



May 22, 2026

Secretary of Homeland Security Markwayne Mullin  
Washington, DC 20528

Secretary of State Marco Rubio  
2201 C St NW  
Washington, DC 20451

Dear Secretary Mullin and Secretary Rubio,

We write with deep concern regarding the recent USCIS announcement that foreign nationals seeking adjustment of status must generally do so from outside of the country, rather than generally allowing foreign nationals to adjust status from within the United States, as has become standard practice.

This policy, if applied to Iranians, would impose disproportionate hardship in light of both current hostilities involving the U.S. and Iran as well as the lack of consular services within Iran.

First, the U.S. and Iran remain in ongoing hostilities, and President Trump has suggested the conflict may intensify significantly. Many airports in Iran have been bombed, including civilian aircraft, which has limited the resumption of flights into and out of Iran. Given these ongoing hostilities, any Iranian nationals departing the United States to seek adjustment of status could face intense threats to their lives and well-being.

Second, given the lack of formal diplomatic relations between the U.S. and Iran, Iranians do not have consular services available to them within their home country. As a result, to apply for visas and other immigration benefits, Iranians typically need to travel to one of several regional countries for their applications - Armenia, Turkey and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) being the most common. However, recent reporting has also indicated that the UAE has barred Iranians from traveling to the country and canceled the visas of long-time Iranian residents in the UAE amid wartime tensions. So even these typical pathways to apply for immigration benefits may be restricted. Given that consular services are not typically available within Iran, and travel to neighboring countries may be foreclosed, it makes little sense to force Iranians to travel back to their home country in order to seek an adjustment of status.

Finally, Iranian nationals remain subject to the Travel Ban and to the pause on administrative processing related to immigration, making the prospect for an Iranian legally in the U.S. to be able to leave the country, secure an adjustment of status, and return to the U.S. seemingly all but impossible. In effect, this guidance appears to offer no route for Iranians legally in the U.S. to obtain an adjustment of status but would instead only have the effect of expelling Iranians from the United States.

We write to urge you to reverse this policy, or to at least issue separate guidance making clear that Iranians and other nationals facing undue hardship are able to seek adjustment of status within the United States.

We welcome the opportunity to discuss this recent change in policy as well as its likely impact on the Iranian community here in the United States.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jamal Abdi". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and a distinct "Abdi" at the end.

Jamal Abdi  
President, NIAC