March 3, 2020

Agnes Callamard  
Special Rapporteur  
Extrajudicial, Summary, or Arbitrary Executions

Dear Special Rapporteur Callamard,

Thank you for your correspondence on January 30, 2020. Please find enclosed a U.S. response to your letter.

Sincerely,

Daniel A. Kronenfeld  
Human Rights Counselor
SUBJECT: Death of Journalist Christopher Allen in South Sudan

The continued fight against extrajudicial, summary, and arbitrary executions is an issue of utmost importance to the United States. We therefore thank you for your January 30, 2020, correspondence regarding the death on August 26, 2017, of U.S. freelance journalist Christopher Allen in South Sudan.

The United States has a longstanding commitment to promoting the safety of journalists. Journalists are often the first to report from the front lines of conflict zones, to uncover corruption, and to highlight missteps by governments. This work places many journalists in danger, and it is important for governments and citizens worldwide to speak out for their protection and for their vital role in open societies.

We have forwarded your communication, as requested, to the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The United States remains fully engaged on this case and, since Mr. Allen’s death in August 2017, has clearly and repeatedly stated to the government of South Sudan its expectation for a full and credible investigation into the facts and circumstances surrounding his death. During his visit to Juba in January 2020, Assistant Secretary for African Affairs Tibor Nagy pressed President Kiir directly for an update on South Sudan’s promised inquiry into the death of Christopher Allen.

On behalf of the United States, we thank you for your tireless efforts in addressing your mandate. We take this opportunity to renew our support for your mandate and the assurances of our highest consideration.