

No. 50899

**United States of America
and
Panama**

Treaty between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of Panama for the return of stolen, robbed, or converted vehicles and aircraft (with annexes and exchange of notes, Panama City, 25 July 2000). Panama City, 6 June 2000

Entry into force: *13 September 2001 by the exchange of the instruments of ratification, in accordance with article 12*

Authentic texts: *English and Spanish*

Registration with the Secretariat of the United Nations: *United States of America, 18 June 2013*

**États-Unis d'Amérique
et
Panama**

Traité entre le Gouvernement des États-Unis d'Amérique et le Gouvernement de la République du Panama relatif à la restitution de véhicules et d'aéronefs volés ou acquis de manière illicite (avec annexes et échange de notes, Panama, 25 juillet 2000). Panama, 6 juin 2000

Entrée en vigueur : *13 septembre 2001 par l'échange des instruments de ratification, conformément à l'article 12*

Textes authentiques : *anglais et espagnol*

Enregistrement auprès du Secrétariat de l'Organisation des Nations Unies : *États-Unis d'Amérique, 18 juin 2013*

[ENGLISH TEXT – TEXTE ANGLAIS]

**TREATY
BETWEEN
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
AND
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF PANAMA
FOR THE RETURN OF STOLEN, ROBBED, OR CONVERTED
VEHICLES AND AIRCRAFT**

The Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of Panama (hereinafter, "the Parties");

Recognizing the growing problem, affecting both countries, of transnational theft, robbery, and conversion of vehicles and aircraft;

Considering the difficulties faced by innocent owners in securing the return of vehicles and aircraft stolen, robbed, or converted in the territory of one Party that are recovered in the territory of the other Party; and

Desiring to eliminate such difficulties and to regularize procedures for the expeditious return of such vehicles and aircraft;

Have agreed as follows:

Article 1

For purposes of this Treaty:

- 1. A "vehicle" means any automobile, truck, bus, motorcycle, motorhome, or trailer.**
- 2. An "aircraft" means any self-propelled means of transportation used or designed for flight.**
- 3. A vehicle or an aircraft shall be considered "stolen" when possession thereof has been obtained without the consent of the owner or other person legally authorized to use such vehicle or aircraft, and shall be considered "robbed" when such possession has been obtained through the use of force against persons or things.**
- 4. A vehicle or an aircraft shall be considered "converted" when:**
 - (a) the person who had rented it from a legally authorized rental enterprise, in the normal course of the enterprise's business, has taken unauthorized possession of it;**
 - (b) the person with whom it had been deposited by official or judicial action has taken unauthorized possession of it; or**
 - (c) the person to whom it had been entrusted by the owner or the owner's legal representative has taken unauthorized possession of it, for his own benefit or that of a third person.**
- 5. To "seize" means to take possession or custody of property in the exercise of law enforcement authority.**
- 6. All references to "days" shall mean calendar days.**

Article 2

Each Party agrees to return, in accordance with the terms of this Treaty, vehicles and aircraft that are:

- 1. registered, titled, or otherwise documented (or, in the case of aircraft, manufactured) in the territory of the other Party;**
- 2. stolen, robbed, or converted in the territory of the other Party, or from one of its nationals; and**
- 3. found in the territory of the first Party.**

In the case of a vehicle or aircraft that has been stolen, robbed, or converted outside of the territory of the other Party from one of its nationals, the obligation to return the vehicle or aircraft shall arise only if the request for its return under this Treaty is made prior to any request by a third country for return of the same vehicle or aircraft.

Article 3

- 1. Each Party shall designate a Central Authority responsible for processing notifications and requests under this Treaty.**
- 2. For the United States of America, the Central Authority shall be the Department of State or the Embassy of the United States of America in Panama.**
- 3. For the Republic of Panama, the Central Authority shall be the Office of the Attorney General or the Office of the Deputy Attorney General.**