



DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20340-5100



August 22, 2023

U-23-11536/IMO-2 (FOIA)

Mr. Sainath Suryanarayanan, PhD  
U.S. Right To Know Organization  
4096 Piedmont Ave. #963  
Oakland, CA 94611-5221

Dear Mr. Suryanarayanan:

This is the response to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests dated August 17, 2020, that you submitted to the Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) requesting a copy of the DIA report titled ***“China: Origins of COVID-19 Outbreak Remain Unknown”*** dated on or about March 27, 2020. This case is the subject of litigation in the United States District Court for the Northern District of California, San Francisco Division in case number 23-cv-02936-TSH.

A search of DIA’s systems of records located one record (7 pages) responsive to your request

Upon review, it has been determined that some portions of the record must be withheld from disclosure pursuant to the FOIA. The withheld portions are exempt from release pursuant to Exemptions 1, 3, and 6 of the FOIA, 5 U.S.C. § 552 (b)(1), (b)(3), and (b)(6). Exemption 1 applies to information properly classified under the criteria of Executive Order 13526. Exemption 3 applies to information specifically exempted by a statute establishing particular criteria for withholding. The applicable statutes are 10 U.S.C. § 424 and 50 U.S.C. § 3024(i). Statute 10 U.S.C. § 424 protects the identity of DIA employees, the organizational structure of the agency, and any function of DIA. Statute 50 U.S.C. § 3024(i) protects sensitive intelligence sources and methods. Exemption 6 applies to information which if released would constitute an unwarranted invasion of the personal privacy of other individuals.

DIA has not withheld any reasonably segregable non-exempt portions of the record.

Sincerely,

Cheryl Cross-Davison  
Chief, Records and Open Government

Enclosure: a/s

~~TOP SECRET~~ (b)(3):10 USC 424; (b)(3):50 USC 3024(i)



~~(S)~~

(b)(3):10 USC 424; (b)(3):50 USC 3024(i)

# China: Origins of COVID-19 Outbreak Remain Unknown

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(b)(1); Sec. 1.4(c)

- > (U) According to scientific sources, scientists would not have purposefully created the virus based on the current knowledge of coronavirus genomics in the field. Scientific models would have predicted that the SARS-CoV-2 structure used to gain entry into human cells would yield a poorly infectious or noninfectious virus, according to the same scientific article.

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<sup>i</sup>(U) For this product, we define genetic engineering as using a set of biotechnologies to manipulate or “edit” an organism or virus’s genome; it does not include directed evolution by other means such as the use of repeated passage through animals or cell culture.

Classified by: (b)(3):10 USC 424; (b)(6)  
 Derived from: ~~Multiple Sources~~  
 Declassify on: ~~OSM, 60-161201~~

(U) ~~ATTENTION: This document contains information that is classified as TOP SECRET, and is intended for the eyes of the President, Vice President, and members of the National Security Council, the Secretary of Defense, and the members of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.~~  
 (b)(3):10 USC 424  
 (U) ~~Only U.S. personnel, including those of the Defense Intelligence Agency, are authorized to receive this information.~~

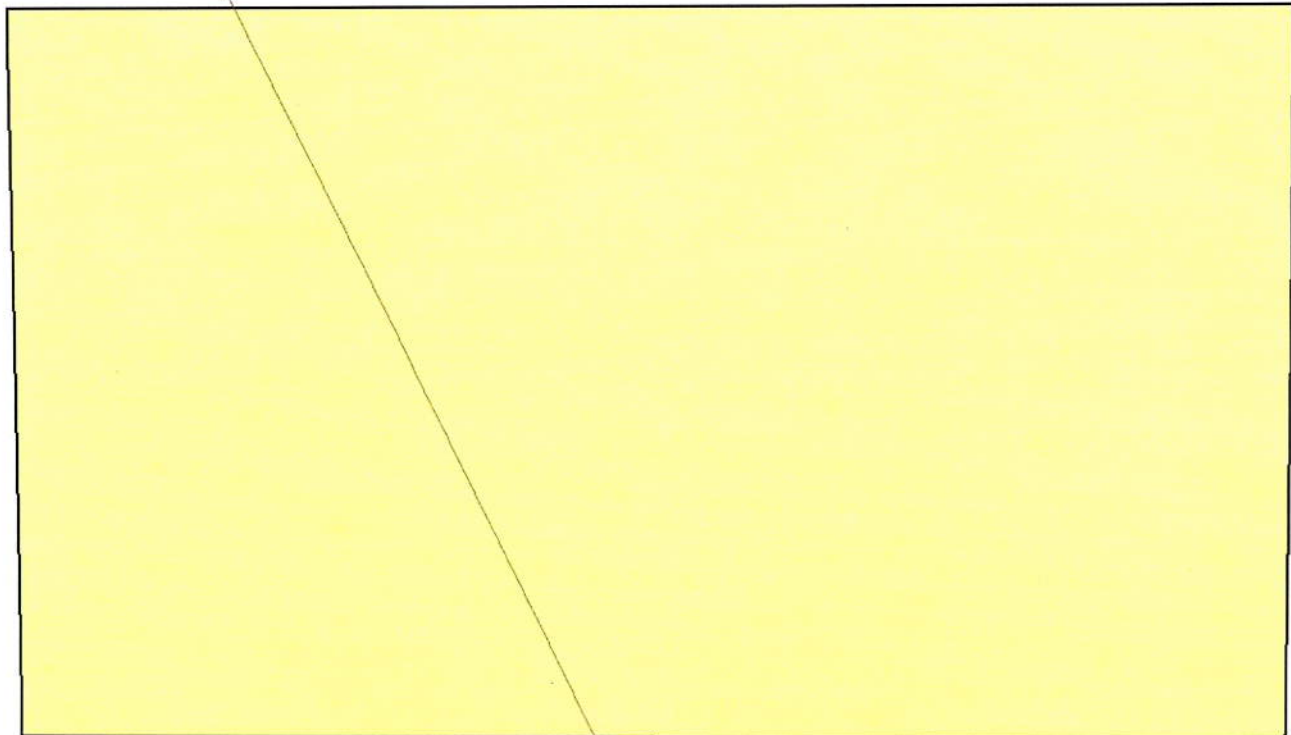
ICOD: 24 March 2020  
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 CORE Version 5.1

~~TOP SECRET~~ (b)(3):10 USC 424; (b)(3):50 USC 3024(i)

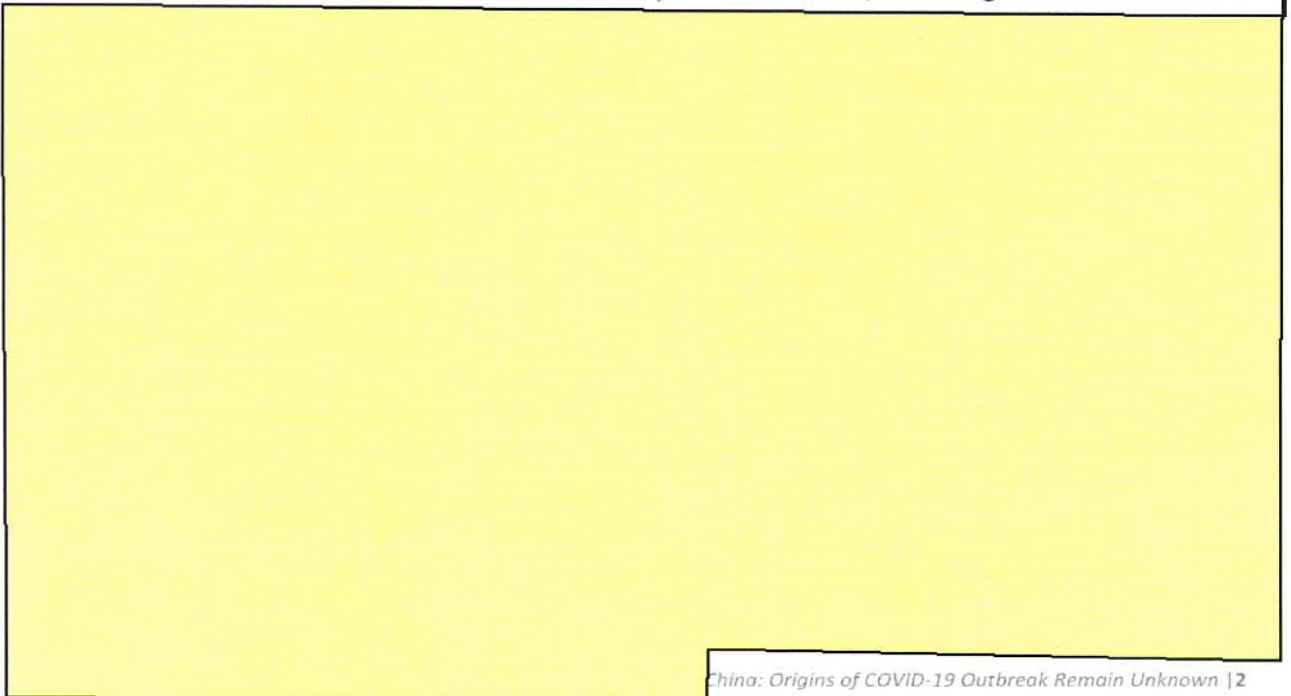
(b)(1); Sec. 1.4(c); (b)(3);10 USC 424;  
(b)(3);50 USC 3024(i)

~~TOP SECRET~~

(b)(3);10 USC 424; (b)(3);50 USC 3024(i)



- > (U) WIV and Wuhan CDC scientists collect SARS-like coronaviruses from bats in the wild, according to a news article and a Chinese prepublished academic article. While collecting coronavirus samples, a Wuhan CDC researcher was accidentally exposed to bat blood and urine and subsequently self-quarantined for 14 days, according to the same Chinese prepublished academic article. The Wuhan CDC's discarded infected animal tissue samples could be the source of the initial COVID-19 patient infections, according to the same source.



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(b)(3);10 USC 424; (b)(3);50 USC 3024(i)

The next three pages are denied in full pursuant to FOIA exemptions b(1) 1.4(c)(e), b(3) 10 USC 424 & 50 USC 3024(i) and are not provided.

~~TOP SECRET~~ [Redacted] (b)(3):10 USC 424; (b)(3):50 USC 3024(i)

(b)(3):10 USC 424; (b)(3):50 USC 3024(i)

(U) [Redacted]  
Any reproduction, dissemination, or communication (including, but not limited to, oral briefings) of this information must be accompanied by a statement of these restrictions.

(U) Prepared by: [Redacted]

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(b)(3):10 USC 424;  
(b)(3):50 USC 3024(i)

~~TOP SECRET~~ [Redacted]