



November 3, 2023

**Via Web Portal Only**

Office of Information Programs and Services (IPS)  
A/GIS/IPS/RL  
U.S. Department of State, State Annex 2 (SA-2)  
515 22nd Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20522-8100  
Telephone: (202) 261-8484  
Facsimile: (202) 261-8579

**RE: FOIA Request Regarding Foreign Service Officer Fritz Berggren**

Dear FOIA Officer:

This letter is a request (“Request”) in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act (“FOIA”), 5 U.S.C. § 552, and the corresponding department/agency implementing regulations. The Request is made by the American Center for Law and Justice (“ACLJ”)<sup>1</sup> on behalf of its members.

To summarize, this Request seeks records pertaining to Fritz Berggren, Foreign Service Officer.

**Background**

Pursuant to State Department FOIA regulation 22 C.F.R. § 171.4(b), this Background addresses “the subject, timeframe, names of any individuals involved, a contract number (if applicable), and reasons why the requester believes the Department may have records on the subject of the request.” 22 C.F.R. § 171.4(b).

Fritz Berggren, a Foreign Service officer, writes the blog *Blood and Faith* where he states:

Either this younger generation will witness the extinction of the White race,

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<sup>1</sup>The ACLJ is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to the defense of constitutional liberties secured by law. The ACLJ regularly monitors governmental activity and works to inform the public of such affairs. The ACLJ and its global affiliated organizations are committed to ensuring governmental accountability and the ongoing viability of freedom and liberty in the United States and around the world.

or it will rise up in an orgy of violence and rebuild what was lost;  
my prayer if [sic] for the later.

At some point, enough young people will realize that playing by the rules of the enemies means extinction. That will be the wake up moment — it cannot come soon enough.<sup>2</sup>

The blog also states in a post title **The Sayings of Jesus Christ**:

- The sayings of Jesus Christ from a few chapters in the Gospel of St. John.
- The Jews were trying to murder Jesus Christ.
- Jesus Christ IS God.
- The Jews are the enemies of God and the children of the Devil.<sup>3</sup>

Despite these statements and other prior blog posts, Fritz Berggren remains employed at the State Department.<sup>4</sup>

### **Records Requested**

For purposes of this Request, the term “record” means “any information” that qualifies under 5 U.S.C. § 552(f), and includes, but is not limited to, the original or any full, complete and unedited copy of any log, chart, list, memorandum, note, correspondence, writing of any kind, policy, procedure, guideline, agenda, handout, report, transcript, set of minutes or notes, video, photo, audio recordings, or other material. The term “record” also includes, but is not limited to, all relevant information created, stored, received or delivered in any electronic or digital format, *e.g.*, electronic mail, instant messaging or Facebook Messenger, iMessage, text messages or any other means of communication, and any information generated, sent, received, reviewed, stored or located on a government *or private* account or server, consistent with the holdings of *Competitive Enter. Inst. v. Office of Sci. & Tech. Policy*, 827 F.3d 145 (D.C. Cir. 2016) (rejecting agency argument that emails on private email account were not under agency control, and holding, “If a department head can deprive the citizens of their right to know what his department is up to by the simple expedient of maintaining his departmental emails on an account in another domain, that purpose is hardly served.”).

All requests seek records which include, but are not limited to, any record located on backup tapes, archives, any other recovery, backup, storage or retrieval system, DOS electronic mail or message accounts, non-DOS electronic mail or message accounts, personal electronic mail or message accounts, DOS servers, non-DOS servers, and personal servers, as well as any electronic mail or message carbon copied to agency account recipients, any electronic mail or

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<sup>2</sup> *Not Radical Enough*, BLOOD AND FAITH (Oct. 23, 2023), <https://bloodandfaith.com/2023/10/23/not-radical-enough/>.

<sup>3</sup> *The Sayings of Jesus Christ*, BLOOD AND FAITH (Oct. 21, 2023), <https://bloodandfaith.com/2023/10/21/the-sayings-of-jesus-christ/>.

<sup>4</sup> Jamie Joseph, *Sen. Grassley Calls on State Dept to Terminate ‘Antisemite’ Employee with Inflammatory Blog*, FOX NEWS (Nov. 1, 2023, 5:07 PM), <https://www.foxnews.com/politics/sen-grassley-calls-state-dept-terminate-antisemite-employee-inflammatory-blog>.

message carbon copied to non-agency account recipients, any electronic mail or message forwarded to agency account recipients, any electronic mail or message forwarded to non-agency account recipients, and attachments to any electronic mail or message.

For purposes of this Request, the term “briefing” includes, but is not limited to, any in-person meeting, teleconference, electronic communication, or other means of gathering or communicating by which information was conveyed to one or more person(s).

For purposes of this Request, the term “DOS official” includes, but is not limited to, any person who is (1) employed by or on behalf of the DOS, any Mission of the United States, or any Delegation of the United States, in any capacity; (2) contracted for services by or on behalf of the DOS, any Mission of the United States, or any Delegation of the United States, in any capacity; (3) appointed by the President of the United States to serve in any capacity at or within the DOS, any Mission of the United States, or any Delegation of the United States; or (4) any such person’s staff, agent or employee; all without regard to the component, bureau, or office in which that person serves.

For purposes of this Request, all sources, documents, letters, reports, briefings, articles and press releases cited in this Request are incorporated by reference as if fully set forth herein.

**For purposes of this Request, any individual or entity’s name includes any alias or pseudonym.**

**For purposes of this Request, and unless otherwise indicated, the timeframe of records requested herein is January 20, 2008, to the date this request is processed.**

Pursuant to FOIA, 5 U.S.C. § 552 *et seq.*, ACLJ hereby requests that DOS produce the following:

- 1. Any records of Foreign Service Officer Fritz Berggren with the words: “Christian,” “Jew,” “blood and faith” or “bloodandfaith” in them.**
- 2. Any records about the Foreign Service Officer Fritz Berggren who is the author of the Blog *Blood and Faith*.**
- 3. Any records since January 26, 2021 in the possession of Secretary Antony Blinken or his Executive Assistant about Foreign Service Officer Fritz Berggren.**

### **CONCLUSION**

If this Request is denied in whole or in part, the ACLJ requests that, within the time requirements imposed by FOIA, you support all denials by reference to specific FOIA exemptions and provide any judicially required explanatory information, including but not limited to, a *Vaughn* Index.

Thank you for your prompt consideration of this Request. Please furnish all applicable records and direct any responses to:

Jordan Sekulow, Executive Director  
Benjamin P. Sisney, Senior Litigation Counsel  
John A. Monaghan, Senior Litigation Counsel  
American Center for Law and Justice



I affirm that the foregoing request and attached documentation are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jordan Sekulow".

Jordan Sekulow  
Executive Director

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ben P. Sisney".

Benjamin P. Sisney  
Senior Litigation Counsel

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John A. Monaghan".

John A Monaghan  
Senior Litigation Counsel