



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

**MAY 18 2017**

Case Number: F-2017-05062

Janet Benshoof, Esq.  
Global Justice Center  
11 Hanover Square, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor  
New York, NY 10005

Dear Ms. Benshoof:

This is in response to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request dated March 6, 2017, concerning Department of State records and correspondence since November 8, 2016, discussing or mentioning the Helms amendment, Global Gag Rule, or other U.S. abortion restrictions on foreign assistance. Specifically, this letter addresses your undated appeal of our denial of expeditious processing, which was received on May 16, 2017.

After consideration of your request for expedited processing under the Department's rules governing Freedom of Information Act requests, we have determined that your request does warrant expedited processing.

We will notify you as soon as responsive material has been retrieved and reviewed.

Should you want to contact us, you may call our FOIA Service Center at (202) 261-8484 or send an email to [FOIAstatus@state.gov](mailto:FOIAstatus@state.gov). Please refer to Case Control Number F-2017-05062 in any communication.

Sincerely,

Eric F. Stein, Director  
Office of Information Programs  
and Services