THE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON

May 4, 2026

Mr. Todd Lyons
Senior Official
U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement
500 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20536

Dear Mr. Lyons:

I am writing to confirm, consistent with guidance issued by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement on July 9, 2025, that the Department of State has received diplomatic assurances from the Government of the Central African Republic (CAR) that aliens removed there by the United States will not be persecuted or tortured and that we have determined those assurances to be credible and reliable.

On April 4, 2026, the CAR government provided diplomatic assurances to the United States as memorialized in the enclosed exchange of diplomatic notes, through which the U.S. government concluded an understanding with the CAR government. The CAR government assured the U.S. government that it intends to treat any third-country nationals transferred from the United States to CAR in accordance with its obligations under the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees; the 1967 Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees; the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman, or Degrading Treatment or Punishment; any other relevant international obligations; and the Constitution, laws, regulations, rules, and immigration and visa policies of CAR.

The CAR government further assured the United States that "it would treat any third-country nationals transferred from the United States to CAR in a manner that is in accordance with its international legal obligations and that the third-country nationals removed to CAR would not be subjected to persecution on account of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion or subjected to torture in CAR or in any country to which CAR may further transfer the third-country nationals."

It is the Department of State's view that the assurances received from the CAR government are credible and reliable. The CAR government values its relationship with the United States and provided these assurances at the most senior levels.

GOVERNMENT EXHIBIT
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Given the highly sensitive nature of our discussions with CAR, I ask that the Department of Homeland Security refrain from publicly discussing our cooperation with CAR on this matter.

Sincerely,

Christopher Landau

Enclosures:
As stated.