

****COVENANT FOR FORGOTTEN WARRIORS****


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December 5, 2025

U.S. Department of State
Office of Information Programs and Services
A/GIS/IPS
SA-2, Suite 8100
Washington, D.C. 20522-8100

Via Email: FOIARequest@state.gov

****RE: URGENT DEMAND FOR RESPONSE - FOIA Request F-2025-30283****
****Subject: Embassy Lomé Internal Records - Consular Assistance Decisions****

To Whom It May Concern:

Covenant for Forgotten Warriors demands immediate action on Freedom of Information Act request ****F-2025-30283****, filed September 24, 2025, concerning internal records from U.S. Embassy Lomé documenting decisions to limit or deny consular assistance to U.S. Army veteran Kelvin Blas.

TIMELINE AND STATUTORY VIOLATION

****September 24, 2025:**** Request filed via FOIA.gov
****Status received:**** "Assigned for Processing"
****October 1-November 12, 2025:**** Government shutdown (processing paused)
****November 12, 2025:**** Government reopened
****December 5, 2025:**** Still no substantive response

****Actual processing time available:****
- Pre-shutdown: 7 days (Sept 24 - Oct 1)
- Post-shutdown: 23 days (Nov 12 - Dec 5)
- ****Total: 30 days (approximately 21-22 business days)****

The Department has exceeded the 20-business-day statutory deadline under 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(6)(A)(i), even accounting for the government shutdown pause. "Assigned for processing" is not a response—it is a status update that does not satisfy the Department's legal obligations.

THE URGENCY OF THIS MATTER

This FOIA request seeks documentation that would explain why a U.S. Army combat veteran has been systematically denied consular assistance for over ****eight years**** while stranded in Togo. ****The request is narrow and specific****, seeking only:

- Internal memoranda regarding consular assistance decisions
- Embassy talking points or briefing materials prepared for leadership

- Cables or emails between specific identified officials (ACS officers, Consular Chief, DCM, Chargé) discussing rationale for withholding support
- Legal clearance notes or guidance providing justification
- Records documenting escalation to Embassy leadership

****This is not a broad or burdensome request.**** It targets specific record types, specific custodians, and a defined subject matter. Any competent search of Embassy Lomé's consular files and executive correspondence should readily identify responsive documents. There is no reasonable basis for a two-month delay on a request of this scope.

While the Department has delayed responding to this request for ****over two months****, Mr. Blas has continued to suffer:

- Homelessness and living in parking lots
- Multiple bouts of malaria
- Ongoing extortion and threats
- Systematic denial of consular services despite being a U.S. citizen and wounded combat veteran
- ****Most recently, on November 11, 2025****, Mr. Blas approached the Embassy seeking assistance due to lack of food. A secretary instructed security that "Kelvin is not welcomed here." Upon leaving, ****the guard physically assaulted Mr. Blas with a two-handed shove****. Two days later, embassy staff threatened that ****"from today onward, if Kelvin ever comes to the embassy without holding his American passport in his own hands, he will be arrested or sack"*****—a legally absurd threat given that his passport was confiscated by Togolese authorities and the Embassy's statutory duty is to assist citizens who have lost passports.

This November 11th incident occurred while the Department continued to stonewall this FOIA request. A U.S. citizen and Army veteran seeking emergency assistance at his own embassy was not only turned away while hungry, but ****physically assaulted and threatened with arrest**** for seeking the consular assistance he is legally entitled to receive.

STATUTORY OBLIGATIONS VIOLATED

The Department's failure to respond violates:

****1. 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(6)(A)(i)**** - 20-business-day response deadline

****2. 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(3)(A)**** - Duty to conduct reasonable search and make records "promptly available"

****3. 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(6)(C)(i)**** - If invoking "unusual circumstances," Department must notify requester in writing within statutory timeframe

The Department has provided ****no explanation**** for the delay, ****no invocation of unusual circumstances****, ****no estimated completion date****, and ****no substantive communication**** of any kind beyond a generic status update.

DEMANDS

We demand the following immediate actions:

****1. FULL PRODUCTION**** of all responsive records within ****7 business days**** of receipt of this letter, OR

****2. DETAILED WRITTEN EXPLANATION**** including:

- Specific reasons for the delay beyond statutory deadline
- Number of pages located
- Estimated completion date for production
- Name and contact information of the processing official
- Whether any exemptions are being considered

****3. CONFIRMATION**** that a diligent search has been conducted across all relevant offices, including:

- Embassy Lomé consular section files
- Bureau of Consular Affairs coordination files
- Any internal policy guidance regarding "problem cases" or restricted assistance

CONSEQUENCES OF CONTINUED NON-COMPLIANCE

If the Department fails to provide either full production or a detailed written explanation within ****7 business days****, Covenant for Forgotten Warriors will immediately:

1. ****File administrative appeal**** with the Office of the General Counsel
2. ****File formal complaint**** with the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) requesting mediation
3. ****Notify the House Committee on Oversight and Accountability**** of systematic FOIA violations
4. ****Notify the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs**** of obstruction related to veteran welfare documentation
5. ****Notify the Department of State Office of Inspector General**** of FOIA non-compliance
6. ****Pursue all available legal remedies**** under 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(B)
7. ****Publish detailed documentation**** of the Department's obstruction as part of our transparency and accountability mission

These are not empty threats. We have documented every communication, every missed deadline, and every violation. The Department's continued obstruction will be made part of the public record.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY

Covenant for Forgotten Warriors maintains comprehensive public documentation of all FOIA requests and appeals filed on behalf of abandoned American veterans. This includes tracking response times, procedural compliance, and agency obstruction.

The public tracking of this request, along with all other State Department FOIAs concerning Sgt. Kelvin Blas, is available at:

****<https://truesignalmedia.news/foia-tools>****

This transparency ensures public accountability for agency compliance with FOIA's statutory obligations and documents patterns of obstruction that may warrant Congressional oversight or

Inspector General review.

CONCLUSION

The Department of State has a legal obligation to respond to FOIA requests in a timely manner. You have exceeded that deadline. More importantly, you have a moral obligation to provide transparency regarding how and why a U.S. Army veteran has been abandoned, denied assistance, physically assaulted at his own embassy, and threatened with arrest for seeking help.

We expect immediate compliance. The time for bureaucratic delay has ended.

For questions or to provide the demanded response, contact us at [REDACTED]@covenantfowarriors.org.

Respectfully but urgently,

****David Burger****
Founder and Director
Covenant for Forgotten Warriors

CC:
Office of Government Information Services (OGIS)
Department of State Office of Inspector General
Bureau of Consular Affairs, Office of Overseas Citizens Services