



FEDERATION OF AMERICAN SCIENTISTS

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* Nobel Laureate

May 12, 2004
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saftergood@fas.org

Director
Freedom of Information and Security Review
OASD (PA)
1155 Defense Pentagon, Room 2C757
Washington, D.C. 20301-1155
By fax: (703)693-7341

Dear Sir/Madam:

This is a request under the Freedom of Information Act.

We request a copy of photographic and video images of abuses committed against Iraqi prisoners held in the custody of U.S. government or Coalition forces in Iraq.

In testimony before the Senate Armed Services Committee last week, Secretary Rumsfeld indicated that the Department was in possession of at least three compact disks containing such images.

We request a copy of the contents of those disks.

This material has reportedly been classified as national security information. If so, I believe that would be a violation of Executive Order 12958, as amended, which states (Sec. 1.7) that "In no case shall information be classified in order to: (1) conceal violations of law...."

We would not object if the images were modified prior to release so as to protect the privacy of the individual victims.

* * *

We further request a fee waiver of search and copying costs, on the following grounds:

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Ex officio: Carl Kaysen, Robert Solow

1) Disclosure of the requested information is a prerequisite to achieving full accountability for the abuses documented.

2) The Federation of American Scientists (FAS) is well qualified to analyze and disseminate the requested material. FAS is a fifty-nine year old research organization concerned with national security policy. We have published our work in this area, and we routinely serve as a resource to the media, to other national organizations, and to interested members of the public on national security policy matters.

The requested material will be widely disseminated without charge on our web site.

3) No personal or commercial interests will benefit from the release of this material, which will be analyzed and disseminated at FAS' expense. We therefore request a waiver on production costs.

In the event that fee waiver is denied, I hereby agree to pay assessable fees up to \$100.00.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Steven Aftergood
Senior Research Analyst

Federation of American Scientists
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Washington, DC 20036