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Oversight and Government Reform
Committee

Transportation and Infrastructure
Committee

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May 1, 2026

The Honorable Kash Patel
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
935 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20535

Dear Director Patel:

I write to request that the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) conduct an appropriate investigative assessment, preserve relevant records, and provide a congressional briefing concerning potential U.S. government, U.S. person, or federal-contractor involvement in events associated with the January 1996 Varginha/Campinas, Brazil unidentified anomalous phenomena (UAP) incident.

This request is based in part on the same subject matter addressed in Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Reference No. F-2023-00442, attached hereto, which sought records concerning U.S. government flights, transfers of materials, and coordination with Brazilian authorities during the period of January 14 through January 28, 1996, including activity in or near Campinas, Sao Paulo State, Brazil. According to the CIA's final response dated January 10, 2025, the Agency neither confirmed nor denied the existence of responsive records, invoking FOIA exemptions (b)(1) and (b)(3). While such a Glomar response may reflect the CIA's posture in a private FOIA context, it does not resolve whether the FBI possesses records, investigative leads, legal attaché reporting, domestic investigative equities, or information relevant to Congress' oversight responsibilities.

This letter does not ask the FBI to validate disputed public claims, assume that any particular allegation is true, or prejudge whether any federal law was violated. Rather, it asks the Bureau to determine whether facts, records, witnesses, flight data, interagency communications, liaison reporting, or contractor activity exist that would warrant further FBI investigative action, referral, or production to Congress.

The Varginha incident has remained the subject of persistent public interest, press inquiry, witness testimony, documentary investigation, and international discussion for nearly three decades. Whether individual claims about the incident are ultimately substantiated or not, credible questions remain regarding the existence, scope, and disposition of U.S. government records relating to the relevant dates, locations, aircraft activity, intergovernmental coordination, possible material transfers, and subsequent handling of any related information.

Recent public commitments to increased transparency regarding unidentified anomalous phenomena, including President Trump's February 2026 direction concerning the release of additional UFO- and UAP-related records, further underscore the need for federal agencies to identify, preserve, and provide historically significant records that may bear on longstanding public controversies. The public interest in this matter is substantial, but Congress' interest is more precise: to determine whether federal records exist, whether any U.S. persons or entities

were involved, whether any records were concealed or mishandled, and whether any continued restriction is lawfully justified.

Potential federal investigative equities may include, depending on the facts developed, false statements or concealment in matters within federal jurisdiction; obstruction of congressional, executive-branch, or records-review proceedings; unlawful concealment, alteration, destruction, or removal of government records; unauthorized retention or transmission of classified or national-defense information; theft, conversion, or unauthorized transfer of government property; conspiracy; or import/export, customs, or biological/technical-material handling issues. Relevant statutes may include, where supported by facts, 18 U.S.C. §§ 371, 641, 793, 1001, 1505, 1519, 1924, and 2071, along with any other federal criminal, counterintelligence, export-control, customs, or records-management authorities implicated by the evidence.

Accordingly, I request that the FBI take the following actions:

1. Open, or explain whether the FBI will open, an appropriate investigative assessment or preliminary inquiry concerning potential U.S. government, U.S. person, federal-contractor, or U.S.-registered aircraft involvement in the January 14-28, 1996, Brazil-related events described above.
2. Conduct a fresh search of all FBI components, holdings, indices, and retired records systems reasonably likely to contain responsive material, including but not limited to the Central Records System, legacy Automated Case Support indices, Sentinel or successor systems, legal attaché and international liaison files, Washington Field Office records, Counterintelligence Division records, International Operations Division records, Laboratory Division records, WMD-related records, Office of General Counsel files, Office of Congressional Affairs files, and any compartmented, special-access, or classified repositories reasonably likely to contain responsive information.
3. Preserve all records, regardless of format, classification level, originator, or physical location, concerning the subject matter of this request, including emails, cables, indices, FD-302s, electronic communications, reports of investigation, tips, source reporting, liaison communications, flight-related records, chain-of-custody records, laboratory notes, contractor communications, and interagency correspondence.
4. Determine whether FBI headquarters, any FBI field office, the FBI legal attaché program, or any FBI personnel assigned to the U.S. embassy or liaison channels in Brazil generated, received, indexed, reviewed, or transmitted records concerning the Varginha/Campinas matter, Brazilian military or law-enforcement reporting, witness interviews, alleged material recovery, or any U.S. government or contractor activity connected to those events.
5. Assess whether any U.S.-government aircraft, U.S.-registered aircraft, contracted aircraft, military airlift, diplomatic pouch or courier channel, or other transportation mechanism was used or proposed for any transfer, receipt, examination, transport, storage, or disposition of material originating from Brazilian military, security, law-enforcement, medical, or scientific custody during the relevant period.
6. Assess whether any U.S. person, federal employee, intelligence-community element, Department of War component, federal contractor, federally funded research and development center, national laboratory, academic institution, or private entity received, analyzed, stored, transported, or otherwise handled any materials, technical artifacts, biological remains or specimens, forensic samples, sensor data, photographs, video, or documentary records associated with the incident.
7. Determine whether any records responsive to this matter were destroyed, removed from official systems, misindexed, transferred to contractor custody, hidden within unrelated program files, concealed under an inaccurate classification guide, or otherwise withheld from ordinary records-management, FOIA, declassification, or congressional-review processes.
8. Coordinate, as appropriate, with the Department of Justice, the CIA, the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, the Department of Defense, the Department of State, the

National Archives and Records Administration, the Information Security Oversight Office, and any other federal or contracted entity reasonably likely to possess relevant information.

9. Provide me and appropriately cleared congressional staff with a classified briefing, with an unclassified summary where possible, describing the FBI's search methodology, relevant holdings, investigative assessment, interagency coordination, and any recommendation for further investigative or records-review action.
10. Produce all non-privileged responsive records to my office no later than 30 days from receipt of this letter, with classified annexes where necessary. For any material withheld from production, please provide a detailed itemization of the basis for withholding, including the specific authority invoked, date range, originating component, classification level, custodian, and a description sufficient to allow congressional assessment of the claim.

Please also advise whether the FBI has previously opened, closed, referred, or declined any assessment, inquiry, or investigation relating to the 1996 Varginha/Campinas incident, any alleged U.S.-government involvement, any associated U.S.-flight or material-transfer activity, or any related witness, source, or liaison reporting. If the FBI has no such records or investigative equities, please state that clearly and describe the searches conducted to reach that conclusion.

The American public has a legitimate interest in knowing whether historic records exist concerning alleged U.S. involvement in events long discussed in connection with the Varginha case. Congress likewise has a duty to determine whether federal records have been properly preserved, whether classification is being used narrowly to protect genuine national-security interests, and whether any potential misconduct by U.S. persons or entities warrants further inquiry. At minimum, Congress is entitled to a complete accounting of relevant FBI records and the legal basis for any continued restriction.

Please provide an estimated production and briefing schedule within 10 business days. Please direct staff-level questions regarding this request to Aaron Jenks, Legislative Assistant in my office, at Aaron.Jenks@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,



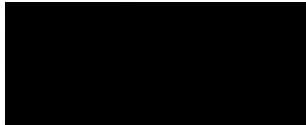
Eric Burlison
Member of Congress

Central Intelligence Agency



Washington, DC 20505

10 January 2025



Reference: F-2023-00442

Dear Requester:

This letter is a final response to your postmarked 5 December 2022 Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request seeking documents, memoranda, cables and/or electronic records pertaining to the following:

1. **U.S. government flights during the period 14 January 1996 through 28 January 1996 to and from the Federative Republic of Brazil, to include Campinas, São Paulo State, Brazil.**
2. **Directorate of Operations/Latin America Division was cognizant of the transfer of materials from the custody of the armed forces of the Federative Republic of Brazil to the U.S. government during the period 14 January 1996 through 28 January 1996 to and from Campinas, São Paulo State, Brazil.**
3. **Coordination, cooperation, and liaison between Brasilia Station and/or Brazilian Federal Police, National Public Security Force, the then Department of Intelligence (DI), the then Undersecretary of Intelligence (SSI) for the purpose of facilitating the transfer of materials from the custody of the armed forces of the Federative Republic of Brazil to the U.S. government during the period 14 January 1996 through 28 January 1996 to and from Campinas, São Paulo State, Brazil.**

We completed a thorough review of your request and determined that, in accordance with Section 3.6(a) of Executive Order 13526, the CIA can neither confirm nor deny the existence or nonexistence of records responsive to your request. The fact of the existence or nonexistence of such records is itself currently and properly classified and is intelligence sources and methods information protected from disclosure by Section 6 of the CIA Act of 1949, as amended, and Section 102A(i)(1) of the National Security Act of 1947, as amended. Therefore, your request is denied pursuant to FOIA exemptions (b)(1) and (b)(3).

As the CIA Information and Privacy Coordinator, I am the CIA official responsible for this determination. You may appeal this response to the Agency Release Panel, in my care, within 90 days from the date of this letter. Please explain the basis for your appeal.

Please be advised that you may also seek dispute-resolution services from the CIA FOIA Public Liaison or from the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) of the National Archives and Records Administration. OGIS offers mediation services to help resolve disputes between FOIA requesters and Federal agencies. Please note, contacting CIA's FOIA Public Liaison or OGIS does not affect your right to pursue an administrative appeal.