

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

June 11, 2026

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

Dear Secretary Rubio,

We write to you today with deep concern over reports of the potential transfer of Afghan refugees to unsafe third-country destinations. Although we understand the Department is no longer pursuing an agreement with the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), the existence of such a proposal raises concerns about the Department's willingness to accept significant risks for individuals who served alongside our mission in Afghanistan.

As you are aware, after the U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan, Afghan allies were evacuated to the U.S. government facility at Camp As Sayliyah (CAS) near Doha, Qatar for additional processing and final vetting for their onward movement to the U.S. These Afghan nationals were only prioritized and considered for potential entry to the U.S. subject to the rigorous standards and eligibility criteria of lawful pathways codified in statute including the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program (USRAP) or the Afghan Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) program.

These individuals are not random applicants. In our nearly 20-year mission in Afghanistan across four administrations, Afghan allies served in essential roles in support of U.S. operations, fighting alongside our servicemembers as interpreters, contractors, and security personnel. Many of those at CAS served alongside U.S. forces in the Global War on Terror and the fight against the Taliban, and some are relatives of U.S. servicemembers. Before any possibility of entry and admission to the U.S., they are subject to extensive vetting by interagency processes including the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), the Department of Defense (DOD), the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), the Department of State, and more.

For more than a year, at-risk Afghan individuals and families have resided at CAS uncertain of their fate. Under the suspension of the USRAP and revised entry restrictions on Afghan nationals, many vetted and approved refugees have been unable to move forward with their

resettlement to the U.S. Furthermore, they likely face torture, persecution, and even death at the hands of the Taliban if they were to be returned to Afghanistan.

We understand that your department pursued negotiations to transfer some or all of these Afghans at CAS to the DRC, a country the Department classifies as level 4, Do Not Travel. Relocating Afghan allies to countries without the infrastructure to safely or sustainably support resettlement will require substantial long-term humanitarian and security spending, exceeding the costs of processing individuals through established, safe pathways like the USRAP. And relocating them to unsafe countries would expose them to predictable harm, undermine the commitments the U.S. made to those who stood with us, and expose our allies and families to additional danger.

The U.S. has the power to pursue more secure, stable relocation for these Afghan allies than indefinite limbo at CAS, refoulement back to Afghanistan, or bodily harm in unsafe third countries. We appreciate that the Administration is no longer pursuing an agreement to transfer individuals from CAS to the DRC, and we urge the prioritization of secure, stable, and cost-effective pathways that uphold U.S. national security interests and honor our commitments. We also believe that Afghan refugees who clear enhanced vetting and are approved for travel should be considered for entry and admission under national interest exemptions or waivers, or under the FY 2027 Presidential Determination on Refugee Admissions.

We request a briefing on this matter by June 24, 2026, and seek clarification regarding any current or proposed plans involving relocation of Afghan nationals at CAS. We also request answers to the following questions:

1. What is the current status of negotiations for third country relocation options for the Afghans at CAS?
2. What legal authority would the administration assert to compel relocation of CAS evacuees to a third country?
3. What steps and assessments were made to ensure that the proposal to send nationals to the DRC would not drive further humanitarian, national security, counter-terrorism or operational risks, and when will you share those assessments with Congress?
4. What plans are in place to uphold our duty of care, commitments, and national security obligations should individuals be relocated to a third country?
  - a. Specifically, what steps has the Department taken to ensure onward monitoring and support for our relocated allies and their families?
  - b. How will the Department monitor and report to Congress to ensure those relocated to CAS are not subjected to arbitrary detention, torture, violence, and a return to danger as a result of a U.S.-backed relocation?

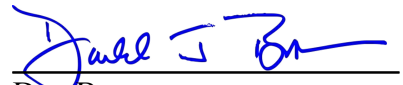
5. What steps has the Department taken to consult with other agencies on safely resettling individuals they referred for relocation who are currently at CAS, including the DOD-referred family members of American servicemembers and veterans?
6. What is the status of the USRAP cases for the approximately 1,100 Afghan evacuees at CAS?
  - a. How many have expired medical, biometric, or security checks?
  - b. How many also have open SIV cases?
  - c. How many children are among the population held at CAS?

We stand ready to work with the administration on finding a solution for this situation that honors America's commitments to our Afghan allies while protecting our national security. We look forward to your swift response.

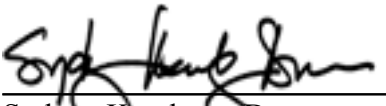
Sincerely,



Jason Crow  
Member of Congress



Don Bacon  
Member of Congress



Sydney Kamlager-Dove  
Member of Congress



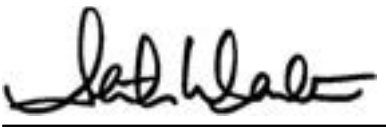
Maria Elvira Salazar  
Member of Congress



Scott H. Peters  
Member of Congress



Michael Baumgartner  
Member of Congress



SETH MOULTON  
Member of Congress

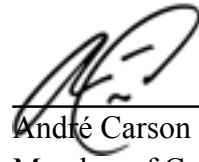


Ami Bera, M.D.  
Member of Congress



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Mike Levin  
Member of Congress



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André Carson  
Member of Congress



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Gwen S. Moore  
Member of Congress



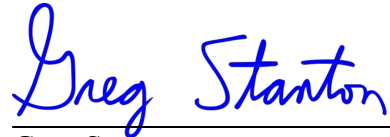
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Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress



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Lois Frankel  
Member of Congress



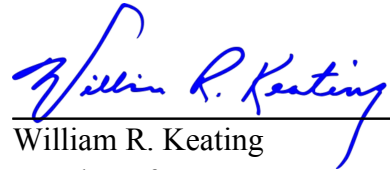
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Greg Stanton  
Member of Congress



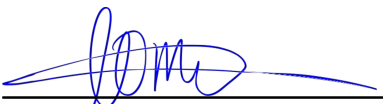
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Andrea Salinas  
Member of Congress



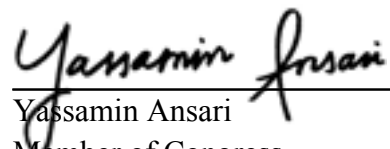
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William R. Keating  
Member of Congress



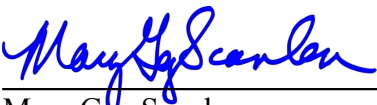
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Ilhan Omar  
Member of Congress



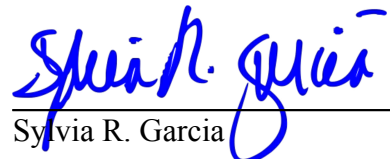
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Yassamin Ansari  
Member of Congress



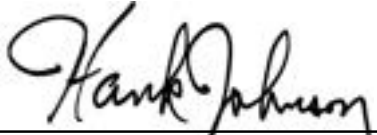
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Mary Gay Scanlon  
Member of Congress



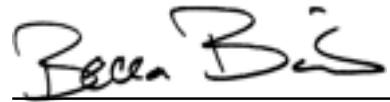
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Sylvia R. Garcia  
Member of Congress



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Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.  
Member of Congress



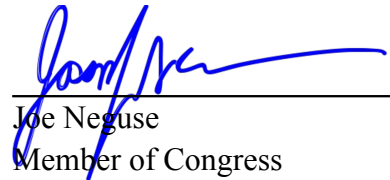
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Becca Balint  
Member of Congress



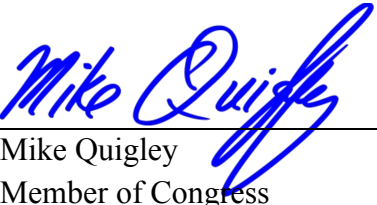
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Grace Meng  
Member of Congress



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Joe Neguse  
Member of Congress



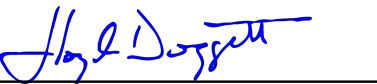
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Mike Quigley  
Member of Congress



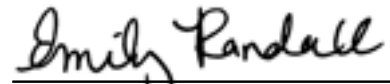
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Richard E. Neal  
Member of Congress



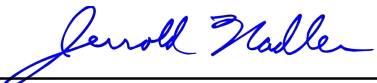
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Lloyd Doggett  
Member of Congress



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Emily Randall  
Member of Congress



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Jerrold Nadler  
Member of Congress



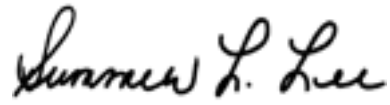
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Chris Deluzio  
Member of Congress



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Jan Schakowsky  
Member of Congress



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Summer L. Lee  
Member of Congress



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Jasmine Crockett  
Member of Congress



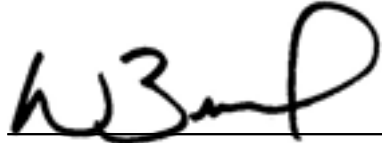
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Valerie P. Foushee  
Member of Congress



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Diana DeGette  
Member of Congress



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Wesley Bell  
Member of Congress



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Chrissy Houlahan  
Member of Congress



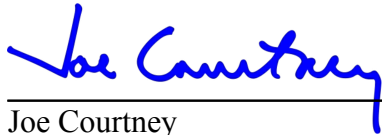
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Bonnie Watson Coleman  
Member of Congress



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Steve Cohen  
Member of Congress



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Joe Courtney  
Member of Congress



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Pramila Jayapal  
Member of Congress



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Ted W. Lieu  
Member of Congress



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Deborah K. Ross  
Member of Congress



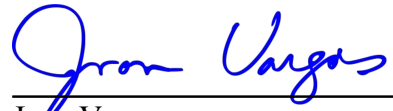
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Jimmy Panetta  
Member of Congress



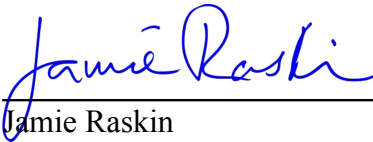
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George Latimer  
Member of Congress



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Juan Vargas  
Member of Congress



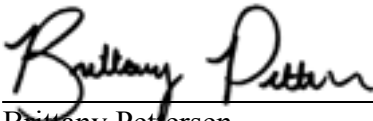
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Jamie Raskin  
Member of Congress



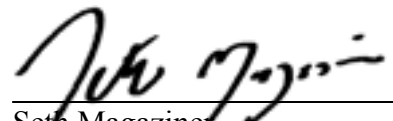
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Lori Trahan  
Member of Congress



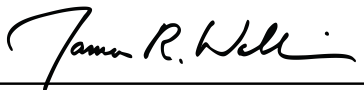
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Brittany Pettersen  
Member of Congress



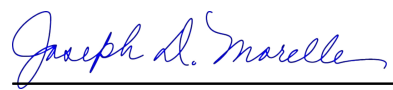
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Seth Magaziner  
Member of Congress



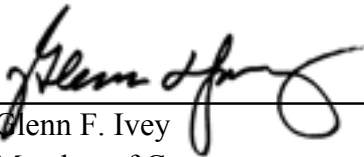
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James R. Walkinshaw  
Member of Congress



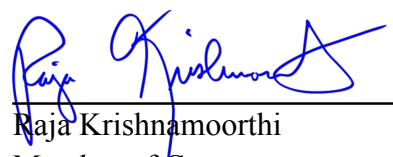
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Joseph D. Morelle  
Member of Congress



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Glenn F. Ivey  
Member of Congress



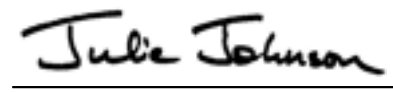
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Raja Krishnamoorthi  
Member of Congress



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Donald S. Beyer Jr.  
Member of Congress



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Julie Johnson  
Member of Congress



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Rashida Tlaib  
Member of Congress



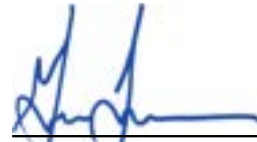
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Marc A. Veasey  
Member of Congress



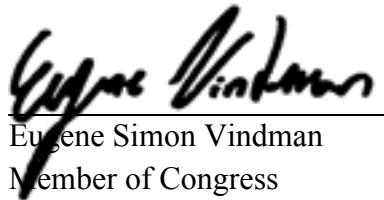
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John Garamendi  
Member of Congress



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Greg Landsman  
Member of Congress



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Eugene Simon Vindman  
Member of Congress



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Lateefah Simon  
Member of Congress



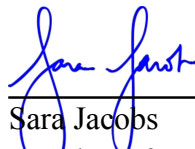
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Adam Smith  
Member of Congress



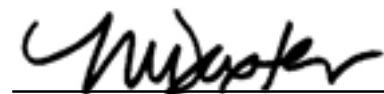
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Doris Matsui  
Member of Congress



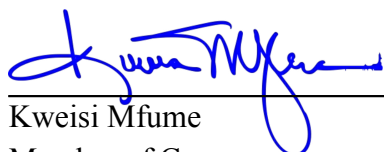
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Sara Jacobs  
Member of Congress



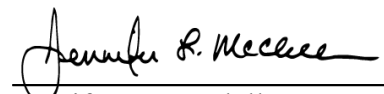
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Maxine Dexter, M.D.  
Member of Congress



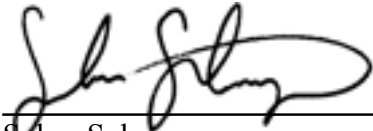
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Kweisi Mfume  
Member of Congress



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Jennifer L. McClellan  
Member of Congress



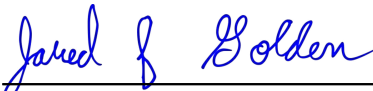
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Suhas Subramanyam  
Member of Congress



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Jake Auchincloss  
Member of Congress



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Jared Golden  
Member of Congress



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Joyce Beatty  
Member of Congress



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Gabe Amo  
Member of Congress



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James P. McGovern  
Member of Congress



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Betty McCollum  
Member of Congress



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Shri Thanedar  
Member of Congress



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Jesús G. "Chuy" García  
Member of Congress



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Sam T. Liccardo  
Member of Congress



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Dina Titus  
Member of Congress



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Josh Gottheimer  
Member of Congress



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Kim Schrier, M.D.  
Member of Congress



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Rosa L. DeLauro  
Member of Congress



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Robert C. "Bobby" Scott  
Member of Congress

CC:

Secretary Markwayne Mullin  
Secretary Pete Hegseth