



## GUIDE FOR U.S. CITIZENS DETAINED ABROAD

Providing assistance to U.S. citizens arrested or detained abroad is one of the highest priorities of the Department of State. The Department of State is committed to the welfare of U.S. citizens detained overseas. Our embassies and consulates stand ready to assist citizens and their families within the limits of our authority in accordance with international, domestic and foreign law.

### What a U.S. Consular Officer Can and Cannot Do

#### *We can:*

- Provide you with a list of local attorneys;
- Contact your family, friends, or employers upon your written permission to do so;
- Visit you regularly and provide reading materials, hygiene items, and vitamin supplements, where appropriate and permitted;
- Help ensure that officials are offering you appropriate medical care;
- Inform you of local and U.S.-based resources available to detainees;
- Request that officials permit you visits, including with a member of the clergy of the religion of your choice; and
- Help facilitate family and friends in sending you money if they are unable to send you money directly.

#### *We cannot:*

- Get you out of jail;
- State to a court that you are guilty or innocent;
- Provide you with legal advice or represent you in court;
- Serve as your official interpreters or translators;
- Pay your legal, medical, or other fees.

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