

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 28, 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 express our profound alarm over reports that the Administration is considering transferring Afghan refugees currently located in Qatar – many of whom served alongside U.S. servicemembers in the Global War on Terror - to the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).

According to multiple credible reports, the Administration is considering relocating more than 1,000 Afghan nationals currently stranded in Qatar, including interpreters, special operations personnel, and their families to the DRC. Should the Administration pursue these negotiations with the DRC and relocate those families, it would constitute one of the most cruel and imprudent betrayals in our Nation's history.

The Afghan refugees currently living in Doha have been vetted time and again over the last two decades. They fought alongside U.S. forces against the Taliban and the Islamic State, often at great personal risk. They made their decision to fight with us knowing that, as a result, they and their families would be hunted by the Taliban and Islamic State for the rest of their lives. After the fall of Afghanistan many of them were promised safety under the Special Immigrant Visa program or other resettlement pathways that the Administration has stalled or abandoned completely.

Moreover, the DRC is currently experiencing a humanitarian crisis of its own. Millions of displaced persons are experiencing hunger and illness as they have fled conflicts in their own countries. The United Nations declared that the DRC is gripped by “one of the world's most complex displacement crises despite peace efforts.” Callously sending our Afghan allies – to include 400 children – into an ongoing humanitarian disaster cannot be the United States' legacy amongst the Afghan people.

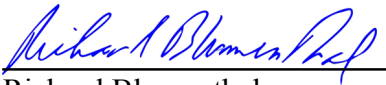
We made a promise to our allies. They fought alongside our sons and daughters for years with the understanding that America would not abandon them if the worst came to pass. Instead

of honoring that promise, the Administration is reportedly offering them a false dichotomy: to return to Afghanistan where torture and death await them, or to be sent to a country in the midst of one of the largest humanitarian crises in the world.

The Administration may not hold itself responsible for the events that led to the Afghan refugee crisis, but it is responsible for the path forward. We urge you to cease any negotiations that would result in the involuntary or coerced transfer of Afghan allies to third countries ill-equipped to ensure their safety. The Administration's missteps with allies around the world have already damaged our global standing and reputation, do not compound your past mistakes with another.

Thank you for your earnest attention to this matter, we look forward to your response.

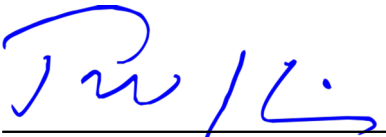
Sincerely,



Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tim Kaine
United States Senator



John Hickenlooper
United States Senator



Ruben Gallego
United States Senator



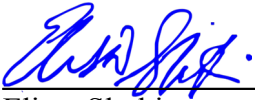
John Fetterman
United States Senator



Raphael Warnock
United States Senator



Christopher A. Coons
United States Senator



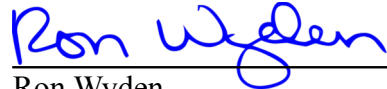
Elissa Slotkin
United States Senator



Jacky Rosen
United States Senator



Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator



Ron Wyden
United States Senator



Catherine Cortez Masto
United States Senator



Andy Kim
United States Senator



Alex Padilla
United States Senator



Gary C. Peters
United States Senator



Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator



Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator



Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator



Mark R. Warner
United States Senator



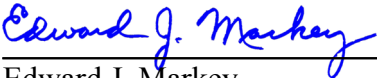
Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator



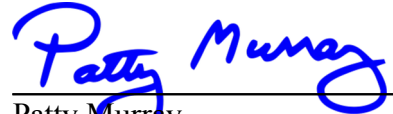
Cory A. Booker
United States Senator



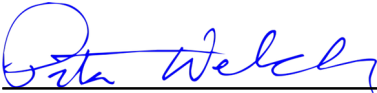
Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator



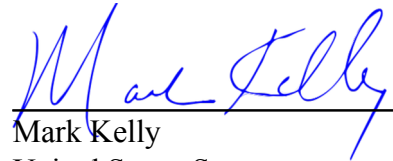
Edward J. Markey
United States Senator



Patty Murray
United States Senator



Peter Welch
United States Senator



Mark Kelly
United States Senator



Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator