Extent

14 folders, approximately 250 pages

Summary

This collection consists of records related to the United Nations (UN) Convention Against Torture, officially adopted by the United States on October 21, 1994. It contains correspondence, reports, memoranda, cables, and Congressional materials regarding the implementation of the Convention Against Torture and assistance to victims of torture. In addition, these records contain a discussion of alleged terrorist Hani el Sayegh’s claim under the Convention Against Torture prior to his 1998 extradition to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Scope and Content Note

The materials in FOIA 2014-0642-F are a selective body of documents responsive to the topic of the FOIA. Researchers should consult the archivist about related material. This FOIA case contains records regarding the United Nations (UN) Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. The UN General Assembly adopted this treaty on December 10, 1984, and it entered into force on June 26, 1987, after ratification by 20 nations. The Convention Against Torture created a definition of torture and was intended to hold international jurisdiction. Its entry into force led to the creation of the UN Committee Against Torture, which meets semiannually to review reports on individual state compliance with the Convention. It took nearly a decade for the United States to adopt the UN Convention Against Torture. The US signed it under President Reagan’s authority on April 18, 1988 and the Senate gave its advice and consent in October 1990. However, Congress did not pass the implementing legislation needed to officially ratify the treaty until the Clinton Administration. The United States officially adopted the Convention Against Torture on October 21, 1994. Many of the records responsive to this FOIA request are located in the staff and office files of the National

Security Council (NSC). The files of Matthew Lorin and Robert Malley in the Democracy, Human Rights, and Multilateral Affairs directorate contain correspondence, reports, congressional records, memoranda and press material regarding the implementation of the Convention Against Torture. These records specifically address the Comprehensive Torture Victims Relief Act of 1995 and the United States' obligations under Article 3 of the convention. The files of Steven Naplan and Eric Schwartz in the Multilateral and Humanitarian Affairs directorate contain similar materials. The records specifically deal with aid to victims under the Convention Against Torture and the International Day in Support of Torture Victims/Survivors on June 26, 1998. Further textual materials on the ratification and implementation of the Convention are located in the NSC Records Management System numbered documents. Responsive electronic materials are located in the NSC Cable and Emails systems. The cables date from August 1993 through September 2000 and contain State Department communications on the implementation of the Convention Against Torture in United States foreign relations. The emails, dating from June 1993 through August 2000 contain draft memoranda recommending the ratification of several human rights treaties, NSC staff communications regarding an Amnesty International letter, and discussion of the potential deportation of suspected Khobar Towers terrorist Hani el Sayegh to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Because of the likely sentence waiting him there, Sayegh attempted to make a claim of asylum under the UN Convention Against Torture in 1998.

Record Type

Textual

System of Arrangement

Records that are responsive to this FOIA request were found in these collection areas— Clinton Presidential Records: White House Staff and Office Files and Clinton Presidential Records: NSC Cable, Email, and Records Management Systems. Staff and Office files were maintained at the folder level by staff members within their individual offices and document all levels of administration activity. Staff and Office files are processed at the folder level, that is, individual documents are not selected

and removed from a folder for processing. While this method maintains folder integrity, it frequently results in the incidental processing of documents that are not wholly responsive to the subject area.

Access

Collection is open to all researchers. Access to Clinton Presidential Records is governed by the Presidential Records Act (PRA) (44 U.S.C. Chapter 22, as amended) and the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) (5 U.S.C. 552, as amended) and therefore records may be restricted in whole or in part in accordance with legal exemptions.

Copyright

Documents in this collection that were prepared by officials of the United States government as part of their official duties are in the public domain. Researchers are advised to consult the copyright law of the United States (17 U.S.C. Chapter 1) which governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted material.

Provenance

Official records of William Jefferson Clinton’s presidency are housed at the Clinton Presidential Library and administered by the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) under the provisions of the Presidential Records Act (PRA).

Processed by

Staff Archivist, 2017. Previously restricted materials are added as they are released.

Last Modified Date

2018-02-09

Container List

The following is a list of documents and folders processed in response to FOIA 2014-0642:
Box 1
Clinton Presidential Records: White House Staff and Office Files
National Security Council
Democracy, Human Rights, and Multilateral Affairs
Lorin, Matthew
Torture Legislation [OA/ID 799]
Clinton Presidential Records: White House Staff and Office Files (continued)
National Security Council
Democracy, Human Rights, and Multilateral Affairs
Malley, Robert
Torture Convention [OA/ID 793]
Multilateral and Humanitarian Affairs
Naplan, Steven
Torture [OA/ID 3038]
Schwartz, Eric
Torture, 1994 [OA/ID 3452]
Clinton Presidential Records: NSC Cable, Email, and Records Management System
NSC Cables
Jan 1993-Dec 1994 [OA/ID 505000]
[UN Convention Against Torture]
[08/17/1993]
Jan 1995-Dec 1996 [OA/ID 510000]
[UN Convention Against Torture]
[09/10/1996]
Jan 1997-Dec 1998 [OA/ID 520000]
[UN Convention Against Torture]
[08/13/1998]
Jan 1999-Dec 2000 [OA/ID 530000]
[UN Convention Against Torture]
[10/18/1999 – 09/22/2000]
NSC Email
A1 – Record (Jan 93 – Sept 94) [570000]

[UN Convention and Torture]
[06/01/1993 – 06/11/1993]
Exchange-Record (Sept 97-Jan 01) [OA/ID 620000]
[UN Convention and Torture]
[02/23/1998]
Exchange-Non-Record (Mar 97-Jan 01) [OA/ID 630000]
[UN Convention and Torture]
[08/18/2000]
Clinton Presidential Records: NSC Cable, Email, and Records Management System
NSC Records Management System
[Convention and Torture]
9302062 [OA/ID 459]
Clinton Presidential Records: NSC Cable, Email, and Records Management System (continued)
NSC Records Management System
[Convention and Torture]
9404236 [OA/ID 198]
006095 [OA/ID 4107]