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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

March 3, 2026

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

Dear Secretary Rubio,

I write to you with extreme concern over the safety of Americans in the Middle East following the United States engaging in war with Iran. In the days after the initial February 28, 2026 strikes, there have been attacks and instances of violence at multiple U.S. Embassies and consulates, including in Riyadh, Kuwait, Dubai, and Pakistan. As a result, on Monday, March 2, 2026, Assistant Secretary Mora Namdar posted on social media, stating the State Department “urges Americans to DEPART NOW from the countries below using available commercial transportation, due to serious safety risks.” The list includes Bahrain, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Israel, the West Bank, and Gaza, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, United Arab Emirates, and Yemen.<sup>1</sup>

There are reportedly 1 million Americans in the region. These Americans were given no advance notice, and urged to depart using “commercial transportation,” even though airlines have cancelled and diverted flights out of the region.<sup>2</sup> Dubai International and Dubai World Central airports, some of the region’s hubs for international travel, suspended flight operations on February 28, 2026. Delta, United, and American Airlines alerted travelers about impacts. According to data from March 1, 2026, approximately 3,000 flights had already been cancelled.<sup>3</sup>

While the United States military had time to move a second carrier group into position, no strategic plan was put in place to evacuate and support the thousands of Americans in the region.

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<sup>1</sup>Assistant Secretary Mora Namdar, Twitter (March 2, 2026) (online at: <https://x.com/AsstSecStateCA/status/2028588420403241021?s=20>).

<sup>2</sup>Americans urged to leave 14 Middle East countries amid Iran war “due to serious safety risks,” CBS News (Updated March 3, 2026) (online at: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/iran-war-americans-urged-leave-middle-east-countries-safety-risks/>).

<sup>3</sup>What travelers need to know after the U.S., Israeli strikes on Iran, CNBC (March 1, 2026) (online at: <https://www.cnbc.com/2026/03/01/travel-iran-attack-middleeastflights.html?msockid=188c07e223dc6f34397f126e22db6ed9>).

These Americans are now in harm's way. Moreover, a number of countries in the region have no confirmed U.S. Ambassador and clear leadership that could assist Americans abroad. Additionally, in the days leading up to the military operation, FBI Director Kash Patel fired a dozen agents and staff members from a counterintelligence unit “tasked with monitoring threats from Iran.”<sup>4</sup>

It is the duty and responsibility of the United States government to ensure the safety of Americans both at home and around the globe. However, based on the evidence thus far, I am increasingly concerned that the United States government’s unpreparedness is putting Americans at an elevated risk of harm.

As this war continues, I urge the Department to immediately put a plan in place to safely evacuate Americans in the region who are in harm's way. A plan that goes beyond “using available commercial transportation.” I also respectfully request answers to the following questions:

1. The U.K. Foreign Office is drafting plans to evacuate British citizens in the Middle East. Are there any plans already underway to evacuate Americans?
  - a. Are there any plans to work with our allies in Europe and around the world to jointly evacuate U.S. citizens?
2. Were there any evaluation plans put in place before the strikes to support Americans in the region?
3. What assets are needed to carry out necessary evacuations?

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Suhas Subramanyam', with a large, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Suhas Subramanyam  
Member of Congress

<sup>4</sup>*Kash Patel gutted FBI counterintelligence team tasked with tracking Iranian threats days before US strikes, sources say*, CNN (March 3, 2026) (online at: <https://edition.cnn.com/2026/03/03/politics/patel-fbi-national-security-division-firings-iran>).