

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

September 25, 2025

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

Dear Secretary Rubio,

We are writing regarding the elimination of the Global Criminal Justice Office (GCJ) as part of the State Department's recent reorganization. According to the Congressional Notification, the Department indicated that the "statutory functions will be realigned to the Office of the Legal Adviser." We write to ask where GCJ's other important and multi-faceted policy responsibilities will be housed within the new organizational plan.

The activities of the Office of the Global Criminal Justice, led by the Ambassador-at-Large, have played a critical role in advancing U.S. foreign policy interests, including promoting accountability for mass atrocities, supporting international and transitional justice, raising the voices of survivors of atrocities, and reinforcing the rule of law globally. These efforts not only serve to uphold fundamental human rights but also strengthen U.S. credibility and leadership on the world stage, helping to build alliances and deter future violations.

The Office has supported critical programs. The Atrocity Crimes Advisory Group provides expert assistance to help Ukraine investigate and prosecute serious crimes committed during the conflict—an effort vital to ensuring justice and accountability in the ongoing war. The Independent Investigative Mechanism for Myanmar and the International, Impartial, Independent Mechanism for Syria, both of which the U.S. government helped establish, provide a foundation for future justice mechanisms to hold those responsible for genocide and other atrocities in Syria and Burma to account.

The Office also played a substantive and essential role in an issue that was of notable prominence in your policy and legislative work as a U.S. Senator—the genocide against the Uyghur people. GCJ served as the lead office in putting together the case that informed the genocide determination made by your predecessor, Secretary Pompeo. Even after the decision, GCJ worked to document these terrible crimes, ensure that those responsible were held accountable, and interface with victims and survivors around the world.

We hope you agree that this vital work should continue—work that has long had bipartisan support in Congress—even if it is housed in other bureaus within the Department. To this end, we ask that as you implement this reorganization, you provide clarity regarding where within the new bureaucracy each of these responsibilities will be placed:

- Cooperation with International Investigative and Fact-Finding Mechanisms (such as those focused on atrocities in Syria, Burma, Nicaragua, and Venezuela).

- Promoting transitional justice and support for conflict and post-conflict initiatives, including with our embassies and missions around the world (such as advising on transitional justice efforts underway in Colombia, The Gambia, and Liberia).
- Outreach to victim and survivor groups and diasporas around the world.
- Programming and administration of foreign assistance in support of accountability and justice.
- Management of rewards and advisory groups, such as the Global Criminal Justice Rewards Program and the Atrocity Crimes Advisory Group for Ukraine.

As Members of Congress, we remain committed to working with you to provide institutional support and resources to continue these activities without undue interruption. We ask that you provide us with a plan outlining how these responsibilities will be managed moving forward, so we can partner effectively to ensure the continued success of these vital efforts.

Sincerely,



James P. McGovern  
Member of Congress



Sara Jacobs  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Africa  
House Foreign Affairs  
Committee



Ilhan Omar  
Member of Congress