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Congress of the United States
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THE CORONAVIRUS CRISIS

September 8, 2021

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

Dear Secretary Blinken:

I am writing to express deep concerns about the Afghan evacuees who are being held at Fort Pickett while awaiting the vetting process. I have recently been made aware by someone at Fort Pickett that the evacuees basically have free rein of the complex and have even been allowed to leave despite not having completed the vetting process.

My source has made shocking allegations, including multiple incidents of sexual assault, and several evacuees have been picked up by Uber drivers without any permission from authorities—or being cleared to leave. The soldiers tasked with guarding these evacuees are unarmed and have no authority to arrest or stop any of them from simply leaving.

As an Army veteran who went to war in Afghanistan, I know firsthand that we have a responsibility to those who risked their lives to serve as interpreters for our troops. Their bravery and valiance helped save many American lives. However, in recent days, reports indicate that the vast majority of evacuees were not interpreters, and the fact that the State Department has still not been able to provide a breakdown is simply unacceptable.

If any of these allegations are true, they pose a serious risk to our national security and must be addressed immediately. I ask for your immediate attention to this situation and for an explanation of these allegations as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mark E. Green".

Mark E. Green, MD
Member of Congress