



OFFICE of GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES

May 19, 2015 — Sent via email

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Re: Case No.: 201500573
NG: CM: KG

NATIONAL
ARCHIVES
and RECORDS
ADMINISTRATION

8601 ADELPHI ROAD
OGIS
COLLEGE PARK, MD
20740-6001

web: www.ogis.archives.gov
e-mail: ogis@nara.gov
phone: 202-741-5770
toll-free: 1-877-684-6448
fax: 202-741-5769

Dear [REDACTED]

This responds to your request for assistance from the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS), which we received on April 5, 2015 via email. Your request for assistance pertains to your records request to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).

OGIS was created to complement existing FOIA practice and procedure; we strive to work in conjunction with the existing request and appeal process. The goal is for OGIS to allow, whenever practical, the requester to exhaust his or her remedies within the agency, including the appeal process.

OGIS provides mediation services to resolve disputes between FOIA requesters and Federal agencies. After opening a case, OGIS gathers information from the requester and the agency to learn more about the nature of the dispute. OGIS then decides how and whether to proceed on the request for assistance. Please know that OGIS has no investigatory or enforcement power, nor can we compel an agency to release documents. OGIS serves as the Federal FOIA Ombudsman and our jurisdiction is limited to assisting with the FOIA process.

OGIS staff carefully reviewed the correspondence you submitted with your request for assistance. I understand that you made a request to the FBI for, "[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]" You elaborated in your request that your scholarly research involves [REDACTED]. The FBI responded on [REDACTED] stating the agency was unable to located any files responsive to your request. You appealed this decision. On [REDACTED] the Department of Justice's Office of Information Policy (OIP) responded to your appeal, affirming the FBI's actions on your request.



OGIS contacted OIP regarding your case. OIP's Senior Attorney, Matthew Hurd, affirmed that when FBI searches the Central Records System (CRS), or "main files," the search includes the agency's field offices. FBI searched for [REDACTED] and other variations of [REDACTED] name. If you believe that information pertaining to [REDACTED] may be mentioned in the main files of another person, place or event, you may wish to submit another records request for cross-references with enough information to enable the FBI to ensure with certainty that the cross-

May 19, 2015

Page 2 of 2

references are identifiable to the subject of your request. The information may include the following:

- The specific circumstances in which [REDACTED] may have had contact with the FBI;
- The date(s) of such contact;
- The location(s) of such contact;
- [REDACTED] full name and any prior names or aliases [REDACTED] used;
- [REDACTED] Social Security number, date of birth, place of birth, and home address;
- Names of [REDACTED] associates, the mention of whom might help in identifying responsive records; and
- Other references of [REDACTED] in the media, such as in books or articles or on websites.

The date(s) and location(s) of any contact with the FBI or a specific crime would be most useful in trying to locate records pertaining to [REDACTED] in another file.

I hope you find this information useful in understanding why the FBI responded to your request as it did. At this time, there is no further assistance OGIS can offer. Thank you for bringing this matter to OGIS. We will close your case.

Sincerely,

/s/

Nikki Gramian, Acting Director
Office of Government Information Services (OGIS)

cc: Dennis J. Argall, FOIA Public Liaison, Federal Bureau of Investigations
Matthew Hurd, Senior Attorney, Department of Justice, Office of Information Policy