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# LUBBOCK AVALANCHE-JOURNAL

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## Strikes hit U.S. Embassy in Saudi Arabia



A plume of smoke rises after a strike on Tehran, Iran, on March 3. Secretary of State Marco Rubio predicted "the hardest hits are yet to come" against Iran. ATTA KENARE/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

### U.S. personnel, citizens told to leave region

**Michael Loria, Zac Anderson, Jeanine Santucci, Francesca Chambers, Kim Hjelmgaard and Michael Collins**  
USA TODAY

The United States ordered nonemergency government personnel and their family members to leave Qatar, Kuwait, Bahrain, Iraq and Jordan and closed several diplomatic missions across the Middle East on March 3 as the war with

Iran escalated. The move came as the U.S. Embassy in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, was hit by two drones in an attack that sparked a "limited fire and minor material damage to the building," a Saudi Defense Ministry spokesperson announced on the Ministry's X account. The U.S. Mission to Saudi Arabia issued a "security alert" recommending Americans to "shelter in place immediately and avoid the Embassy until fur-

ther notice." On March 2, the State Department urged American citizens across 16 countries in the Middle East to immediately depart the region using "available commercial transportation" without offering any U.S.-government-vouched means. The U.S. embassy in Jerusalem in a statement said it was unable to offer assistance to Americans trying to leave. Reuters reported March 2 that detainee advocates said Iran is detaining

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## 5 accused of sexually assaulting missing teen

**Gabriel Monte**  
Lubbock Avalanche-Journal  
USA TODAY NETWORK

A Lubbock police investigation into a missing 16-year-old girl resulted in the arrests of five men, four of whom are accused of drugging and sexually assaulting her for about two weeks during which they moved her between apartments.

Edward Austin Hipolito, 22, Alexander Hipolito, 31, Jaime Alcario Mendoza, 43, and Christian Alvarez, 29, were arrested Feb. 19 and booked into the Lubbock County Detention Center, where they remain.

Frank Ceccaci Maples, 44, was arrested Tuesday and is also being held at the Lubbock County jail.

Edward and Alexander Hipolito face a second-degree felony count of sexual assault of a child. Their bonds are set at \$150,000 each.

Mendoza and Alvarez each face first-degree felony counts of aggravated sexual assault. Their bonds are set at \$250,000 each.

Maples is charged with a count of sexual assault of a child and his bond is set at \$200,000.

### Police investigate Lubbock teen's disappearance

Their charges stem from a Lubbock police investigation that began Jan. 29, a day after police officials sent out a public plea for help finding a 16-year-old girl last seen at an apartment complex in the 2900 block of 45th Street.

The girl was found at a pet store in the 5700 block of 82nd Street and taken to Covenant Women's and

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## What Trump said during his visit to Port of Corpus Christi

**Olivia Garrett, Kirsten Crow and John Oliva**  
Corpus Christi Caller Times  
USA TODAY NETWORK - TEXAS

President Donald Trump praised Corpus Christi's role in "American Energy Dominance" — and visited Whataburger — during a visit to the city on Feb. 27.

His visit, which came on the heels of the State of the Union address, was not his first in the Coastal Bend. He led a rally in Robstown in 2022 and made a stop at the Annville fire station in the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey. His Feb. 27 event at the Port of Corpus Christi was intended to focus on energy production.

The Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, the campaign arm of the Democrats in the U.S. House of Representatives, issued a statement critiquing Trump's visit to Corpus Christi.

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President Donald Trump speaks to a crowd at the Port of Corpus Christi in Corpus Christi on Feb. 27. JOHN OLIVA/CORPUS CHRISTI CALLER-TIMES

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