

January 26, 2010

President Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Secretary of State Clinton
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20520

Dear President Obama and Secretary of State Clinton,

I am writing to urge your support for a FOIA request regarding the case of Father James "Guadalupe" Carney, an American priest who disappeared in Honduras in 1983 when he entered that country as a chaplain to a small revolutionary group.

His relatives are very interested in knowing exactly what happened to him and in having a Christian burial in Honduras, if they can ever find his remains.

David Arturo Baez Cruz, a Nicaraguan who became a U.S. citizen and served for years as a Green Beret in the U.S. Army before resigning and returning to Nicaragua, also entered Honduras with the same group and disappeared.

In a letter of July 11, 2001 to the Information and Privacy Coordinator of the CIA, U.S. citizen Father Joseph E. Mulligan, S.J., who is living in Nicaragua, requested 83 items of information in relation to FATHER JAMES (GUADALUPE) CARNEY and DAVID ARTURO BAEZ CRUZ, which had been blacked out of the "CIA Inspector General's Report of Investigation: Selected Issues Relating to CIA Activities in Honduras in the 1980s" (August 27, 1997). About half of this 250-page document was blacked out before being "declassified."

The CIA assigned Father Mulligan's 2001 request the Reference Number F-2001-01650. He has never received a decision on his request. Since no decision was ever made about his request, on July 31, 2009 Father Mulligan submitted basically the same request. It should help that 25 years have passed since the events in question. According to CIA policy, this should facilitate the declassification.

Father Mulligan received a reply from the CIA Information and Privacy Coordinator, Delores M. Nelson, dated 16 December 2009, acknowledging receipt of his request of July 31, 2009 and stating that they are processing it. **They have given this present request the Reference Number F-2009-01688.** Ms. Nelson also stated that the CIA is continuing to process **Father Mulligan's original request of 2001 – Reference Number F-2001-01650.**

I ask you to contact the CIA Director Leon Panetta in support of both of Father Mulligan's requests. A complete declassification of the CIA Inspector General's Report could shed light on the disappearance of these two U.S. citizens and also on important aspects of American policy in Honduras in the 1980s.

Thanks very much for your kind consideration.

Sincerely,