

ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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SUBCOMMITTEE ON WATER RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-1501

February 23, 2026

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

Dear Secretary Rubio:

I was deeply disturbed by the attack last week on what appeared to be peaceful protestors outside the Waldorf Astoria in the District of Columbia by bodyguards for the Azerbaijani president. The attack on the protestors was also an attack on the First Amendment protections for freedom of speech and peaceful assembly.

I urge you to bar any Azerbaijani official who attacked or ordered the attack of the protestors from reentering the United States if they have already left the country and to expel any that remain in the country. I also urge you to follow traditional State Department practice and request a waiver of immunity from Azerbaijan for those connected to the attack if a prosecutor would otherwise prosecute.

I request a written response to this letter by March 9, 2026.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Eleanor H. Norton".

Eleanor Holmes Norton

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