



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

February 13, 2026

Request No.: F-2026-09699

Marcus Hartwell  
True Signal Media  
*Sent via email:* [FOIA@truesignalmedia.news](mailto:FOIA@truesignalmedia.news)

Dear Marcus Hartwell:

This letter acknowledges receipt of your request submitted pursuant the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), received by the U.S. Department of State, Information Access Programs Directorate on December 15, 2025, a copy of your request is attached for your reference. This Office assigned your request the subject reference number and placed it in the complex processing track where it will be processed as quickly as possible. (See 22 CFR 171.12(b).)

This Office will not be able to respond within the 20 days provided by the statute due to “unusual circumstances.” (See 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(6)(B)(i)-(iii).) In this instance, the unusual circumstances include the need to search for and collect requested records from other Department offices or Foreign Service posts. Please be advised, unless you advise otherwise, we will treat as non-responsive any compilations of publicly available news reports and any publicly available documents not created by the U.S. government, such as mass-distribution emails from news media.

You requested expedited processing of this request. According to 22 CFR 171.12(d), requests shall receive expedited processing when a requester demonstrates a “compelling need” for the information exists for one of the following reasons: (1) failure to obtain the requested information on an expedited basis could reasonably be expected to pose an imminent threat to the life or physical safety of an individual; (2) the information is urgently needed by an individual primarily engaged in disseminating information in order to inform the public concerning actual or alleged Federal government activity; or (3) failure to release the information would impair substantial due process rights or harm substantial humanitarian interests. Your request does not demonstrate a “compelling need” for the requested information. Therefore, this Office denies your request for expedited processing.

If you requested a waiver for all fees associated with the processing of your request; This Office will provide a determination regarding your request for fee waiver in a separate communication.

If you have any questions regarding your request, would like to narrow the scope or arrange an alternative time frame to speed its processing, or would like an estimated date of completion, please contact our office at [FOIA\\_inquiry@state.gov](mailto:FOIA_inquiry@state.gov) or our FOIA Public Liaison via email at [FOIAStatus@state.gov](mailto:FOIAStatus@state.gov) or telephone at (202) 261-8484.

If you are not satisfied with this determination, you may administratively appeal by writing to: Appeals Officer, Information Access Programs Directorate (A/SKS/IAP), U.S. Department of State, 2201 C Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20520; by fax to (202) 485-1718; or by email to [FOIAAppeals@state.gov](mailto:FOIAAppeals@state.gov). Your appeal must be postmarked or electronically transmitted within 90 days of the date of this correspondence. Please include a copy of this correspondence with your written appeal and clearly state why you disagree with the determinations set forth in this response.

Additionally, if you are not satisfied with the Department's determination in response to your request, you may contact the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) at the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) to inquire about the FOIA Mediation Services they offer. The contact information for OGIS is as follows: Office of Government Information Services, National Archives and Records Administration, 8601 Adelphi Road-OGIS, College Park, Maryland 20740-6001, email address: [ogis@nara.gov](mailto:ogis@nara.gov); telephone: (202) 741-5770; toll free number: 1-877-684-6448.

Sincerely,

*Ennelle Debrosse*

Ennelle Debrosse  
Supervisory Government Information Specialist  
FOIA Case Processing Office  
Information Access Programs Directorate

Enclosures: As Stated