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Congressman Vitter reiterates support for Israel
Denounces suicide bombings and terror tactics

(Washington, D.C.) – U.S. Rep. David Vitter issued a clear statement today strongly supportive of Israel as it defends its very existence and urging both sides to move toward a cease fire that will eventually lead to peace. He also expressed continuing support for President Bush and his efforts in the region.

“I am very troubled by the escalating violence in the Middle East, especially because that violence is targeted toward innocent lives. Israel has suffered horribly from terrorist activity against civilians and in public places,” said Vitter.

“My thoughts, my prayers and my support go out to all the victims and their families. I sincerely believe that a peaceful resolution can – and must – be found,” Vitter added. “But the first step in that process must be an end to the terrorist attacks and the acceptance of Israel’s right to exist. How can any serious, meaningful negotiations begin until the terrorist bombings stop?”

“I applaud the efforts of President Bush and his envoys to try to end this violence. They are moving forward deliberately on a complex issue that changes rapidly, even hourly. I have full confidence that the administration will act on sound principle and with good judgement to bring an end to the violence,” he said.

Vitter traveled to Israel in August of 2001. His eight-day trip included visits to numerous sites in the Holy Land, meetings with Israeli security officials, diplomats and political leaders and a meeting with a high-ranking Palestinian Authority negotiator.

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