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Objet: FOIA Commands Headlines as Law Approaches 50th Anniversary
Date: 13 juin 2016 19:18
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30 YEARS OF OPENING GOVERNMENTS AT HOME AND ABROAD

FOIA Commands Headlines as Law Approaches 50th Anniversary

What Links Operation Condor Convictions to News of Widespread Medicare Overcharging? FOIA!

50 of the Year's Most Important Stories Made Possible by the Freedom of Information Act, Signed 50 Years Ago this July 4

National Security Archive

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Washington DC, June 13, 2016 – Today the National Security Archive celebrates the Freedom of Information Act's upcoming 50th birthday by highlighting 50 of the year's biggest news stories made possible by FOIA. The diverse front-page news shows how FOIA can impact human rights, government accountability, and even what you eat.

Here is a sampling of this year's top stories:

- FOIA releases to the National Security Archive provided critical evidence in the historic conviction of 14 Argentine military officers and 1 Uruguayan military officer for their participation in the Operation Condor international murder ring and were cited 150 times by the prosecution.
- Documents released through FOIA proved Pentagon officials deliberately misled Congress on the Defense Department's handling of sexual assault cases in order to undermine reform legislation.
- A FOIA lawsuit uncovered that the Obama White House's Justice Department aggressively lobbied to kill uncontroversial bipartisan FOIA reform in 2014.
- Presidents Ronald Reagan and George H.W. Bush were, FOIA releases to the National Security Archive show, climate change heroes who took action to protect the ozone layer.
- State-level FOIA releases in Michigan exposed the cost-driven decisions by Flint administrators not to add corrosion controls to the water supply, causing lead poisoning in kids, and the cover-up by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality.
- Documents released by the Food and Drug Administration under FOIA show that cheese marketed as being "100% parmesan" contained 0% parmesan – and some wood pulp.
- Government audits freed by a FOIA lawsuit show widespread billing mistakes – primarily overcharging – in Medicare Advantage program.

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