

Extent

4 SRLs, 739 assets

Summary

This collection consists of records regarding Osama bin Laden, Ayman al Zawahiri, or Abdullah Azzam. Unclassified electronic records responsive to this request primarily include transcripts of press briefings by various government officials, press releases, executive orders, and press clips, as well as State Department reports.

Scope and Content Note

The materials in FOIA 2025-0939-F (Segment 1) are a selective body of documents responsive to the topic of the FOIA. Researchers should consult the archivist about related material including FOIA case 2006-0228-F. The researcher submitted a request for records regarding Osama bin Laden, Ayman al Zawahiri, or Abdullah Azzam. Osama bin Laden was the Saudi-born founder and leader of the militant terrorist organization al-Qaeda. Ayman al Zawahiri served as bin Laden's deputy and became the leader of al-Qaeda following bin Laden's death. Abdullah Azzam, who died in 1989, was a Palestinian scholar and ideological influence for bin Laden. There are no responsive records regarding Azzam in this collection. Unclassified electronic records responsive to this request primarily include transcripts of press briefings by various government officials, press releases, executive orders, and press clips, as well as State Department travel warnings for Middle Eastern countries.

Record Type

Electronic Records

System of Arrangement

Records that are responsive to this FOIA request were found in these collection areas—Clinton Presidential Records: (SAS) Automated Records Management System [Email] & (SAS) Tape Restoration Project [Email].

The Executive Office of the President (EOP) subsystem of the Electronic Records Archive (ERA) contains electronic records created or received by Clinton Administration officials. These records are stored in Search and Access Sets (SAS) that represent their originating computer program. Search strings are used to locate records responsive to FOIA requests, and responsive assets are placed into Search Results Lists (SRLs). Depending on the complexity of the search, there may be multiple SRLs within each SAS.

The Automated Records Management System (ARMS) is a database that contains email records of the Executive Office of the President. This system maintained unclassified Presidential email.

The Tape Restoration Project (TRP) is a database that contains restored emails from the Automated Records Management System (ARMS) from July 1994 through June of 2000. This system maintained unclassified Presidential email.

Access Notes

Output Packages

Upon release, researchers can request an Output Package containing the open electronic files processed in response to this FOIA. If multiple search strings were utilized to effectively respond to the FOIA request, the Output Package will include sub-folders for each separate search string.

File Formats & Attachments

The Output Package will contain responsive assets, withdrawal sheets, redacted assets, and attachments. File formats can include (but are not limited to) html, txt, pdf, msoff, doc, docx, and xls.

Email assets with attachments in proprietary formats such as MSoff, PDF, doc, and other legacy files will contain hexadecimal (hex) code “dumps.” This appears at the end of an email as a series of numbers and letters following an “ATTACHMENT” page break. When converting electronic files from legacy systems, there is a possibility that some data was lost and could not be recovered. This occurs most often with

proprietary attachments that are no longer supported by current operating systems. In some instances, archivists may be able to provide access to the document by converting attachments to text independent of its original format. If an email attachment would not open and could not be converted to readable text, this will be noted in the email asset's withdrawal sheet, and the associated hexadecimal code will be redacted.

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).

Person Names

Bin Laden, Osama, 1957-2011
Zawāhiri, Ayman

‘Azzām, ‘Abd Allāh

Organization Names

Qaida (Organization)

Processed by

Staff Archivist, 2026.

Last Modified Date

2026-06-05

Container List

Clinton Presidential Records: EOP ERA Search and Access Sets (SAS)

(SAS) Automated Records Management System [Email] contains 726 assets.

(SAS) Tape Restoration Project [Email] contains 13 assets.