American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee
Research Institute- ADCRI
1732 Wisconsin Ave., NW | Washington, DC 20007 | **www.adc.org**
Tel: 202-244-2990 | Fax: 202-244-7968 | Email: adc@adc.org

February 28, 2012

EXPEDITED PROCESSING REQUESTED

VIA CERTIFIED MAIL/RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED
VIA FACSIMILE

Catrina Pavlik-Keenan, FOIA Officer
ICE FOIA Office
U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement
800 North Capitol St., NW
5th Floor, Suite 585
Washington, DC 20536

Re: Request Under Freedom of Information Act/
Expedited Processing Requested

Dear Officer Pavlik-Keenan,

Enclosed please find a request of information by the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee Research Institute (ADC-RI) under the Freedom of Information Act subsequent to 5 U.S.C. § 552 (FOIA).

ADC-RI requests a fee waiver pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A)(ii)(II) & (iii), 68 Fed. Reg. 4063 and DoD Directive 5400.7 C 6.1.4.3.1 because the subject matter of the requested records concerns the operations and activities of the Federal government; the disclosure is likely to contribute to an understanding of Federal government operations or activities; disclosure of the requested information is in the public interest; the contribution to public understanding of Federal government operations or activities will be significant; and, as a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization, ADC-RI does not have a commercial interest that would be furthered by the disclosure of the requested information.

Pursuant to 5 U.S.C. §552(6)(A)(i), please notify ADC-RI within 20 business days of receipt of this request whether the ICE intends to comply with the request or whether it will withhold information on the basis of a FOIA exemption.

Respectfully Submitted,

Abed A. Ayoub, Esq.

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Re: Request Under Freedom of Information Act/
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Dear Officer Pavlik-Keenan,

This letter constitutes a request of information by the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee Research Institute (ADC-RI) under the Freedom of Information Act subsequent to 5 U.S.C. § 552 (FOIA).

I. Background Information

Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. § 552, et seq., ("FOIA"), the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee Research Institute ("ADC-RI") requests that the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement ("ICE") provide all agency information pertaining to, and directly related to persons of a Palestinian descent, whether deemed detainable by the immigration authorities or not.

The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, along with the U.S. State Department, do not recognize the Palestinian Authority Passports or Travel Documents as proof of citizenship, hence deeming Palestinians who carry these documents stateless[1].The U.S. considers Palestinians stateless even when they have Jordanian or Egyptian travel documents (laissez-passer)[2]. Aliens who were admitted to the U.S. and subsequently ordered removed are subject to detention, which is followed by removal. However, in the case of stateless persons, they cannot be removed to a different country. Therefore, they are normally detained for certain periods of time then released under supervised conditions that are "appropriate under the circumstances."[3] Aliens who violate these conditions are subject to detention in the future because their removal is not reasonably foreseeable since no country is going to claim them. Their detention might be indefinite because of these reasons. A stateless person may obtain work authorization if the Attorney General "makes a specific finding that the alien cannot be removed due to the refusal of all countries . . . to receive the alien; or, the removal is otherwise impracticable or

[1] U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services: Resource Information Center, Palestine, http://www.uscis.gov/portal/site/uscis/menuitem.5af9bb95919f35e66f614176543f6d1a/?vgnextoid=8d9253bc46d8d010VgnVCM10000048f3d6a1RCRD&vgnextchannel=d2d1e89390b5d010VgnVCM10000048f3d6a1RCRD (last visited, Jan. 23, 2012).
[2] Abu-Zeineh v. Fed. Lab. Inc., 975 F.Supp. 774, 777 (W.D.PA 1994).
[3] Zadvydas v. Davis, 533 U.S. 678, 699 (2001) and 8 U.S.C. § 1231(a)(3).

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contrary to the public interest."[4] But without legal status, the stateless individual is not able to travel or access social and health services funded by the government. In addition to being subject to detention by ICE, the stateless alien is required to report to ICE periodically; he or she must obtain a work permit in order to be allowed have a job, and; the work permit must be renewed annually.

II. Request for Information

ADC-RI hereby seeks disclosure of any records maintained by the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), relating or referring to the following:

1. the number of documented stateless persons living in the U.S.;
2. the number of years these stateless persons have been living in the U.S.;
3. the number of documented persons of Palestinian descent who are officially considered stateless living in the U.S.;
4. the number of years these documented persons of Palestinian descent, who are officially considered stateless, have been living in the U.S.;
5. the number of documented Palestinian nationals who are officially considered stateless living in the U.S.;
6. the number of years these Palestinian nationals, who are officially considered stateless, have been living in the U.S.;
7. the number of documented persons of Palestinian descent, holding Jordanian Travel Documents, who are officially considered stateless living in the U.S.;
8. the number of years these documented persons of Palestinian descent, holding Jordanian Travel Documents, who are officially considered stateless, have been living in the U.S.;
9. the number of documented persons of Palestinian descent, holding Egyptian Travel Documents, who are officially considered stateless, living in the U.S.;
10. the number of years these documented persons of Palestinian descent, holding Egyptian Travel Documents, who are officially considered stateless, have been living in the U.S.;
11. the number of stateless persons deemed deportable by ICE for violating their immigration status;
12. the number of persons of Palestinian descent deemed deportable by ICE for violating their immigration status;
13. the number Palestinian nationals deemed deportable by ICE for violating their immigration status;

[4] 8 U.S.C. § 1231 (a)(7)

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14. the number of Palestinians, holding Jordanian Travel Documents, deemed deportable by ICE for violating their immigration status;

15. the number of Palestinians, holding Egyptian Travel Documents, deemed deportable by ICE for violating their immigration status;

16. the number of persons detained by ICE for violating their immigration status who are considered stateless;

17. the number of persons detained by ICE for violating their immigration status who are considered stateless, and who are of Palestinian descent;

18. the number of persons detained by ICE for violating their immigration status who are Palestinian nationals;

19. the number of persons detained by ICE for violating their immigration status who are considered stateless, are Palestinian, and hold Jordanian Travel Documents;

20. the number of persons detained by ICE for violating their immigration status who are considered stateless, are Palestinian, and hold Egyptian Travel Documents;

21. the number of stateless persons detained by ICE for moral turpitude;

22. the number of documented persons of Palestinian descent who are officially considered stateless, and are detained by ICE for moral turpitude;

23. the number of Palestinian nationals detained by ICE for moral turpitude;

24. the number of Palestinians, holding Jordanian Travel Documents, detained by ICE for moral turpitude;

25. the number of Palestinians, holding Egyptian Travel Documents, detained by ICE for moral turpitude;

26. the number of stateless person released from detention who are under orders of supervision by ICE;

27. the number of documented persons of Palestinian descent released from detention who are under orders of supervision by ICE;

28. the number of Palestinian nationals released from detention who are under orders of supervision by ICE;

29. the number of documented persons of Palestinian descent, holding Jordanian Travel Documents, released from detention who are under orders of supervision by ICE;

30. the number of documented persons of Palestinian descent, holding Egyptian Travel Documents, released from detention who are under orders of supervision by ICE;

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31. the number of stateless persons who received Work Authorization from ICE;

32. the number of documented persons of Palestinian descent who received Work Authorization from ICE;

33. the number of Palestinian nationals who received Work Authorization from ICE;

34. the number of documented persons of Palestinian descent, holding Jordanian Travel Documents, who received Work Authorization from ICE;

35. the number of documented persons of Palestinian descent, holding Egyptian Travel Documents, who received Work Authorization from ICE;

36. the number of Palestinian legal aliens living in the U.S.

III. Fee Waiver Request

ADC-RI requests a fee waiver pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A)(ii)(II) & (iii), 68 Fed. Reg. 4063 and DoD Directive 5400.7 C 6.1.4.3.1 because the subject matter of the requested records concerns the operations and activities of the Federal government; the disclosure is likely to contribute to an understanding of Federal government operations or activities; disclosure of the requested information is in the public interest; the contribution to public understanding of Federal government operations or activities will be significant; and, as a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization, ADC-RI does not have a commercial interest that would be furthered by the disclosure of the requested information.

IV. Conclusion

Pursuant to 5 U.S.C. §552(6)(A)(i), please notify ADC-RI within 20 business days of receipt of this request whether ICE intends to comply with the request or whether it will withhold information on the basis of a FOIA exemption.

If our request is denied in whole or in part, ADC-RI asks that you justify all deletions by reference to specific exemption of the FOIA. ADC-RI expects you to release all segregable portions of otherwise exempt material. ADC-RI reserves the right to appeal a decision to withhold any information or to deny a waiver of fees.

Respectfully Submitted,

Abed A. Ayoub, Esq.