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Mr. Brian Pearce
Department of Justice Legal Attaché
United States Embassy,
120-122 Wittayu Road
Bangkok, Thailand 10330

Dear Brian:

Thank you for advising me that the FBI has completed its review of computer files that my client, Christopher Hobbs, has submitted to you, and that the file is now closed.

Mr. Hobbs' FOI-PA request

As you may know, Mr. Hobbs has filed an FOI-PA request with the FBI, seeking to gain access to all files and documents pertaining to him. His request was denied, in part because there was an open law enforcement investigation into his activities. It is my understanding that, with the completion of the review of the files that Mr. Hobbs submitted on the closure of the file, there is no longer any open investigation.

I have filed an appeal of the denial of Mr. Hobbs' FOI-PA request (attached). I respectfully request that you contact the appeals officer, and advise them that Mr. Hobbs' file has now been closed, so that access to the file can now be granted.

Steven Strike

In our telephone conversations, we have discussed the situation of Steven Strike, a U.S. citizen who is suspected of committing illegal sex acts with minors while he was residing in Thailand. In December 2013, Mr. Strike was arrested by the Royal Thai Immigration Police at the request of the United States Embassy in Thailand and deported to the United States to face criminal charges in the state of Hawaii. Mr. Strike has now been convicted and is serving a 10 year sentence in Hawaii.

Mr. Strike's alleged actions are not only criminal offenses in Thailand, they also violate U.S. law. It is my understanding that one of the purposes of the FBI resident office in Thailand is to

investigate such offenses that may be committed by US citizens who have traveled to Thailand for the purposes of engaging in “sex tourism”.

I am writing to request that you investigate Mr. Strike. In our conversations, you have pointed out that it would be difficult to persuade a U.S. Attorney to prosecute Mr. Strike, based upon the fact that all of the relevant witnesses are in Thailand, and the fact that Mr. Strike is already serving a substantial sentence. However, similar problems arise with any prosecution of American citizens who engage in illegal sex tourism in Thailand, and these cases are nevertheless prosecuted. The United States Government has entered into a Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty with Thailand, precisely to ensure that such cases can be prosecuted. In addition, I believe that the RTP will be very willing to cooperate with any U.S. prosecution of Mr. Strike, because they have been severely embarrassed by bringing false charges against my client, for offenses that are now believed to have been committed by Mr. Strike.

Investigation of Mr. Hobbs

Furthermore, I note that the FBI has already investigated the offenses that were allegedly committed by Mr. Strike when the FBI investigated Mr. Hobbs. I would like to know more about exactly what the FBI did in its investigation - if there is any way that I can formally or informally request such information in addition to the FOI-PA request that has already been filed, please let me know. However,, the fact that this investigation was done suggests that the assumed difficulty of prosecuting an American citizen in a United States court for crimes committed in Thailand does not preclude further investigation by the FBI.

I am also concerned about the FBI’s actions in privately interviewing Mr. Hobbs on the night of his arrest in Thailand. The fact that Mr. Hobbs was read, his Miranda rights suggests that he was considered as a possible suspect of a violation of United States law, prosecutable in the United States. **I would like an explanation of why this interview was conducted and the legal authority for it,** especially since the interview appears to have been conducted in violation of both U.S. law and standard FBI procedures, (See sections 3-11 and 7-15 of the Legal Handbook for Special Agents).

You will recall that you had a meeting with Mr. Hobbs on December 17, 2014, where you first insisted that the FBI had conducted this interview with Mr. Hobbs jointly with the RTP, in accordance with procedure. However, I believe that Mr. Hobbs showed you media photos that demonstrate that, as Mr. Hobbs can attest, the FBI actually interviewed him privately. Can you offer any explanation as to why this interview was done in this manner?

The FBI also maintained an open file with respect to Mr. Hobbs, and held the file open for nearly one year until it completed the review of computer files that Mr. Hobbs provided to the FBI. Statements that we have obtained from the RTP indicate that U.S. officials, possibly FBI agents, met with a local NGO and the boys who claim to be victims prior to Mr. Hobbs’ arrest. Again, this suggests that the FBI was actively involved in the investigation. As you know, Mr. Hobbs

was arrested in Thailand and charged with offenses which are now believed to have been committed by Mr. Strike. It is possible, but by no means certain, that the Thai government will seek the extradition of Mr. Strike to face charges in Thailand. However, if Thailand does not do so, for whatever reason, Mr. Strike should not be able to escape prosecution for his alleged crimes. It appears that Mr. Strike is a repeat pedophile, and the interests of justice require that he should be held accountable for his crimes in Thailand. This is especially true because an innocent man, Mr. Hobbs, was wrongfully accused of committing the crimes that have now been attributed to Mr. Strike, and it is essential to prosecute Mr. Strike to conclusively establish and confirm Mr. Hobbs' innocence.

Requests for action and assistance

Please advise whether you can provide any assistance with respect to Mr. Hobbs' FOI-PA appeal, whether the FBI is willing to investigate Mr. Strike, and whether any additional information can be supplied with respect to the investigation of Mr. Hobbs, including any explanation or justification of the interview of Mr. Hobbs that was apparently conducted in violation of law and established procedure.

Very truly yours

Peter Henner

c. Christopher Hobbs