Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

December 11, 2025

The Honorable Marco Rubio
Secretary of State
Department of State
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Mr. Secretary,

Thank you for your November 21, 2025, response to the September 16, 2025, letter from Members of Congress regarding the October 13, 2023, Israeli attack in southern Lebanon that injured U.S. citizen Dylan Collins. We appreciate your confirmation that the U.S. has asked the Israeli government to conduct a thorough and transparent investigation of the attack on journalists, but your letter did not fully address the questions included with our letter. This is at least the seventh letter from Members of Congress to U.S. officials requesting specific information about the attack on Mr. Collins, a Vermonter, and six other international journalists.

In your November 21, 2025, response, you noted that the Department became aware of the injuries to Mr. Collins on October 13, 2023, and that the U.S. Embassy in Beirut immediately reached out to him to offer assistance. You also stated that Mr. Collins declined assistance. However, Mr. Collins recounts that he was not offered assistance by the U.S. Embassy in Beirut and denies that he declined Embassy assistance. To the contrary, Mr. Collins has informed us of the specific requests he made to the Embassy for assistance in investigating the attack and holding his attackers accountable. To our knowledge, he has not been subsequently contacted by the Department of State for further interviews or information-gathering related to the attack, despite Mr. Collins' consistent and regular outreach to the Department.

We request answers to the following questions by January 1, 2026:

1. *Does the Department of State have a record of Mr. Collins' request for U.S. government assistance in seeking accountability for this attack?*

In your letter of November 21, 2025, you stated that the Department immediately worked to gather additional information on reports of the incident.

2. *What information did the Department gather, and was the information shared with the Department of Justice?*
3. *Did anyone from the Department of State communicate with the civil society investigators (who the Department acknowledged made credible reports of the incident), witnesses, Mr. Collins, or any of the victims or those involved?*

4. *Did the Department of State request to speak with the Israeli soldiers and senior commanders involved in the attack?*

According to information we have received from the Israeli Embassy in Washington, shortly after the incident on October 13, 2023, the Israeli Government received information that Issam Abdullah, a Reuters reporter, was killed in the attack, and two other Al-Jazeera journalists were wounded. However, according to the Israeli Embassy, no information was received regarding injuries to Dylan Collins. Your letter of November 21, 2025, indicates that the State Department requested the Israeli government to investigate the incident.

5. *When did the Department notify the Israeli government that a U.S. citizen was injured in the attack?*
6. *When did the Department request a "swift, thorough, and transparent" investigation by the Israeli government?*
7. *What response did the Department receive from the Israeli government to the Department's request for an investigation?*
8. *Did the Department receive the findings or report of an investigation of the incident by the Israeli government?*
9. *Are you aware of whether the Israeli government completed, or is conducting, an investigation?*

In addition to these questions, we request answers to the questions in our previous letter, which is attached.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Peter Welch
United States Senator

Becca Balint
Member of Congress

Bernard Sanders
United States Senator

Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator