

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

August 10, 2026

Patrick D. Swindle
Chief Executive Officer
CoreCivic
5501 Virginia Way
Brentwood, TN 37027

Dear Mr. Swindle:

We write writing seeking information regarding CoreCivic’s alleged involvement in facilitating meetings between Iranian officials and asylum seekers detained in your immigration detention facilities. In a recent lawsuit filed by the Iranian American Legal Defense Fund (IALDF), *Iranian American Legal Defense Fund v. Rubio*, Iranian asylum seekers report being coerced by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officials into meetings and phone calls with Iranian government officials at immigration detention facilities.

The detainees allege at least one of these coercive meetings took place at a facility you operate, the Otay Mesa Detention Center in San Diego County.¹ A senior Iranian official separately corroborated these allegations, stating he visited detainees in ICE detention facilities in the “San Diego, California area.”² Detainees at other CoreCivic facilities, including the Eloy Detention Center, report being “forced” into meetings where Iranian officials attempted to convince them to deport themselves.³ In one particularly concerning incident, a detainee at the Eloy Detention Center reported being physically forced to fingerprint papers related to her deportation to Africa.⁴ In light of these alarming allegations, we request your company preserve all communications regarding your decision allowing Iranian officials to communicate with detained asylum seekers without their consent and we seek your prompt responses to questions regarding those decisions.

The events at CoreCivic facilities reflect a broader trend of improper interactions between detained Iranian asylum seekers and Iranian government officials. Detainees report ICE officials shared confidential information about their asylum claims with representatives of the Iranian government

¹ Second Declaration of Ali Rahnama Part 2 at 6, *Iranian Am. Legal Defense Fund v. Rubio*, No. 26-2375 (D.D.C. July 7, 2026).

² Declaration of Cyrus Mehri at 8, *Iranian Am. Legal Defense Fund v. Rubio*, No. 26-2375 (D.D.C. July 7, 2026).

³ Second Declaration of Ali Rahnama Part 2 at 17-18, *Iranian Am. Legal Defense Fund v. Rubio*, No. 26-2375 (D.D.C. July 7, 2026).

⁴ *Id.* at 29-31.

before the meetings took place.⁵ In one instance, detainees report an ICE official passing sensitive information on other individuals to the Iranian official upon request during their meeting.⁶

The Trump Administration's policy of sharing information and forcing asylum seekers to meet with the very individuals from whom they seek protection threatens asylum seekers' safety and violates international laws. Many of the detainees forced to meet with Iranian officials disclosed sensitive information in their asylum applications, including admitting to practicing Christianity and protesting the Iranian government; protected grounds for seeking asylum.⁷ These asylum seekers only disclosed this information on their applications because they trusted the U.S. government to keep it confidential from their persecutors.⁸ Not only does this policy flagrantly violate that trust, but it places them at great risk of retribution from the Iranian government if they are removed. The Iranian official featured in the lawsuit documents confirmed he facilitated between 150 and 160 such removals.⁹ By permitting such coerced meetings to take place in your facilities, CoreCivic directly contributed to these grave harms.

We are deeply concerned by these allegations. Please provide answers to the following questions by August 21, 2026:

1. What communications has your company had with ICE officials, Department of Homeland Security officials, or State Department officials regarding the arrival of Iranian government officials at your facilities?
 - a. Please provide complete copies of all related communications.
2. Did representatives of the Iranian Interest Section or any other Iranian government officials ever contact CoreCivic staff, or staff of CoreCivic's parent companies or subsidiaries, regarding visits or phone calls between themselves and Iranian nationals detained in your facilities?
 - a. If so, please provide complete copies of all related communications.
3. Did CoreCivic coordinate the logistics of physical entry into any CoreCivic detention facilities for officials from the Iranian Interest Section or any other Iranian government officials?
 - a. If yes, please specify how those logistics were coordinated. Please provide a complete list of their visitor logs and communications, including the date and time of the visit, and the identities of all participants in the visit.

⁵ See, e.g., Second Declaration of Ali Rahnema Part 2 at 5, Iranian Am. Legal Defense Fund v. Rubio, No. 26-2375 (D.D.C. July 7, 2026) ("The Iran regime agent knew about my asylum claim and where I was in my asylum process.").

⁶ *Id.* at 24-25.

⁷ See, e.g., Second Declaration of Ali Rahnema Part 2 at 31, Iranian Am. Legal Defense Fund v. Rubio, No. 26-2375 (D.D.C. July 7, 2026) (a Christian convert reports they "disclosed information about [their] identity, family, political opinions, religion, and the reasons [they] fear the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran.").

⁸ See *Id.* ("I provided that information in reliance on the confidentiality protections of the U.S. and international laws and norms, and the U.S. Gov's [sic] assurances that my information would not be shared with the Iranian regime.").

⁹ Declaration of Cyrus Mehri at 9, Iranian Am. Legal Defense Fund v. Rubio, No. 26-2375 (D.D.C. July 7, 2026).

4. Did CoreCivic's General Counsel, CoreCivic's senior leadership or board of directors, or counsel for any of CoreCivic's parent companies or subsidiaries, review any policies, guidance, or communications regarding permitting Iranian officials' entry into any of its facilities?
 - a. Did any other attorneys affiliated with CoreCivic, including outside counsel, review any such policies, guidance, or communications?
 - b. Did any non-lawyer policy advisor review any such policies, guidance, or communications?
5. In addition to the information requests above, please preserve all records and communications between you, your employees, consultants, contractors, or the State Department, ICE, the Department of Homeland Security, and representatives of the Iranian Interest Section related to visits by Iranian officials to your facilities. This applies to internal communications and communications with U.S. or Iranian government personnel. This includes but is not limited to: records and communications via email, whether official or personal; mobile devices; encrypted or disappearing messaging applications; social media; calendar entries; meeting notes; and voicemail and text messages. To the extent that you use any auto-delete functions, you should immediately suspend autodelete functions and notify persons with control over potentially relevant records of their preservation obligations. This preservation request covers both past and current efforts, as well as any planned or in-development measures responsive to the issues raised in this letter.

We look forward to your prompt response to these important questions by August 21, 2026.

Sincerely,



Adam B. Schiff
United States Senator



Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator