



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

May 5, 2026

The Honorable  
Elizabeth Warren  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Warren:

Thank you for your March 5 letter to Secretary Rubio regarding the Department of State's support for Americans in the Middle East following the onset of hostilities with Iran. The protection of Americans abroad, including U.S. Government personnel, remains the Department of State's highest priority. We appreciate your continued engagement on this issue and welcome the opportunity to provide information on our efforts.

As with any rapidly evolving security situation, the Department of State continuously evaluates risks and conducts crisis contingency planning. Prior to and following the onset of hostilities, we enhanced security at our diplomatic facilities, coordinated closely with host governments, and reviewed transportation options in case conditions necessitated assisted departures. The transportation and security environment in the region both remain fluid, and sudden airspace closures and commercial disruptions have complicated travel, even as commercial options are available in many locations. As the security environment evolved, the Department of State adjusted mission staffing and travel guidance accordingly across the region. Whenever we authorize or order the departure of personnel and/or their family members, we notify the American public in an updated Travel Advisory so they may make informed decisions about their own safety and security.

Within hours of the onset of hostilities, the Department established a 24/7 Task Force drawing on experienced professionals from the Bureaus of Near Eastern Affairs, Consular Affairs, Diplomatic Security, and other offices. Our embassies and consulates, led by senior career and political officers, are fully empowered to make operational decisions in coordination with Washington. Since February 28, more than 120,000 U.S. citizens have safely returned to the United States from the Middle East. The Department organized more than 60 charter flights and coordinated ground transport options, safely evacuating

thousands of Americans from the Middle East while continuing to provide security updates and travel assistance.

The Department is ready to assist any American who wishes to leave the region, subject to local security conditions and available transportation. We communicate with Americans through the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP), embassy websites, social media, locally used messaging platforms where feasible, and updated Travel Advisories, including the use of a Worldwide Caution when warranted. We regularly update this information so Americans can make informed decisions about their safety.

We will continue to keep Congress informed as the situation evolves and to provide additional information on our planning, resourcing, and coordination with other U.S. agencies and foreign partners as appropriate. The safety and security of Americans abroad remains the Department's highest priority, and we remain committed to providing all appropriate assistance to Americans affected by this crisis.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Paul Guaglianone". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Paul D. Guaglianone  
Senior Bureau Official  
Bureau of Legislative Affairs