. 334581 2020 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Suite 345 Washington, DC 20006 Tel: (561) 558-5336 Email: <u>leklayman@gmail.com</u>

Attorney for Plaintiff

## EXHIBIT 1

Case 1:19-cv-02143 Document 1 Filed 07/18/19 Page 7 of 14



#### **DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE AGENCY**

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20340-5100



MAR 26 2019

U-19-6004/FAC-2A1 (FOIA)

Mr. Larry Klayman Freedom Watch 2020 Pennsylvania Ave, NW #345 Washington, D.C. 20006

Dear Mr. Klayman:

This responds to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request, dated December 22, 2011, that you submitted to the Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) for information concerning **Extraterrestrial Visits, UFO Encounters, Area 51, Roswell Incident, Extraterrestrial Life Info regarding United Nation's, Great Britain, and US**. I apologize for the delay in responding to your request. DIA continues its efforts to eliminate the large backlog of pending FOIA requests.

A search of DIA's systems of records located 16 documents (385 pages) responsive to your request. Of these responsive records, twelve documents (48 pages) were referred to other government agencies for their review and direct response to you. This referral was necessary because the documents did not originate with DIA.

Upon review, I have determined that some portions of 4 documents (337 pages) must be withheld in part from disclosure pursuant to the FOIA. The withheld portions are exempt from release pursuant to Exemptions 1, 3, and 6 of the FOIA, 5 U.S.C. § 552 (b)(1), (b)(3), and (b)(6). Exemption 1 applies to information properly classified under the criteria of Executive Order 13526. Exemption 3 applies to information specifically exempted by a statute establishing particular criteria for withholding. The applicable statutes are 10 U.S.C. § 424 and 50 U.S.C. § 3024(i). Statute 10 U.S.C. § 424 protects the identity of DIA employees, the organizational structure of the agency, and any function of DIA. Statute 50 U.S.C. § 3024(i) protects intelligence sources and methods. Exemption 6 applies to information which if released would constitute an unwarranted invasion of the personal privacy of other individuals.

If you are not satisfied with my response to your request, you may contact the DIA FOIA Requester Service Center, as well as our FOIA Public Liaison at 301-394-5587.

Additionally, you may contact the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) at the National Archives and Records Administration to inquire about the FOIA mediation services they offer. You may contact OGIS by email at <u>ogis@nara.gov</u>; telephone at 202-741-5770, toll free at 1-877-684-6448 or facsimile at 202-741-5769; or you may mail them at the following address:

Office of Government Information Services National Archives and Records Administration 8601 Adelphi Road-OGIS College Park, MD 20740-6001

You may also exercise your right to file an administrative appeal by writing to the address below and referring to case number 0099-2012. Your appeal must be postmarked no later than 90 days after the date of this letter.

Defense Intelligence Agency 7400 Pentagon ATTN: FAC-2A1 (FOIA) Washington, D.C. 20301-7400

Sincerely,

Brian L. Jenkins  $\Psi$ Chief, Records Management and Information Services

4 Enclosures

## EXHIBIT 2





### DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE AGENCY WASHINGTON, D.C. 20340-5100

E\_\_\_\_ JUN\_2 7 2019

U-19-4500/FAC-2A1 (FOIA)

Mr. Larry Klayman Freedom Watch 2020 Pennsylvania Ave, NW #345 Washington, DC 20006

Dear Mr. Klayman:

This is an interim response to your May 29, 2019 Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) appealing the denial of information in your FOIA request, identified as case number FOIA-0099-2012. We received your Appeal request on June 27, 2019 and assigned it case number APP-0013-2019. Please use this number in all future correspondence with us about this matter.

We will be unable to respond to your request within the FOIA's 20 day statutory time period due to unusual circumstances. These unusual circumstances could be: (a) the need to search for and collect records from a facility geographically separated from this office; (b) the potential volume of records responsive to your request; and (c) the need for consultation with one or more other agencies which have substantial interest in either the determination or the subject matter of the records. For these reasons, your request has been placed in our queue and will be worked in the order the request was received. Our current administrative workload is in excess of 1,600 requests.

We regret that there is currently a substantial delay in processing requests and solicit your patience and understanding. We assure you that we will process your request as soon as possible. If you have any questions, you may contact the DIA FOIA Requester Service Center, as well as our FOIA Public Liaison at 301-394-5587.

Additionally, you may contact the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) at the National Archives and Records Administration to inquire about the FOIA mediation services they offer.

You may contact OGIS by email at ogis@nara.gov; telephone at 202-741-5770, toll free at 1-877-684-6448 or facsimile at 202-741-5769; or you may mail them at the following address:

Office of Government Information Services National Archives and Records Administration 8601 Adelphi Road-OGIS College Park, MD 20740-6001

Sincerely,

Watkins Nina Ld223361 DN: c=US, o=U.S. Government, L d223361

Digitally signed by Watkins Nina ou=DoD, ou=DoDIIS, ou=People, cn=Watkins Nina L d223361 Date: 2019.06.27 09:09:06 -04'00'

Brian L. Jenkins Chief, Records Management and Information Services

## EXHIBIT 3

# Senators receive classified briefing on UFO sightings

By Veronica Stracqualursi and Zachary Cohen, CNN

Updated 4:14 PM ET, Thu June 20, 2019

**Washington (CNN)** — A group of US senators, including the vice chair of the Senate Intelligence committee, received a classified briefing Wednesday about a series of reported encounters by the US Navy with unidentified aircraft, according to a congressional aide.

"If pilots at Oceana or elsewhere are reporting flight hazards that interfere with training or put them at risk, then Senator Warner wants answers. It doesn't matter if it's weather balloons, little green men, or something else



• LIVE TV =

Joseph Gradisher, spokesman for the Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Information Warfare, also confirmed the briefing took place in a statement to CNN on Thursday.

"Navy officials did indeed meet with interested congressional members and staffers on Wednesday to provide a classified brief on efforts to understand and identify these threats to the safety and security of our aviators," he said.

"Follow-up discussions with other interested staffers are scheduled for later today (Thursday, 20 June). Navy officials will continue to keep interested congressional members and staff informed. Given the classified nature of these discussions, we will not comment on the specific information provided in these Hill briefings," Gradisher added.

The briefing was first reported by Politico.



**Related Article:** US Navy introducing guidelines for pilots to report UFO sightings President Donald Trump recently confirmed that he was also briefed on reports of Navy pilots spotting unidentified flying objects.

"I did have one very brief meeting on it," Trump told ABC News in an interview that aired Sunday. "But people are saying they're seeing UFO's, do I believe it? Not particularly."

Several pilots told the New York Times in an article published in May about multiple encounters with UFOs with no visible engine or infrared exhaust plumes.

In April, the Navy introduced guidelines for its pilots to report unexplainable events so the military can keep track of what may, or may not, be happening. Politico first reported on this matter.

A Navy official told CNN at the time that the Navy does not believe aliens have been flying around US airspace.

But there have been "a number of reports of unauthorized and/or unidentified aircraft entering various military-

By using this site, you agree to our updated Privacy Policy and our Terms of Use.

.7/2019 Case 1:19-cv-02143 Document 1 Filed 07/18/19 bigge 14 Phone inter an and investigates each "For safety and security concerns, the Navy and the USAF takes these reports very seriously and investigates each and every report," the statement said.



CNN's Barbara Starr, Ryan Browne and Brian Todd contributed to this report.

cm politics • LIVE TV = US

> World **Politics Business** Opinion

Health

Entertainment

Tech

Style

Travel

Sports

Videos

Coupons

More

By using this site, you agree to our updated Privacy Policy and our Terms of Use.

FOIA Summons 1/13

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

	Plaintiff	)
	1 (000000)	)
		)
v.		)
		)
		)
	Defendant	)

Civil Action No.

#### SUMMONS IN A CIVIL ACTION

To: (Defendant's name and address)

A lawsuit has been filed against you.

Within 30 days after service of this summons on you (not counting the day you received it) you must serve on the plaintiff an answer to the attached complaint or a motion under Rule 12 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. The answer or motion must be served on the plaintiff or plaintiff's attorney, whose name and address are:

If you fail to respond, judgment by default may be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint. You also must file your answer or motion with the court.

ANGELA D. CAESAR, CLERK OF COURT

Date:

Signature of Clerk or Deputy Clerk

FOIA Summons (1/13) (Page 2)

Civil Action No.

#### **PROOF OF SERVICE**

#### (This section should not be filed with the court unless required by Fed. R. Civ. P. 4 (l))

	This summons for (na	me of individual and title,	if any)			
was ree	ceived by me on (date)		•			
	□ I personally served	d the summons on the	individual at (place)			
				on (date)	; or	
	□ I left the summons	at the individual's re-	1	ce of abode with (name)		
			-	le age and discretion who resi		,
	on (date)	, and mailed	d a copy to the indiv	idual's last known address; or	•	
	□ I served the summ	ons on (name of individu	al)			, who is
	designated by law to	accept service of proc	ess on behalf of (nan	ne of organization)		
				on (date)	; or	
	□ I returned the sum	mons unexecuted beca	ause			; or
	<b>Other</b> ( <i>specify</i> ):					
	My fees are \$	for travel an	nd \$	for services, for a total of \$		
	I declare under penal	ty of perjury that this	information is true.			
Date:				Server's signature		
				server s signature		
				Printed name and title		

Server's address

Additional information regarding attempted service, etc:

#### Case 1:19-cv-02143 Document 1-2 Filed 07/18/19 Page 1 of 2 CIVIL COVER SHEET

CIVIL COVER SHEET										
JS-44 (Rev. 6/17 DC) I. (a) PLAINTIFFS				DEFENDA	NTS					
	CEPT IN U.S. P	STED PLAINTIFF LAINTIFF CASES) , AND TELEPHONE NUMBER)			LAND CONDI	(IN U.S. EMNATION C	PLAINTI	ED DEFENDANT FF CASES ONLY) E LOCATION OF THE TRACT OF L	AND INVOLV	/ED
II. BASIS OF JURISI								<b>S</b> (PLACE AN x IN ONE F	BOX FOR	
(PLACE AN x IN ONE B O 1 U.S. Government	_	deral Question	PLAINTIFF	AND ONE BOX	K FOR DEF PTF	ENDANT	) FOR DIV	ERSITY CASES ONLY!	PTF	DFT
Plaintiff		S. Government Not a Party)	Citizen of	his State				ated or Principal Place ess in This State	O 4	O 4
O 2 U.S. Government Defendant O 4 Diversity (Indicate Citizenship of Parties in item III)			Another State	O 2	O 2		ated and Principal Place ess in Another State	O 5	O 5	
Parties in item III)			Foreign Co	Subject of a ountry	<b>O</b> 3	<b>O</b> 3	Foreign l	Nation	<b>O</b> 6	<b>O</b> 6
(Place an X	in one categ	IV. CASE ASSIG ory, A-N, that best repres						onding Nature of Sui	t)	
<ul> <li>A. Antitrust</li> <li>410 Antitrust</li> <li>O E. General Civ</li> </ul>	t O B. Personal Injury/ Malpractice 310 Airplane 315 Airplane Product Liability 320 Assault, Libel & Slander 330 Federal Employers Liability 340 Marine 345 Marine Product Liability 350 Motor Vehicle 355 Motor Vehicle Product Liability 360 Other Personal Injury 362 Medical Malpractice 365 Product Liability 367 Health Care/Pharmaceutical Personal Injury Product Liability 368 Asbestos Product Liability		ity <u>Othe</u>	Review         151 Medicare Act         Social Security         861 HIA (1395ff)         862 Black Lung (923)         863 DIWC/DIWW (405(g))         864 SSID Title XVI         865 RSI (405(g))         Other Statutes         891 Agricultural Acts         893 Environmental Matters         890 Other Statutory Actions (If         Administrative Agency is				<ul> <li>D. Temporary Restraining Order/Preliminary Injunction</li> <li>Any nature of suit from any category may be selected for this category of case assignment.</li> <li>*(If Antitrust, then A governs)*</li> </ul>		
Real PropertyBankruptcy210 Land Condemnation422 Appeal 27 USC 15220 Foreclosure423 Withdrawal 28 US230 Rent, Lease & Ejectment423 Withdrawal 28 US240 Torts to Land535 Death Penalty240 Torts to Land535 Death Penalty290 All Other Real Property540 Mandamus & Oth370 Other Fraud555 Prison Conditions380 Other Personal Property560 Civil Detainee - C380 Other Personal Propertyof Confinement380 Other Personal Property820 Copyrights385 Property Damage820 Copyrights385 Product Liability830 Patent835 Patent – AbbreviaDrug Application840 Trademark		ISC 157 her IS Conditions	870 871 <u>Forfeitu</u> 625 690 <u>Other St</u> 375 376 400 430 430	Federal Tax Suits         870 Taxes (US plaintiff or defendant)         871 IRS-Third Party 26 USC 7609         Forfeiture/Penalty         625 Drug Related Seizure of Property 21 USC 881         690 Other         Other Statutes         375 False Claims Act         376 Qui Tam (31 USC 3729(a))         400 State Reapportionment         430 Banks & Banking         450 Commerce/ICC Rates/etc.         460 Deportation		462 Naturalization Application 465 Other Immigration Actions 470 Racketeer Influenced & Corrupt Organization 480 Consumer Credit 490 Cable/Satellite TV 850 Securities/Commodities/ Exchange 896 Arbitration 899 Administrative Procedure Act/Review or Appeal of Agency Decision 950 Constitutionality of State Statutes 890 Other Statutory Actions (if not administrative agency review or Privacy Act)				

#### Case 1:19-cv-02143 Document 1-2 Filed 07/18/19 Page 2 of 2

<ul> <li>G. Habeas Corpus/ 2255</li> <li>530 Habeas Corpus – General 510 Motion/Vacate Sentence 463 Habeas Corpus – Alien Detainee</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>O H. Employment Discrimination</li> <li>442 Civil Rights – Employment (criteria: race, gender/sex, national origin, discrimination, disability, age, religion, retaliation)</li> </ul>	O I. FOIA/Privacy Act 895 Freedom of Information Act 890 Other Statutory Actions (if Privacy Act)	O J. Student Loan 152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loan (excluding veterans)	
	*(If pro se, select this deck)*	*(If pro se, select this deck)*		
<ul> <li>K. Labor/ERISA (non-employment)</li> <li>710 Fair Labor Standards Act</li> <li>720 Labor/Mgmt. Relations</li> <li>740 Labor Railway Act</li> <li>751 Family and Medical Leave Act</li> <li>790 Other Labor Litigation</li> <li>791 Empl. Ret. Inc. Security Act</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>C. Other Civil Rights (non-employment)</li> <li>441 Voting (if not Voting Rights Act)</li> <li>443 Housing/Accommodations</li> <li>440 Other Civil Rights</li> <li>445 Americans w/Disabilities – Employment</li> <li>446 Americans w/Disabilities – Other</li> <li>448 Education</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>M. Contract         <ol> <li>I10 Insurance</li> <li>I20 Marine</li> <li>I30 Miller Act</li> <li>I40 Negotiable Instrument</li> <li>I50 Recovery of Overpayment</li> <li>&amp; Enforcement of</li> <li>Judgment</li> <li>I53 Recovery of Overpayment</li> <li>of Veteran's Benefits</li> <li>I60 Stockholder's Suits</li> <li>I90 Other Contracts</li> <li>I95 Contract Product Liability</li> <li>I96 Franchise</li> </ol></li></ul>	<ul> <li>N. Three-Judge Court</li> <li>441 Civil Rights – Voting (if Voting Rights Act)</li> </ul>	
V. ORIGIN				
Proceeding from State f Court Court		another Litigation Di ct (specify) free Ju	strict Judge Litigation – om Mag. Direct File dge	
	CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS DEMAND ACTION UNDER F.R.C.P. 23 JU	<b>RY DEMAND: YES</b>	ES only if demanded in complaint <b>NO</b>	
VIII. RELATED CASE(S) IF ANY	(See instruction) YES	NO If yes, p	lease complete related case form	
DATE:	SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY OF REC	CORD		

#### INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING CIVIL COVER SHEET JS-44 Authority for Civil Cover Sheet

The JS-44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replaces nor supplements the filings and services of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. Consequently, a civil cover sheet is submitted to the Clerk of Court for each civil complaint filed. Listed below are tips for completing the civil cover sheet. These tips coincide with the Roman Numerals on the cover sheet.

- I. COUNTY OF RESIDENCE OF FIRST LISTED PLAINTIFF/DEFENDANT (b) County of residence: Use 11001 to indicate plaintiff if resident of Washington, DC, 88888 if plaintiff is resident of United States but not Washington, DC, and 99999 if plaintiff is outside the United States.
- III. CITIZENSHIP OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES: This section is completed <u>only</u> if diversity of citizenship was selected as the Basis of Jurisdiction under Section II.
- IV. CASE ASSIGNMENT AND NATURE OF SUIT: The assignment of a judge to your case will depend on the category you select that best represents the <u>primary</u> cause of action found in your complaint. You may select only <u>one</u> category. You <u>must</u> also select <u>one</u> corresponding nature of suit found under the category of the case.
- VI. CAUSE OF ACTION: Cite the U.S. Civil Statute under which you are filing and write a brief statement of the primary cause.
- VIII. RELATED CASE(S), IF ANY: If you indicated that there is a related case, you must complete a related case form, which may be obtained from the Clerk's Office.

Because of the need for accurate and complete information, you should ensure the accuracy of the information provided prior to signing the form.