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# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3205

March 4, 2026

The Honorable Marco Rubio  
Secretary of State  
U.S. Department of State  
2201 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Rubio,

I am writing to express my extreme concern regarding the State Department's apparent inability to secure the safe return of Americans in the Middle East, suggesting to those citizens that they have been abandoned by the United States. My office has received outreach from American citizens across the Middle East expressing dismay at the lack of support from this Administration during this war.

Instead of a coordinated evacuation plan for American citizens in the Middle East, the administration is directing citizens to third parties and clarifying that the administration "cannot guarantee [the] safety" of American citizens if they choose to use those recommended options to safely return home.<sup>1</sup> A State Department hotline tells Americans "do not rely on the U.S. government for assisted departure or evacuation."<sup>2</sup>

The Trump administration just told Americans: "you're on your own." I ask that you take seriously the gravity of the situation and immediately develop a comprehensive plan that ensures the safety of American citizens and enables their evacuation despite airspace closures.

Due to the urgency of the situation, please respond no later than close of business tomorrow with the Administration's plan to evacuate American citizens from the region. When it comes to the safety of American citizens, "you're on your own" is an unacceptable answer. The State Department and Trump administration must safeguard our citizens and do everything necessary to facilitate their evacuation and safe return to the United States.

Sincerely,



Kirsten Gillibrand  
United States Senator

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<sup>1</sup> U.S. Embassy Jerusalem (@usembassyjlm), X.com (Mar. 3, 2026, 1:37 AM), <https://x.com/usembassyjlm/status/2028721343881994304>

<sup>2</sup> See Jonathan Karl (@jonkarl), X.com (Mar. 3, 2026, 10:28 PM), <https://x.com/jonkarl/status/2029036114980286692>