

MISSISSIPPI SOUTHERN DISTRICT COURT

,

Petitioner,

v.

Vergara, et al.

Respondents

5:2025cv[REDACTED]

DECLARATION OF EMMANUEL ESPINAL

I, Emmanuel Espinal, Acting Unit Chief (UC), Removal Management Division (RMD), Removal International Operations (RIO), Middle East and Europe, Enforcement and Removal Operations (ERO), U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), Department of Homeland Security (DHS), declare as follows pursuant to the authority of 28 U.S.C. § 1746:

1. The RMD is located at ICE Headquarters in Washington, DC and provides guidance and assistance to ICE officers attempting to obtain travel documents for foreign nationals who were ordered removed. The RMD collaborates with embassies and consulates, as well as with interagency and international networks, to facilitate the efficient removal of aliens from the United States, provides nationwide post-order (POCR) guidance, implements policy and procedures, and is responsible for providing case management support for aliens subject to a final order of removal.

2. In my current position as Acting Unit Chief, I am responsible for providing oversight and supervision of Detention and Deportation Officers within the 25 ERO Field Offices to support case management and facilitate removal of aliens who have final orders from the United States. My

portfolio specifically focuses on aliens with final orders of removal from the Middle East and Europe.

3. I am writing this declaration to update the court on the updated efforts to effectuate the removal of the Petitioner, [REDACTED].

4. The Petitioner has been accepted to be removed to the Central African Republic pursuant to a Third Country Removal agreement between the United States and the Central African Republic.

5. On April 4, 2026, the Central African Republic provided diplomatic assurances that the aliens removed from the United States pursuant to this agreement will not be subjected to persecution or torture. On May 4, 2026, the Department of State determined that the diplomatic assurances were credible.

6. RMD received notification that the Petitioner's removal was accepted by the Government of the Central African Republic as per our prior elevation request pursuant to the Third Country Removal agreement that the Department of State negotiated and signed with the Government of the Central African Republic.

7. Given the Petitioner's acceptance, ICE intended to remove the Petitioner to the Central African Republic on or around May 26, 2026, absent any stay or temporary restraining order. The Petitioner's acceptance by the Central African Republic and placement on the manifest for this charter would have served as the travel document in the Petitioner's removal.

8. ICE learned that the May 26, 2026 removal flight to the Central African Republic was postponed for reasons outside of ICE's control.

9. ICE will follow the March 30th, 2025 memorandum *Guidance Regarding Third Country Removals* to effectuate the Petitioner's removal should we be able to remove the Petitioner to the Central African Republic or another third-country.

DATED: 5/20/2026

EMMANUEL ESPINAL

 Digitally signed by EMMANUEL ESPINAL
Date: 2026.05.20 16:49:12 -04'00'

Emmanuel Espinal
Acting Unit Chief (UC)
Removal Management Division
U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement
Washington, DC