



November 7, 2023

**Via Web Portal Only**

Lynn Parker Dupree  
Chief Privacy Officer/Chief FOIA Officer  
**U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS)**  
**United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS)**  
2707 Martin Luther King Jr. AVE SE  
Washington, DC 20528-065

**RE: FOIA Request to U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) for Records  
Regarding employee Neywa Ali.**

Dear Ms. Parker Dupree:

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

**Background**

Pursuant to DHS FOIA regulation 6 C.F.R. §5.3(b), this Background addresses “the date, title or name, author, recipient, and subject matter of the record[s]” requested, to the extent known.

According to a report by the *New York Post*:

Nejwa Ali, an asylum official with the Department of Homeland Security, has been placed on leave after it was revealed that she had worked as a spokeswoman for the PLO.<sup>2</sup>

Furthermore,

“Ms. Ali’s reported statements make clear that she harbors intensely negative views against the State of Israel and supports the recent barbarism perpetrated

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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.

<sup>2</sup>Yaron Steinbuch, NY POST, (OCT. 19, 2023, 9:40 A.M.) <https://nypost.com/2023/10/19/homeland-security-staffer-used-to-rep-plo-posted-fk-israel/>.

against its citizens by Hamas terrorists. For example, ‘following Hamas’ October 7 terrorist attack, she reportedly posted on Instagram: “F\*\*\* Israel, the government, and its military. Are you ready for your downfall?” She also reportedly posted an image depicting armed terrorists paragliding into Israel with the caption ‘Free PALESTINE.’ Her social media appears to contain numerous examples of anti-Israel and antisemitic statements, including “Israeli, American privilege is disgusting” and ‘F\*\*\* Israel and any Jew that supports Israel.’”<sup>3</sup>

When contacted by the *Daily Wire*, she insisted that she still worked for DHS and:

Asked if she disclosed her employment with the PLO to DHS, she said “That’s none of your f\*\*\*ing business. Mind your business before I call the police. If I were you I’d respectfully hang up the phone right now.”<sup>4</sup>

The USCIS has not commented on why Ali was hired or whether her ties to the previously expelled PLO Embassy were disclosed.<sup>5</sup>

This FOIA Request seeks to investigate the hiring and promotion of Neywa Ali.

### **Records Requested**

For purposes of this Request, the term “record” is “any information” that qualifies under 5 U.S.C. § 552(f). 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.”).

**For purposes of this request, the term “executive assistant” (including a secretary or administrative assistant or however described) means that position existing for the purpose of increasing the effectiveness of others by performing as many office support duties as possible, including serving as the principal clerical and administrative support position in the immediate organizational unit in or for which the persons assisted have responsibility,**

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<sup>3</sup>Letter from Senator Josh Hawley to DHS Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas, (Oct. 19, 2023) <https://www.hawley.senate.gov/sites/default/files/2023-10/Hawley-Letter-to-Mayorkas-re-Pro-Hamas-DHS-Employee.pdf>.

<sup>4</sup>Luke Rosiak, *DAILY WIRE*, (Oct. 18, 2023) <https://www.dailywire.com/news/the-u-s-govt-hired-a-pro-hamas-plo-spokeswoman-to-handle-asylum-claims>

<sup>5</sup>Aiden Pink, *FORWARD*, (Sept. 16, 2018) <https://forward.com/fast-forward/410344/us-expels-palestinian-ambassador-closes-familys-bank-accounts/>.

**by carrying out and coordinating all the clerical and day-to-day administrative support activities typically required to accomplish the work of the organization.**

**When this Request names a person or an office, it includes any alias or pseudonym name and any electronic communication account any such official might use.**

**For purposes of this Request, and unless otherwise indicated, the timeframe of records requested herein is January 1, 2018, to the date this Request is processed.**

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

- 1. Any records of Neywa Ali with the words: “ Hamas,” “Jew,” “Free Palestine,” “apartheid,” “privilege,” or any words in Arabic.**
- 2. Any records about Neywa Ali.**
- 3. Any records, since February 2, 2021, in the possession of Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas or his Executive Assistant about Neywa Ali.**
- 4. Any records, since June 1, 2014, in the possession of Director, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, Ur M. Jaddou or her Executive Assistant about Neywa Ali.**
- 5. Any records, from October 8, 2017 to June 1, 2019, in the custody of then Director, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, L. Francis Cissna or his Executive Assistant about Neywa Ali.**

**These Requests do NOT seek actual investigatory law enforcement files of any particular investigation or case, or any personal identifiers of any victim.**

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

### **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,

Handwritten signature of Jordan Sekulow in blue ink.

Jordan Sekulow  
Executive Director

Handwritten signature of Benjamin P. Sisney in blue ink.

Benjamin P. Sisney  
Senior Litigation Counsel

Handwritten signature of John A. Monaghan in blue ink.

John A. Monaghan  
Senior Litigation Counsel