

U.S. Department of  
Homeland Security

United States  
Coast Guard



Commandant  
United States Coast Guard

2100 Second Street, S.W.  
Washington, DC 20593-0001  
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5720  
CG FOIA 11-0530  
14 DEC 2010

Ms. Katherine Gallagher  
Senior Staff Attorney  
Center for Constitutional Rights  
666 Broadway, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor  
New York, NY 10012

Dear Ms. Gallagher:

This is in response to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request dated June 30, 2010, submitted to the U.S. Coast Guard. We received your request in the Office of Law Enforcement (CG-531) on December 7, 2010. You are seeking records relating to the May 31, 2010 Israeli military operation that occurred in the Mediterranean Sea involving a six boat flotilla. You requested any and all plans, reports, documents, etc., that mention or relate to any vessels or a flotilla of boats destined for Gaza in May 2010. Your request includes but is not limited to any and all records reflecting communications in any format with the Israel Defense Forces, or any other division, department or representative of the Government of Israel prior to, on or after May 31, 2010 in relation to the U.S. registered vessel CHALLENGER I or any vessel in the flotilla. Your request has been assigned FOIA number 11-0530. Please refer to this number in any future correspondence regarding this request.

Please be aware that we are not required to create new releasable records or documents in response to a request. With the information provided, we are unable to locate records responsive to your request. We have interviewed knowledgeable personnel assigned to various divisions within the Office of Law Enforcement (CG-531). We also searched the files and databases of the various divisions within the Office of Law Enforcement. The divisions that were searched are as follows:

Drug & Migrant Interdiction  
LMR & MRS Enforcement  
MHS, General LE & Policy Standards  
Plans, Analysis & Budget

We have conducted a thorough search of the Office of Law Enforcement's files, databases, and records including the Marine Information and Law Enforcement (MISLE) database. In addition, the legal advisor for the Office of Law Enforcement, Lt Hernaez was interviewed. All searches resulted in negative findings.

We have searched all locations in which we would reasonably expect to find the records such as the ones you seek. We are unaware of any other places in which responsive records relating to your request are likely to be found within the Office of Law Enforcement (CG-531). After making this extensive search effort, I regret that we are unable to satisfy your request.

This response is not a denial of access to information. However, I must inform you that you have the right to appeal this "No Records" determination, in writing, within thirty days of receipt of this letter. You may appeal by writing to: Commandant (CG-611) U.S. Coast Guard, 2100 Second Street, S.W., Washington, DC 20592-0001 within 30 days from the date of this letter. Clearly mark the envelope "Freedom of Information Act Appeal."

If you require additional assistance, please contact FOIA/PA Specialist Zsatique Ferrell at (202)372-2167.

Sincerely,



ZSATIQUE L. FERRELL

U.S. Coast Guard

Freedom of Information Specialist, Office of Law Enforcement  
by Direction of the Commandant