

To FOIAStatus@state.gov, FOIA-Appeals@state.gov

Dear FOIA Officer,

I am writing to challenge the Department's determination that no records exist responsive to FOIA request F-2025-30283 concerning internal Embassy Lomé records documenting decisions to deny consular assistance to U.S. Army veteran Kelvin Blas.

Attached is my comprehensive challenge addressing:

1. Suspicious 3-day closure after receiving December 5th escalation threat (retaliation)
2. Records that must exist for 8+ years of systematic assistance denials
3. November 11, 2025 leadership involvement proving internal documentation exists
4. Federal Records Act violations if no documentation exists
5. Selective processing pattern (Epstein vs. Kelvin discrimination)
6. Inadequate search of basic embassy record systems

The "no records" claim is facially absurd for a request seeking internal embassy documentation of an 8-year case involving:

- 15+ documented attempts by Kelvin to seek assistance
- Leadership-level decisions (Ambassador's Secretary's direct orders)
- Physical assault at embassy and arrest threats
- Systematic denial of consular services to a U.S. military veteran

Embassies do not make ad hoc decisions to deny assistance to American citizens for 8+ years without creating internal documentation, legal guidance, and leadership briefings. The Department's claim that no such records exist is either:

1. The result of a deliberately inadequate search
2. Willful withholding of responsive records
3. Admission of Federal Records Act violations

I demand an adequate search affidavit under penalty of perjury and explanation for the suspicious timing of this closure 3 days after threatening oversight escalation.

Please respond within 10 business days addressing each demand in the attached challenge.