

# ALERT

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## **Political Leaders Stand with Israel During Pillar of Defense\***

### **Administration Officials**

- [President Barack Obama](#)
- [Secretary of State Hillary Clinton](#)
- [Ambassador Susan Rice, U.S. Permanent Representative to the United Nations](#)
- [White House Press Secretary Jay Carney](#)

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- [Sen. Jon Kyl \(R-AZ\)](#)
- [Sen. John McCain \(R-AZ\)](#)

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- [Sen. Dianne Feinstein \(D-CA\)](#)

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- [Sen. David Vitter \(R-LA\)](#)

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- [Sen. Barbara Mikulski \(D-MD\)](#)

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- [Sen. Bob Menendez \(D-NJ\)](#)

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- [Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand \(D-NY\)](#)

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- [Sen. Rob Portman \(R-OH\)](#)

#### **Oregon**

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- [Sen. Pat Toomey \(R-PA\)](#)

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- [Sen. Lindsey Graham \(R-SC\)](#)

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#### **Texas**

- [Sen. John Cornyn \(R-TX\)](#)

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- [Rep. Trent Franks \(R-AZ\)](#)
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- [Rep. David Schweikert \(R-AZ\)](#)

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- [Rep. Doris Matsui \(D-CA\)](#)
- [Rep. Buck McKeon \(R-CA\)](#)
- [Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi \(D-CA\)](#)
- [Rep. Ed Royce \(R-CA\)](#)
- [Rep. Adam Schiff \(D-CA\)](#)
- [Rep. Brad Sherman \(D-CA\)](#)
- [Rep. Jackie Speier \(D-CA\)](#)
- [Rep. Henry Waxman \(D-CA\)](#)

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- [Rep. & Senator-elect Chris Murphy \(D-CT\)](#)

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- [Rep. Frederica Wilson \(D-FL\)](#)

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- [Rep. John Fleming \(R-LA\)](#)
- [Rep. Jeff Landry \(R-LA\)](#)

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- [Rep. John Sarbanes \(D-MD\)](#)
- [Rep. Chris Van Hollen \(D-MD\)](#)

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- [Rep. Gary Peters \(D-MI\)](#)

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- [Rep. Tim Murphy \(R-PA\)](#)
- [Rep. Allyson Schwartz \(D-PA\)](#)

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- [Rep. Kenny Marchant \(R-TX\)](#)
- [Rep. Pete Olson \(R-TX\)](#)
- [Rep. Ted Poe \(R-TX\)](#)
- [Rep. Pete Sessions \(R-TX\)](#)

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- [Rep. Randy Forbes \(R-VA\)](#)
- [Rep. Scott Rigell \(R-VA\)](#)
- [Rep. Bobby Scott \(D-Va\)](#)

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- [Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers \(R-WA\)](#)
- [Rep. Adam Smith \(D-WA\)](#)

#### **West Virginia**

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- [Rep. & Senator-elect Tammy Baldwin \(D-WI\)](#)

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- [Mayor Michael Bloomberg \(I-NY\)](#)
- [Governor Bobby Jindal \(R-LA\)](#)
- [Governor Bob McDonnell \(R-VA\)](#)
- [Governor Martin O'Malley \(D-MD\)](#)
- [Governor Deval Patrick \(D-MA\)](#)
- [Governor Rick Perry \(R-TX\)](#)
- [Governor Rick Scott \(R-FL\)](#)
- [Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa \(D-CA\)](#)
- [Governor Scott Walker \(R-WI\)](#)

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- [Senator-Elect Deb Fischer \(R-NE\)](#)
- [Senator-elect Angus King \(I-ME\)](#)
- [Senator-elect Elizabeth Warren \(D-MA\)](#)

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- [Congressman-elect Susan Brooks \(R-IN\)](#)
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- [Congressman-elect Joaquin Castro \(D-TX\)](#)
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- [Congressman-elect Marc Veasey \(D-TX\)](#)
- [Congressman-elect Randy Weber \(R-TX\)](#)
- [Congressman-elect Roger Williams \(R-TX\)](#)

**President Barack Obama**

*November 18, 2012*

“And there’s no country on Earth that would tolerate missiles raining down on its citizens from outside its borders. So we are fully supportive of Israel’s right to defend itself from missiles landing on people’s homes and workplaces and potentially killing civilians. And we will continue to support Israel’s right to defend itself.” *(During a Press Conference with Prime Minister Shinawatra in Thailand)*

**Secretary of State Hillary Clinton**

November 20, 2012

“President Obama asked me to come to Israel with a very clear message: America’s commitment to Israel’s security is rock solid and unwavering. ...

The rocket attacks from terrorist organizations inside Gaza on Israeli cities and towns must end and a broader calm restored. The goal must be a durable outcome that promotes regional stability and advances the security and legitimate aspirations of Israelis and Palestinians alike.”

“Let me also say, to echo the Prime Minister, I am very pleased that the Iron Dome defense system is performing so well. Our partnership in support of this system represents America’s enduring commitment to the safety and security of the Israeli people and to Israel’s right to defend itself.” *(During Remarks with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in Jerusalem)*

“The United States strongly condemns this terrorist attack and our thoughts and prayers are with the victims and the people of Israel.

As I arrive in Cairo, I am closely monitoring reports from Tel Aviv, and we will stay in close contact with Prime Minister Netanyahu’s team. The United States stands ready to provide any assistance that Israel requires.” (November 21, Press Release)

**Ambassador Susan Rice**

*November 14, 2012*

“Today, the United States strongly condemned the barrage of rocket fire from Gaza into southern Israel and expressed regret at the death and injury of innocent Israeli and Palestinian civilians caused by the ensuing violence. ...

President Obama told Prime Minister Netanyahu that he understands and supports Israel’s right to self-defense in light of countless rocket attacks on Israeli civilians being launched from Gaza. The President urged that Prime Minister Netanyahu make every effort to avoid civilian casualties, and agreed that Hamas needs to stop the attacks on Israel and allow the situation to de-escalate. The two leaders agreed to stay in close touch in the coming days. ...

There is no justification for the violence that Hamas and other terrorist organizations are employing against the people of Israel. We call on those responsible to stop these cowardly acts immediately.

Hamas claims to have the best interests of the Palestinian people at heart, yet it continues to engage in violence that does nothing but set back the Palestinian cause. Attacking Israel on a near daily basis does nothing to help Palestinians in Gaza nor to move the Palestinian people any closer to achieving self determination and independence.” *(At a Security Council Private Meeting on Gaza)*

**White House Press Secretary Jay Carney**

*November 21, 2012*

“The United States condemns today’s terrorist attack on a bus in Tel Aviv. Our thoughts and prayers are with the families of those injured, and with the people of Israel. These attacks against innocent Israeli civilians are outrageous. The United States will stand with our Israeli allies, and provide whatever assistance is necessary to identify and bring to justice the perpetrators of this attack. The United States reaffirms our unshakeable commitment to Israel’s security and our deep friendship and solidarity with the Israeli people.” *(White House Statement by the Press Secretary on the Terrorist Attack in Tel Aviv)*

**Rep. Gary Ackerman**

*November 15, 2012*

Yet again, the Hamas terrorist regime in Gaza, along with allied radical Islamist militants have deliberately provoked a wholly legitimate and fully justified Israel military operation to protect the Israeli people from ongoing rocket fire on Israeli civilians. I strongly back the decision by Prime Minister Netanyahu and the Israeli government to act in legitimate self-defense, and I am proud that our government, under President Obama’s leadership, has explicitly offered its support as well.

There is one, and only one, responsible party for the bloodshed which has occurred: Hamas. It is their fanatical attachment to violence, to the deliberate shedding of innocent blood that has compelled Israel to act in self-defense.

Israel withdrew completely from Gaza in 2005. Israelis want nothing to do with it. If Gazans wish to live a peaceful life, all that they need do is to stop trying to kill Israelis. That’s all. If they, for whatever reason, can’t resist the urge to murder Jews—people who they’ve never met, and who wish only to get on with their lives—then they will have to endure Israel’s fully justified and wholly appropriate military response.

Like people everywhere, the right of Israelis to live free from the threat or the use of force against them is absolute. The terrorist Hamas leadership cannot expect to wantonly attack Israel with rockets and then decry the severity of Israel’s fully warranted retaliation.

Finally, like Israel’s government, I regret the loss of life and harm done to all innocents. But there can be no question that the responsibility for each of these individual tragedies lies exclusively with Hamas, which alone provoked this unnecessary conflict. ([Press Release](#))

**Rep. Rodney Alexander**

*November 20, 2012*

"I urge the American public to firmly support Israel, as our longstanding ally takes measures to defend its people against indiscriminate assaults by Hamas and terrorists organizations in Gaza. Israel is absolutely warranted in defending itself and in taking all the necessary military steps to guarantee the safety and security of its people from the constant bloodshed seen over the last week.

"Hamas' relentless disregard for the lives of innocent civilians serves as a continuous reminder that it subsists as nothing more than a terrorist organization. Until Hamas decides to permanently halt this relentless cycle of terror, I stand resolutely with our democratic ally, as Israel fights to restore security in the region and to protect its people."  
*(Press Release)*

**Rep. Rob Andrews**

*November 19, 2012*

"Israel has a solemn and sovereign right to defend her people. As the siege against the innocent people of Israel continues, our resolve to support our best and only democratic ally must deepen and strengthen. I stand ready to show that support at any time."  
*(Press Release)*

**Rep. Michele Bachmann**

*November 15, 2012*

Israel has every right to defend herself and America must and will stand with our close ally. ([Twitter](#))

**Rep. Lou Barletta**

*November 16, 2012*

MISTER SPEAKER, I rise today in solidarity with our friends in Israel.

We've recently seen Hamas, the Palestinian terrorist organization, target Israeli cities with large civilian populations, like Tel Aviv. Since last Wednesday, more than 500 rockets have been fired at Israel generally targeting schools, playgrounds, homes, and other civilian targets. Innocent civilians trying to live in peace are purposely placed in the middle of the violence. This ratchets up the conflict, and brings both sides to the brink of a dangerous confrontation. Israel has the right to defend itself, particularly when its civilian population is directly targeted by Hamas. Americans must stand with Israel as it confronts these terrorists.

MISTER SPEAKER, I condemn the evil actions of Hamas, and I pray for the safety of all innocent civilians caught in the middle of this escalating violence.  
*(Floor Speech)*

**Rep. and Senator-elect Tammy Baldwin**

*November 16, 2012*

"Yesterday the United States Senate passed a resolution in continued support of Israel's right to defend itself. I strongly support that resolution and the philosophy behind it.

“For weeks citizens of southern Israel have endured constant rocket attacks by Hamas. These follow years of frequent attacks. After years of patience, and only following escalation, Israel’s leadership acted. They had every right to do so.

“The Obama Administration and the Senate have made clear that the United States stands behind Israel and this decision. There are human beings suffering in southern Israel and in Gaza as a result of Hamas’s actions, while the entire region is in chaos. Hamas must cease the attacks to end the suffering of their own people and return some stability to the region.” *(Press Release)*

**Rep. Ron Barber**

*November 19, 2012*

I am deeply concerned by the constant barrage of rockets from Gaza that continue to threaten the Israeli people. I condemn this violence and support Israel as it defends itself against these acts of terror.

Unfortunately, this terror is nothing new. Israel has been under the threat of groups such as Hamas for generations. This history of aggression only underscores the need for the United States to continue our strong support for our friend and ally Israel.

It is imperative that peace come to this region. I am very troubled by the situation that people in Gaza face each day. Civilian Palestinians are suffering. However, the political strife, poverty and economic instability of Gaza will not be solved by attacking Israel.

For the benefit of both the Israeli and Palestinian people, and the global community as a whole, I urge the parties to find a path toward a peaceful resolution to the current conflict. *(Press Release)*

**Rep. Joe Barton**

*November 20, 2012*

“I stand firmly with Israel and its people as they fight back against the terrorists who are launching attacks from Gaza. I continue to hope that a ceasefire can be reached, but until then I believe that every free nation has a right to defend itself. Israel is a unique outpost for democracy in the Middle East and a longtime, valuable friend to the United States. Until a viable, peaceful Palestinian state comes into being and its people are capable of living side by side with Israel as good neighbors, the U.S. should strongly and actively support Israel’s right to protect its people from senseless acts of terror.” *(Press Release)*

**Gov. Robert Bentley**

*November 19, 2012*

"Alabama stands with Israel and recognizes Israel's right to defend herself against these attacks," A few days ago, I met personally with the Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister and the Consul General. I shared with them my strong support for Israel's right to exist as a Jewish state in its ancient homeland. I gave my support to the Israeli people and recognized their right to live in peace and security. Alabama has a long history of supporting Israel. In 1943, five years before Israel

became a nation, Alabama passed a resolution unanimously supporting the establishment of a Jewish state. Our support remains strong today, and I am proud to stand with Israel."

**Rep. Shelley Berkley**

*November 23, 2012*

"I welcome this cease-fire agreement and am hopeful it marks the end of rocket attacks and other violence aimed at Israeli communities and families.

"I also applaud the role of the White House and Secretary of State Clinton in helping to broker this truce. Unfortunately this temporary fix does not eliminate the need for true and lasting peace.

"I long for a permanent resolution that provides for a side-by-side Palestinian State that can exist in peace alongside Israel, but such an agreement will never happen until Hamas permanently renounces violence and publicly recognizes Israel's right to exist as a Jewish nation.

"That is why we must support Israel's right to defend its borders and its citizens from any renewed attack and respect the right of our trusted ally Israel to do what is necessary for self protection in the face of daily threats from Hamas and its terrorist allies -- including Iran.

"And why we should reject international pressure on Israel to halt its pursuit of terrorist leaders when Hamas continues to use Gaza as a launching pad for missiles that have inflicted death and destruction on Israeli cities." (Press Release)

**Rep. Jaime Herrera Beutler**

**November 27, 2012**

"It is critical for us to stand by our friend Israel during times of peace, and during the times of unrest we are seeing now. I fully support Israel's right to defend itself and its citizens, particularly against these senseless acts of violence perpetrated by Hamas. My support for our great ally Israel remains bedrock-solid. I also call on Hamas to cease its use of terror that threatens the lives of not only Israeli civilians, but also of innocent Palestinian civilians. I will continue to work for a lasting peace in that region."

**Rep. Diane Black**

*November 16, 2012*

As you have likely seen on the news this week, the attacks on Israel from terrorists in the Gaza Strip continue to escalate. Yesterday, three Israeli civilians were killed and Iranian-made missiles fired from Gaza exploded in the suburbs of Tel Aviv. The attacks in recent days mark the first time Tel Aviv has come under attack since the 1991 Gulf War. Latest reports cite more than 400 rockets have been fired at Southern Israel from Gaza since November 10.

I stand with Israel and strongly condemn these attacks from Hamas and urge those behind the violence to cease immediately. The United States and every nation in the world should stand with Israel against the terrorist actions from Hamas and other radical Islamist groups.

Since its establishment as a modern state in 1948, Israel has emerged as America's strongest ally in the Middle East. As a vibrant democracy, the people of Israel and their government stand for freedom, human rights and opportunity. The Israeli government has the right and duty to defend its citizens against aggression and violence.

Earlier this year, the House of Representatives unanimously passed H. Res. 813 which expresses vigorous support and unwavering commitment to the welfare, security, and survival of the State of Israel as a Jewish and democratic state with secure borders, and recognizing and strongly supporting its right to act in self-defense to protect its citizens against acts of terrorism.

I hope that you will join me in keeping the people of Israel and their leaders in your prayers as they continue to face these daily attacks from Hamas. (*Press Release*)

**Mayor Michael Bloomberg**

*November 15, 2012*

There is no justification for the violence that Hamas and other terrorist organizations are employing against the people of Israel. ([Twitter](#))

**Sen. John Boozman**

*November 19, 2012*

"I strongly condemn the violent attacks on Israel and fully support Israel's right to defend itself and its citizens. Continued unjustified acts of terrorism cannot be tolerated and I call on Hamas to end these attacks on Israel. I will continue to support our democratic ally and stand with Israel to end the violence in the Middle East." (*Press Release*)

**Congressman-elect Kerry Bentivolio**

*November 19, 2012*

"We, as a nation that supports democracy and freedom, must condemn Hamas' attacks on innocent Israeli civilians. We support Israel's sovereign right to defend itself from these militant attacks as we pray for a peaceful resolution to this conflict." (*Press Release*)

**Rep. Howard Berman**

*November 14, 2012*

"Israel's pinpoint attack today against Ahmed Jabari, the head of Hamas' military wing in the Gaza Strip, was an act of necessary self defense. Jabari was a senior Hamas operative who was directly responsible for executing terror attacks against Israel. In recent days the Hamas terrorist organization, and their terrorist allies in Gaza, have launched hundreds of missiles and mortars against Israeli population centers. No nation on this earth would tolerate such a terrorist onslaught. I continue to stand with the State of Israel as she protects her people." ([Press Release](#))

**Rep. Gus Bilirakis**

*November 15, 2012*

“For years, Israelis have lived under the constant threat of rockets from Hamas-controlled Gaza. In this year alone, over 800 rockets have been fired from Gaza into southern Israel, threatening the lives of all those who live there. Peace is only attainable if Hamas ceases these unjustifiable attacks. However, until then, Israel should be allowed to defend itself against these acts of terror. We must continue to support our strongest democratic ally in the region and encourage others to do so, as well.” ([Press Release](#))

**Rep. Tim Bishop**

*November 15, 2012*

The bond between the United States and Israel is unshakeable. I stand with Israel at this difficult hour in support of its right to defend its citizens and national security. The escalating violence and increasing number of rocket attacks perpetrated by Hamas against the State of Israel must end immediately and its leadership must be held accountable. ([Facebook](#))

**Sen. Richard Blumenthal**

*November 20, 2012*

“I strongly support Israel’s right to defend itself against rockets raining down on innocent civilians, and I call on Hamas to end these brutal and brazen attacks. There should be no daylight between Israel and the United States at this moment of crisis and I am hopeful that a cease-fire can be reached as quickly as possible. As we approach Thanksgiving, my thoughts and prayers are with the children and families gathered in bunkers and shelters throughout Israel and they should know that there is strong bipartisan support from the Congress and the people of our country for their right to self-defense.” (Press Release)

**Rep. Charles Boustany**

*November 16, 2012*

“The people living throughout this region deserve peace and stability. The continued aggressive actions by terrorist organizations supported by rogue nations is a stark reminder of threats facing the United States and our allies in the region. Our nation must stand with its key ally: Israel. I am committed to supporting Israel in defending itself.

“As Israel continues to defend itself, now more than ever, it is vital for Arab leaders to stand up for peace over terror. Their actions must match their words as efforts are made to end the violence and restore stability.”

**Rep. Kevin Brady**

*November 16, 2012*

“The nation of Israel is our strongest ally in the Middle East, and I have long supported the right of the Israeli government to defend its borders. It is unthinkable that Hamas is now targeting Jerusalem with their missile attacks, and there is no question as to whether or not Israel should respond with the resources they deem necessary in order to protect their citizens and their homeland. I am confident that the United States government will continue to stand behind our friends in Israel as they defend their sovereignty.” (Press Release)

**Rep. Robert Brady**

*November 16, 2012*

Hamas today escalated the terrorism by hitting Jerusalem with a rocket. This attack, which was the first attack on Jerusalem in 40 years, along with Hamas' attack on residential communities and its callous siting of rocket launchers and command facilities in residential communities, hospitals and schools in Gaza, shows that these thugs have absolute disregard for human life – including Arab lives,” Brady said. “The State of Israel, has an absolute right to defend herself. And as a Member of the House Armed Services Committee, I will work with my colleagues to ensure that she has those capabilities. *(Press Release)*

**Rep. Mo Brooks**

*November 16, 2012*

I stand with our close ally Israel, and with her people during this violent and horrific attack on innocent civilians. ([Twitter](#))

**Congressman-elect Susan Brooks**

*November 20, 2012*

"For America, Israel has stood as an ally of democracy and freedom, and our two countries must continue to work together in the interest of our shared commitment to democracy. I stand in support of Israel and its right to defend itself during relentless, unjustified attacks by Hamas. Palestinians -- and all those who seek stability in the region -- should discourage such violent tactics and focus diligently on the peace process."

**Sen. Sherrod Brown**

*November 19, 2012*

"Israel must have the right and the resources to defend itself. Hamas and its terrorist allies must cease these rocket attacks immediately, Terrorist attacks are not the path to peace. From Iron Dome, to other military aid and assistance, to engaging those who seek peace-the United States stands with Israel. *(Press Release)*

**Rep. Vern Buchanan**

*November 19, 2012*

"I wholeheartedly condemn the heinous acts of violence by Hamas against the civilian population in Israel," said Buchanan. "This year alone, Hamas has orchestrated the firing of over 1,000 rockets and missiles into southern Israel, and today for the first time, the city of Jerusalem. This is a travesty and Israel has every right to defend itself." *(Press Release)*

**Majority Leader Eric Cantor**

*November 15, 2012*

"For decades, the terrorist organization Hamas has been dedicated to the destruction of Israel and has committed innumerable acts of terrorism against Israeli citizens. Hamas'

campaign of terrorism has long been sponsored and supported by the Islamic Republic of Iran and by Bashar Assad's brutal regime in Syria. After violently seizing power in Gaza from Fatah in 2007, Hamas turned Gaza into a haven of terror from which it has launched countless rocket attacks against Israeli cities. Hamas and other terrorist groups in Gaza recently launched a new campaign of terror against Israel in which hundreds of rockets and mortars have been fired at Israel in recent weeks. I stand with Israel's decision and its right to defend itself against the threat posed by terrorist rocket attacks, and call upon Palestinians in Gaza to abandon the terrorists whose violent extremism serves only to frustrate the peace between Israelis and Palestinians for which all Americans hope.

“This is also an important moment for Egyptian President Morsi and other Egyptian leaders to demonstrate that Egypt is committed to being a responsible international actor. As an American who desires good relations between Israel and her Arab neighbors, I hope that Egyptian leaders will respect Israel's inherent right to self-defense, return the Egyptian Ambassador to Israel, and play a constructive role — as it has in the past — in working to diffuse violence emanating from Gaza and promote regional stability.” ([Press Release](#))

“I strongly condemn today's attack on innocent Israeli civilians. Our hearts are filled with sorrow as we offer their families our prayers.” (Twitter, November 21)

**Sens. Bob Casey, Barbara Boxer, Jeanne Shaheen, Jim DeMint, & Johnny Isakson**  
*November 14, 2012*

“This afternoon, we were briefed by Israeli Ambassador to the United States Michael Oren on the security situation in Israel and the Gaza Strip. Over the past week, more than 100 rockets have been fired from Gaza into southern Israel, some of which have been repelled by the Iron Dome air defense system. As a bipartisan group of Senators committed to Israel's security, we express our solidarity with Israel during this deeply challenging period and denounce the reprehensible and indiscriminate rocket attacks launched by Hamas and Islamic Jihad against innocent Israeli citizens. We strongly support Israel's right to defend its people and call on those responsible for the violence to cease their attacks against Israel immediately. Escalation will only lead to further suffering on both sides.” (*Press Release*)

**Sen. Ben Cardin**  
*November 15, 2012*

“I strongly support Israel's right to defend its citizens against threats to its security and existence. The recent military action in Gaza is a direct response to numerous and ongoing rocket attacks from militants in the Hamas-controlled Gaza, which have injured dozens of Israeli citizens. I am deeply saddened by the continued violence and loss of innocent lives.

“The Israelis and the Palestinians must find a way to advance a stable and lasting peace between their peoples through direct negotiations. The United States will continue to do all that is within our power to promote peace in the region and resolve the differences that have poisoned relations between Israelis and Palestinians for far too many generations.” (*Press Release*)

**Congressman-elect Matt Cartwright**

*November 21, 2012*

"This afternoon, a ceasefire proposed by the Egyptian government was agreed to between Israel and Hamas with the support of the United States and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. The deal ends a week of fighting that has killed over 140 Palestinians and 5 Israelis. This agreement will allow for a broader calm to return to both Israel and the Gaza Strip. I have always been and will continue to be committed to Israel's security and I strongly support Israel's right to defend itself and its people." (Press Release)

**Congressman-elect Joaquin Castro**

*November 17, 2012*

"Israel, like any sovereign nation, has the right to defend its borders, and I fully condemn Hamas for its indiscriminate and unjustified rocket attacks on Israeli civilians. I will stand with my fellow elected officials and Members of Congress on the side of Israel's safety and security, and urge all parties to work toward a lasting and effective ceasefire.

"My thoughts and prayers are with the families of the innocent victims who have lost their lives and their homes in this most recent conflict. It is my hope that our nation and leaders across the Middle East can work together to bring an end to this conflict, keep Israel's families secure, and bring peace and stability back to the lives of innocent civilians in the region." (Press Release)

**Rep. Judy Chu**

*November 21, 2012*

"I am deeply saddened to see the loss of innocent life in Israel and Gaza right now. As political strife has given way to violence, civilians on both sides have paid the price and that is truly tragic. I support Israel in defending itself and its citizens. Terrorism is not the path to peace. I strongly believe in a two state solution and continue to hope all parties involved can find a peaceful solution through direct negotiations."

**Rep. Yvette Clarke**

*November 15, 2012*

I stand in support of the right of the government of Israel to defend itself against threats to the security of its people. ([Twitter](#))

**Rep. Tom Cole**

*November 19, 2012*

*"We write to you with concern for the ongoing rocket fire into Israel perpetrated by Hamas and other terrorist factions within the Gaza Strip. Over 800 rockets have been fired at Israel within the past week, roughly 1,600 within the past year, and more than 8,600 since Israel fully withdrew from the Gaza Strip in 2005.*

*We strongly urge that you continue to work to de-escalate this conflict and advise Hamas to stop its rocket attacks on Israel as soon as possible, but fear that your recent actions and statements are doing just the opposite." ([Letter to Egyptian President Morsi](#))*

**Sen. Bob Corker**

*November 16, 2012*

"Israel has shown extreme patience under a sustained barrage of rockets launched from Gaza. I support their enduring right to defend their sovereign territory and the citizens in the path of the rocket attacks." (Press Release)

**Rep. Rick Crawford**

*November 20, 2012*

"The United States and other freedom-loving nations around the world should stand with Israel against the terrorist actions of Hamas and other radical groups. Israel has the right to defend itself from attack and they have an obligation to keep their citizens safe. I pray for an end to this senseless violence and a lasting peace for Israel." (Press Release)

**Congressman-elect Doug Collins**

*November 20, 2012*

"The recent violence against Israel is intolerable and must come to an end," said Representative-elect Collins. "As someone who has served overseas in our military and seen first-hand the devastation put in place by radical Islam, I wholeheartedly support the decision made by Israeli leaders to defend their country and protect its citizens.

"For years, Israel has been our country's greatest ally in the Middle East, and we must continue to stand with them during this time. All the while we must remain steadfast in our joint commitment to promote freedom and democracy throughout the world. We hope for a final and diplomatic end to the violence in Israel and across the region." (Press Release)

**Sen. Chris Coons**

*November 20, 2012*

"With rockets raining down on innocent Israelis, the Senate tonight stood united in condemning these acts of terror and insisting that Israel has the right to defend its citizens from acts of terrorism. The United States remains unwavering in its ironclad commitment to Israel's security, and reaffirms that Hamas and other Gaza-based terrorist organizations must end the barrage of rocket and missile attacks." ([Blog Post](#))

**Congressman-elect Tom Cotton**

*November 18, 2012*

I stand squarely with Israel as it exercises its right to defend Israeli citizens against terrorist rocket attacks from Gaza. For decades, the outlaw terrorist organization Hamas has denied Israel's right to exist and waged a brutal terrorist war against the Israeli people. Gaza will not know peace until the Palestinians there repudiate Hamas, accept Israel's right to exist, and lay down their arms. Until then, Israel must take all necessary steps to protect its citizens and its sovereignty.

Like the Israeli people and the Israeli government, I regret the loss of civilian life in Gaza. Yet the blame for these deaths falls directly on Hamas. From my experience as a platoon leader in Baghdad with the 101st Airborne, I understand the challenges of an

urban combat environment. The Israeli Defense Force, like the U.S. Armed Forces, displays extraordinary skill and morality in waging urban warfare -- more than what is called for by the laws of land warfare. We should all applaud their bravery and restraint. Should Prime Minister Netanyahu deem a ground invasion necessary, I have no doubt the IDF will conduct the operation with its characteristic combination of ferocity and humanity.

President Obama is to be commended for his support earlier today of Israel, as well as his recognition that no country would tolerate cross-border rocket attacks against its citizens. I urge Egyptian President Mohamed Morsi to follow President Obama's lead by respecting Israel's right to self-defense, returning his ambassador to Israel, and promoting an end to terrorist attacks against Israel. (Facebook)

**Sen. John Cornyn**

*November 19, 2012*

"I support the right of Israel to defend herself and have full faith in the leadership of Prime Minister Netanyahu as he seeks to protect the Israeli people. I was pleased to cosponsor a Senate resolution that sends a strong message of solidarity to our friend and ally Israel during this tenuous time." (*Press Release*)

**Rep. Joe Courtney**

*November 20, 2012*

"Israel, like all nations, has a right to defend herself and her people from attack. The unprovoked rain of rockets on innocent Israelis would not be tolerated by any sovereign state.

"I am deeply troubled by the violence of recent days, but remain hopeful that a comprehensive and lasting ceasefire can be agreed to in the coming days for the benefit of the innocent Israeli and Palestinian people in the crossfire. This situation also underscores my steadfast commitment to fully support our country's critical investment in technology such as the Iron Dome which is working every day to protect the Israeli people during this crisis."

"Ultimately, Israel's security, and that of the Palestinian people, depends on continued dialogue and a commitment to a lasting, sustainable and comprehensive peace. The continued engagement of the United States—through President Obama, Secretary Clinton, and many others—must remain focused on moving the peace process forward through productive proximity talks that lay the groundwork for further progress towards achieving the security needs of Israel, curbing the influence of Hamas, and providing the Palestinian people with the building blocks of true prosperity." (*Press Release*)

**Senator-elect Ted Cruz**

*November 20, 2012*

Proud of the U.S. Senate for its unanimous support of Israel's right to defend itself from rocket attacks. In the Senate, I will fight to continue America's steadfast support for our strongest ally in the Middle East in its fight against terrorism. (*Press Release*)

**Rep. John Culberson**

*November 15, 2012*

"I stand firmly with Israel and offer my continued prayers for their safety and security. The United States has no greater ally in the world, and I urge this administration to honor our commitment to them. Israel has the absolute right to defend itself against the countless attacks of terrorism on its citizens. This is a critical moment for Israel, and the world, and they must have the full support of the United States."

**Congressman-elect Rodney Davis**

*November 20, 2012*

"Israel is a fellow democracy and America's greatest ally in the Middle East. Israel has an inherent right to self-defense in the face of unrelenting terrorist rockets. No democracy should ever be pressured to surrender the security of its citizens to a radical terrorist group like Hamas. As Americans, we stand squarely with the people of Israel and pray for a time when Israelis and Palestinians can live side by side in peace without the constant fear of Hamas terrorist attacks." (Press Release)

**Rep. Peter DeFazio**

November 26, 2012

"As a long time advocate of a two-state solution, I strongly condemn the barrage of rockets from Gaza into Israel and the terrorist attack on a bus in Tel Aviv. Targeting innocent Israeli citizens is inexcusable and must stop.

These actions also do not serve the best interests of the Palestinian people, who Hamas claims to represent. Indiscriminate rocket fire and terrorist acts by Hamas will not help Palestinians in Gaza nor move the Palestinian people any closer to self-determination and independence.

I remain committed to the safety and security of the Israeli people and to Israel's right to defend itself. And I call on President Obama and Secretary Clinton to do everything they can to bring an immediate end to hostilities and to renew their efforts to negotiate a durable, lasting peace in the region." (Press Release)

**Congressman-elect John Delaney**

November 21, 2012

"My heart goes out to the families of both Israelis and Palestinians who have lost loved ones. For their sake and the sake of all people of the area, I strongly support a cease-fire.

Both sides should honor the cease-fire. Blatant attacks on civilians are never acceptable and I strongly condemn the recent terrorist attack on the Tel Aviv bus and Hamas' targeting of civilian populations over the past week. These senseless actions have terrorized civilians. If Hamas violates the ceasefire Israel has the right to defend itself but I remain hopeful that further negotiations will lead to lasting peace."

**Rep. Charlie Dent**

*November 21, 2012*

"I strongly condemn the ongoing rocket attacks against Israel. As we have seen over the past several days, Hamas' actions are not only a threat to the Israeli people but a continuing factor in the region's instability. Hamas is a terrorist organization and Israel, as a sovereign nation, has every right to take the necessary action to defend its people. As I have stated in the past, Hamas must 'renounce terrorism and recognize Israel's right to exist within defensible borders."

"I am truly saddened and regret the loss of innocent lives in this most recent conflict. It is my sincere hope there will be a ceasefire in the short term and a dedicated effort to find enduring peace."

**Rep. Ted Deutch**

*November 15, 2012*

"Mr. Speaker, in the past 24 hours alone, terrorists in the Gaza Strip have launched more than 250 rockets into southern Israel. That's 250 rockets in one day since Hamas began its strikes. Imagine 250 rockets raining down in one day on your community, anywhere in the US. You would expect our government to act to protect our citizens. Israel is acting to protect her citizens, Israel has the right to protect her citizens from terrorist attacks. In the early hours of this morning, three Israeli civilians died when a rocket from Gaza struck a top floor of an apartment building. Later in the day, a rocket hit just ten miles from Tel Aviv. The United States mourns the loss of life at the hands of Hamas terrorists. We will not waver in our support of Israel's right to defend herself against these and other attacks. The right of any nation to defend its citizens can never be called into question. Mr. speaker, at this challenging time for our great ally, the United States stands with Israel." *(Floor Speech)*

*November 15, 2012*

Terrorists have fired 250 rockets at Israeli civilians in 24 hours. Heading to House floor to stand for Israel's right to defend herself. ([Twitter](#))

**Rep. Mario Diaz-Balart**

*November 16, 2012*

"The brutal barrage of rockets from the Gaza Strip, controlled by the terrorist group Hamas, must stop. No country should be subjected to have its civilian population under constant attack. Congress stands firmly with our friend Israel, and steadfastly supports our great ally's right to protect itself from terrorist threats."

"At this difficult time, it is vital that the United States stand with Israel and its right to defend its civilians and its national security. We must also be vigilant to stop any possible international efforts, such as in the UN, that may use this incident in an attempt to delegitimize Israel." *(Press Release)*

**Rep. Robert Dold**

*November 15, 2012*

"Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the recent events in the Middle East.

Our ally, Israel, like every nation, must have the right to defend itself and its citizens against ongoing acts of terror. Now, we know that the international community frequently looks for opportunities to delegitimize Israel's actions—which is why it is essential that we here in the United States of America, loudly and publicly, express our support for Israel's right to defend herself in the face of Hamas' terror.

Hamas is responsible for over 800 rocket attacks on Israel in 2012, with over 250 rockets indiscriminately fired on Israel's citizens in the past five days alone. Because of this escalation, one million men, women, and children in southern Israel have been forced to live under the threat of attacks and must now know where the nearest rocket shelters are located. And as I speak, thousands of Israelis are sleeping in bomb shelters out of fear for their lives and the lives of their children.

Mr. Speaker, no nation would sit back and tolerate its population living under such threatening conditions; certainly we here in the United States would not." ([Floor Statement/YouTube](#))

**Congresswoman-elect Tammy Duckworth**

*November 19, 2012*

*"I strongly support Israel's right to defend itself. Israel is a crucial ally of the United States and it is important that we stand with the Israeli people as they defend themselves from the increasing number of rocket and mortar attacks from Gaza. The United States, Egypt and other nations in the region must work towards a two state solution that strengthens Israel's security, creates a lasting peace and prevents the tragic loss of innocent lives on both sides." (Press Release)*

**Rep. Renee Ellmers**

*November 16, 2012*

"The unprovoked attacks this week on towns throughout Israel highlight the real dangers facing the region from the terrorist group Hamas. This violence is unjustified and is causing the people of Israel to live in a constant state of fear as they try to peacefully go about their daily lives. The United States has and will continue to remain a strong ally and dear friend of Israel and its people. We must stand with Israel and support their actions to bring about peace while protecting their people from danger." ([Press Release](#))

**Rep. Elliot Engel**

*November 19, 2012*

"No nation would sit idly by while hundreds of rockets fired by terrorist groups land on their soil. We should expect no less from the state of Israel. I believe the loss of life on both sides is tragic, but the responsibility for it lies with the Hamas terrorists in Gaza who are firing unguided rockets at civilian areas. Every country possesses the inherent right to defend itself from attacks, and the United States is correct to stand with Israel as it exercises its right of self-defense.

I believe in a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, but terrorism is not the way to get there. Only a bilateral dialogue between the parties can bring peace, and I remain hopeful that we will someday reach that point." (*Press Release*)

**Rep. Chaka Fattah**

November 15, 2012

“I spoke earlier today with the consulate general for the State of Israel in Philadelphia, offering my support and concern for the unfortunate circumstances that are taking place in the Middle East now, in which hundreds of bombs or rockets have been shot at Israel, some of its largest cities as the targets. This is a matter for obviously much higher levels in our government. There have been communications and the assurance that Israel has the right to defend itself.” (Floor Statement, November 15, 2012)

**Sen. Dianne Feinstein**

November 20, 2012

“Well, I think this is a very serious situation. I think Israel has a right to defend itself. I think 12 years of missiles coming in, 13,000 of them, now longer range missiles that can hit at the heart of Israel's most historic city, Jerusalem, its biggest city, Tel Aviv. I think this is a very serious situation.”

“Our solidarity has to be with Israel. This is a point where Israel has been under attack for a long period of time and nothing has solved it.” (Interviewed On CNN, Piers Morgan Tonight)

**Senator-Elect Deb Fischer**

November 20, 2012

“Over the past week, it has been reported that more than 820 rockets have been fired at Israel. The State of Israel has a right to defend itself against these attacks. While Hamas and other terrorists in Gaza have targeted civilians in Israel, Israel has made great efforts to avoid hitting civilians in Gaza. This is made all the more difficult by the shameful fact that Hamas has placed its military operations next to schools, mosques and homes. The citizens of Israel have the right to live in peace, and the American people support Israel's efforts to defend itself against attack.” (Press Release)

**Rep. Mike Fitzpatrick**

November 15, 2012

“I strongly condemn Hamas' campaign of terror aimed at Israel, and demand that those responsible end this senseless aggression immediately.”

Since 2009, more than 2,500 rockets have been fired at Israel. These rockets often target civilian population centers, including hospitals, schools and shopping malls. With the deployment of the Iron Dome Missile Defense System, the IDF has managed to successfully intercept over 85% of these missiles.

Fitzpatrick concluded, declaring that “the Israeli people must know that America stands with them. I will continue to avidly support Israel's right to defend itself as the men and women of the Israeli Defense Force work to prevent any further civilian casualties.”

[\*\(Press Release\)\*](#)

**Rep. Jeff Flake**

*November 19, 2012*

“Israel is exercising its inherent right to defend itself from rocket attacks, some of which have even targeted Tel Aviv and Jerusalem. While the Iron Dome missile system has demonstrated its success over the past several days, the United States must continue to support Israel’s right to self-defense. I stand firmly behind Israel as it seeks to protect itself, its citizens, and its way of life from continued assault.” (*Press Release*)

**Rep. John Fleming**

*November 21, 2012*

“While the ceasefire that was announced today is an important step, there should be no confusion about this: the nation of Israel has every right to defend itself against attacks from Hamas and other terrorist groups. I join with the leaders of Israel in hoping that Hamas will respect this latest attempt at stopping the violence, and I pledge to continue working in Congress to ensure that the United States stands strong in its support of Israel.” (*Press Release*)

**Rep. Randy Forbes**

*November 15, 2012*

Praying for peace in Middle East as violence escalates between Israel and Hamas this week. ([Twitter](#))

**Rep. Virginia Foxx**

*November 16, 2012*

“The nation of Israel is America’s friend and closest ally in the Middle East. Already this year, Hamas has attacked the Israeli state with a violent barrage of more than 900 rockets and missiles, most heavily in the past few days.

“After initiating an attack yesterday that claimed the lives of three civilians, including a pregnant woman, Hamas today targeted Israel’s capital city, Jerusalem.

“When confronted with radical terrorism, Israel is absolutely justified in taking defensive action to protect its citizens. The United States would certainly do no less, and should continue to stand with Israel while we pray for a peaceful end to the violence and destruction plaguing their land.”

Today, the House of Representatives considered and passed with Foxx’s support House Resolution 813 – “Expressing vigorous support and unwavering commitment to the welfare, security, and survival of the State of Israel as a Jewish and democratic state with secure borders, and recognizing and strongly supporting its right to act in self-defense to protect its citizens against acts of terrorism.” ([Press Release](#))

**Congresswoman-elect Lois Frankel**

*November 21, 2012*

"I am deeply concerned by Hamas's relentless missile attacks on Israel and the potential for an escalating conflict in Gaza. Israel is our best ally in the Middle East and one of our

strongest allies in the world. The United States rightfully stands shoulder-to-shoulder with Israel. I condemn Hamas's attacks on Israel, and support Israel's right to self-defense.

I am grateful for President Obama's firm support for Israel. In the coming days, I am hopeful that Hamas's assault on Israel will end, and that Hamas will permanently dismantle its terrorist infrastructure targeting Israel, so that a de-escalation of violence can take place. In these challenging times, the people of Israel are in my thoughts and prayers."

**Rep. Trent Franks**

*November 18, 2012*

"I strongly and unwaveringly condemn the attacks that have so far claimed the lives of three innocent Israeli civilians earlier today.

"The citizens of Israel have for far too long been terrorized by rockets launched by a terrorist regime -- Hamas operating in Gaza -- with absolutely no regard for innocent life, whether it be the Israeli citizens who endure their cowardly and unprovoked attacks, or the Palestinian citizens behind whom they shamefully hide.

"Over 800 separate rockets have been launched at Israeli communities in the past 11 months. It is the sovereign right of Israel to defend herself against these acts of terror and to take decisive action in order to defend the lives of the citizens of Israel." (*Press Release*)

**Rep. Marcia Fudge**

*November 16, 2012*

"I firmly stand in support of the right of Israel, America's ally, to defend itself. Over 250 rockets have been fired at the State of Israel in the last twenty-four hours, and over 1 million Israeli citizens, 15% of the country's population, are under fire. I call on the terrorist organization Hamas to immediately stop all rocket attacks. This deadly aggression does not promote a pathway to peace for the region. The goal of Israel's operation is clearly defined and is aimed at removing a threat to Israeli citizens. It is my hope that peace will be restored soon." (*Press Release*)

**Rep. Elton Gallegly**

*November 20, 2012*

"I condemn Hamas' recent and ongoing rocket attacks from the Gaza Strip into Israel and support Israel's right to defend itself. While Israeli officials have alerted civilians in Gaza to the need to stay away from Hamas and its operatives in an attempt to minimize civilian casualties, Hamas is intentionally targeting Israeli civilians. Hamas' deliberate attacks against Israeli civilians and their continued use of innocent Palestinians in Gaza as human shields, is disgraceful. It is imperative that the International Community support Israel's right to defend itself." (*Press Release*)

**Congressman-elect Pete Gallego**

*November 16, 2012*

"The region has historically faced unique challenges. Israel protecting itself from acts of terrorism is something most Americans can relate to in the post-9/11 era. We support Israel's ability to respond appropriately to acts of terrorism." *(Press Release)*

**Rep. Jim Gerlach**

*November 18, 2012*

"Any nation that has endured the kind of unending barrage of rocket attacks on civilians like we have seen in Israel during the past week has an absolute right to defend itself against radicals intent on causing suffering and fomenting chaos. The United States stands shoulder to shoulder with Israel as the nation again confronts the immense threat to security and stability posed by radical Islamic jihadists on its southern border with Gaza." ([Press Release](#))

**Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand**

*November 16, 2012*

"We strongly reiterate our support for Israel's right to self-defense as a barrage of missiles from Gaza are attacking the people of Israel and endangering innocent lives," said Senator Gillibrand. "The passage of this Senate resolution clearly expresses the United States' unwavering commitment to the security of our nation's close and historic ally in the Middle East. We firmly stand united with Israel against terrorism." *(Press Release)*

**Rep. Charlie Gonzalez**

*November 19, 2012*

Israel has the same right as every other country to defend itself, with force if necessary, from deadly rocket attacks. No Israeli child should have to grow up in fear that, at any moment, a randomly fired rocket might destroy her home, her family, or her life. The people of Israel and of the United States want that fear put to an end.

We also want an end to the suffering of innocent Palestinians, children whose lives are traumatized by the violence around them. That is why we must all commit to finding a two-state solution in which all peoples can live together in peace. *(Press Release)*

**Rep. Paul Gosar**

*November 16, 2012*

"As unrest continues in the Middle East and rockets fly over Tel Aviv, I ask that you please keep the people of Israel in your thoughts and prayers. I stand strongly with our ally Israel.

Earlier this summer, the House passed my amendment to prohibit the use of military funds and military assistance to the Muslim Brotherhood, Iran, Syria, Hamas and Hezbollah. These groups that harbor hate towards our friend and ally Israel should not receive a dime of taxpayer dollars." *(Press Release)*

**Rep. Trey Gowdy**

*November 21, 2012*

“The United States stands firmly with our close friend Israel. Israel has been the target of repeated unprovoked attacks. Israel has shown tremendous restraint as it frequently does. With a civil war in full bloom on one side and sworn enemies in the region, Israel has an absolute right to protect its land and its people and the United States stands firmly and completely beside Israel.” (Press Release)

**Rep. Kay Granger**

*November 16, 2012*

“Israel has both the responsibility and the duty to protect and defend its citizens from the violence coming from the Gaza strip and the terrorist organization Hamas. The U.S. firmly stands with our friend and ally against terrorism, and I want to reiterate our unwavering support. I am proud to have supported the United States investment in Israel’s Iron Dome missile defense system. We made this investment because of the very violence we are witnessing today. This is a reminder that our investment in our allies saves lives and defends democracy. I pray for a peaceful, quick and permanent end to the violence.” (Press Release)

**Rep. Gene Green**

*November 16, 2012*

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to bring to this chamber’s attention the on-going attacks taking place in Israel.

Over the past several days, Hamas militants in Gaza have launched a concerted offensive against Israel, our partner in peace in the region.

Nearly 350 rockets have landed in Israel from Gaza in the past three days. Three Israelis were killed in a rocket attack on Thursday.

Yesterday and today, warning sirens rang in Tel Aviv, Israel’s largest city, for the first time since the Gulf War.

As the right of any country to protect its people from attacks, such as Turkey has taken in recent weeks in response to Syria’s civil war, Israel has initiated Operation Pillar of Defense to halt the rockets being launched from Gaza. Israeli Defense Minister Ehud Barak has already announced that 30,000 reservists would be called up to help protect innocent civilians from these attacks.

I condemn these heinous attacks on innocent Israeli civilians and ask our country to support action to bring these terrorist actions to a swift and immediate end.

**Congresswoman-elect Michelle Lujan Grisham**

*November 19, 2012*

“I am hopeful for a cease fire that will end the devastating violence that has claimed the lives of innocent people in Israel and the Gaza Strip. But the international community must not condone the attacks from Hamas. While I support negotiations to stop the attacks and move both sides toward a lasting peace, I support Israel’s right to defend itself against attacks that target innocent Israel civilians.” (Press Release)

**Rep. Brett Guthrie**

*November 20, 2012*

*I stand with Israel and their right to defend their citizens from attack. Please join me in praying for Israel and peace in the Middle East. ([Facebook](#))*

**Rep. Joe Heck**

*November 16, 2012*

"It is important that we stand with and support our ally Israel, especially as violence continues to escalate in the Gaza Strip. Israel has constantly struggled to maintain her security and sovereignty amid repeated threats and as this situation develops, we must be vigilant in ensuring Israel has whatever support and assistance she needs. The state of Israel has a right to take action to secure the safety and security of her people. We must stand by Israel as her people continue to seek peace in their region." (*Press Release*)

**Sen. Dean Heller**

*November 16, 2012*

"Israel has been the United States strongest ally in the Middle East for decades, they have continually showed restraint from terrorist organizations that have fired hundreds of rockets from the Gaza Strip at Israel this year alone. It is my hope that Hamas stops the attacks on Israel and peace can be restored to the southern border of Israel quickly, but until that happens, I fully support Israel's right to defend itself." (*Press Release*)

**Rep. Jeb Hensarling**

*November 16, 2012*

Israel, like all sovereign nations, has a fundamental duty and right to defend the lives and property of its citizens. For years now, Israel has endured thousands of rocket attacks by Hamas from the Gaza Strip. Hamas and its terrorist allies in Gaza have hit Israel with nearly 400 rockets since November 10, 2012. More than 1,000 rockets have rained down on Israel during the past year, and nearly 13,000 rockets have been launched since 2001. These rockets have seemingly one goal: to terrorize, kill, or maim innocent civilians.

Just as recently as this week, three people were killed after a rocket blasted into a four-story building in southern Israel. My thoughts and prayers are with the people of Israel and with all who desire peace in the Middle East.

As demonstrated by this latest round of terrorist attacks, Hamas's long reign of terror has forced Israeli action to protect its citizens and cripple Hamas's terrorist infrastructure. Israel's response to these deplorable attacks have been proportionate as they sought to prevent civilian casualties by dropping thousands of leaflets warning Gaza residents to avoid areas being used by Hamas.

Israel has made considerable efforts to minimize civilian casualties, while Hamas continues to launch assaults from civilian populated areas, thus deliberately using these civilian families as human shields for its military targets. This action is despicable, and Hamas should be held responsible. At this critical moment, it is important for the United

States Congress to unequivocally support Israel's right to exist in peace. We must remain unwavering in our commitment to our greatest ally in the region (*Press Release*)

**Rep. and Senator-elect Mazie Hirono**

November 27, 2012

"Mr. Speaker,

I rise today in strong solidarity with the people of Israel and in support of its right, as any sovereign nation, to defend its citizens against rocket attacks from Hamas, a terrorist organization dedicated to Israel's destruction. The rocket attacks launched from the Hamas-controlled Gaza strip earlier this month against civilian targets in Israel, including Tel Aviv and Jerusalem, continued a reign of terror that includes over 800 rocket attacks this year alone.

Several years ago, I traveled to Israel. It was clear that the constant threat of violence was a harsh reality of everyday life. Israel's efforts to eliminate this threat to her people, stop these attacks by Hamas, and destroy stockpiles of missiles must be viewed in this context. We grieve for the innocent civilians – Israeli and Palestinian alike – who have lost their lives in this tragedy. We appeal to Hamas to honor the ceasefire it agreed to on November 21, 2012; adhere to its terms; and stop storing and using its weapons among a civilian population, putting their lives in grave danger.

We also appeal for peace, and we hope those countries in the region that can help end the conflict will continue to work with us to do so. Our goal is a world where a Palestinian state and a Jewish state of Israel live side by side in peace and security. It can only happen when the Palestinian people enforce a peace that stops attacks on Israel, keeps their commitments, and acknowledges Israel's right to exist.

America stands firmly behind our friend and ally Israel; Hamas must permanently end its aerial assault against Israeli civilians and its allies must cease supplying these weapons of terror." (Floor Statement)

**Congressman-elect Steven Horsford**

November 21, 2012

"America will always be a steadfast ally of Israel. Our commitment to the security of Israel is resolute, and I support the right of Israel to defend herself. I am hopeful for future peace in the Middle East and am pleased that a ceasefire has been negotiated under the leadership of Secretary of State Clinton. Innocent civilians on both sides have lost their lives, many have been injured, and I urge all parties involved to continue working for a peaceful resolution of conflict." (Press Release)

**Congressman-elect Richard Hudson**

November 19, 2012

The United States must strongly condemn the unprovoked attacks by Hamas and stand with our ally Israel and support its right to defend itself and its citizens against acts of terrorism.

The State of Israel is under constant attack and has an absolute right to defend itself against terrorist regimes and radical militants. I stand by Israel as it seeks an end to the violence and I urge this Administration to stand with our ally in pursuing its goals of Operation Pillar of Defense.

Israel has always had as its primary goal to have a peaceful coexistence with its Arab neighbors and I am hopeful that a peaceful resolution can be achieved soon. My continued thoughts and prayers are with our friends in Israel." (*Press Release*)

**Rep. Bill Huizenga**

*November 16, 2012*

"Since seizing control of Gaza in 2007, Hamas has created a haven for terrorists to launch countless attacks against Israel. There is no question that Israel is well within its right to defend itself against these acts of terror. This is another opportunity for President Obama to show America's support for our ally Israel and stand firm against those who wish for the violence to continue in the Middle East. I join the bipartisan call for Palestinians to abandon these extremists who are working against peace." ([Press Release](#))

**Rep. Randy Hultgren**

*November 16, 2012*

"No population should have to suffer the constant fear of having your home and your family threatened, but that is the situation millions of Israelis find themselves in today. Hamas and other militant groups are firing rockets at innocent civilians, and the world is shocked and saddened by the human cost of their actions.

"We, as a nation, stand by Israel in its time of need and reaffirm our commitment to aid them in their fight against this violent extremism." (*Press Release*)

**Rep. Duncan Hunter**

*November 22, 2012*

"Israel's right to defend itself is non-negotiable. In the face of unrelenting rocket attacks and violence, Israel has taken necessary and appropriate action to protect its borders and its citizens. As a nation, we must remain steadfast in our commitment to stand alongside the people of Israel and their government, and reinforce the message throughout the Middle East and the rest of the world that the U.S.-Israel relationship is unbreakable." (*Press Release*)

**Rep. Rush Holt**

*November 15, 2012*

"The people of Israel should be free of the threat of these continuing, outrageous, deadly rocket attacks. Of course, Israel must defend herself, and I have asked President Obama and our Department of Defense to continue and, if appropriate, to increase our assistance to Israel's defense." (*Press Release*)

**Democratic Whip Steny Hoyer**

*November 16, 2012*

“Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues today from both sides of the aisle to stand with the people of Israel in support of their sovereign right to defend themselves against Hamas terror.

“Over the past year alone, Hamas has launched approximately 900 rockets and artillery shells from Gaza into Israel's civilian neighborhoods. My colleagues, think for just a minute whether or not rockets were coming from Mexico or from Canada – we would not stand for it for one minute. This week we saw Hamas fire rockets that struck as far north as Tel Aviv, and today we have disturbing reports that at least one rocket hit near Jerusalem, the seat of Israel's government and a city holy to Jews, Muslims, and Christians alike. That Hamas would specially target Israel's parliament building, as reports indicate, shows the great disregard Hamas has for the very idea of democracy – which does not exist in Gaza.

“By strengthening United States' relationship with Israel, this Congress will send a powerful message to Hamas and all in the region who would cause Israel harm. The right of self-defense cannot be allowed to go unexercised by a government dedicated to the protection of its people.

“We will stand with Israel, and we will also, Mr. Speaker – and I thank you for the time – lament the loss of life of Palestinians. Every life is important. So it is not that we stand insensitive to the lives of Palestinians. But they need to stop the violence and the attacks. Israel has the right to defend itself, and we will stand with them.” ([Floor Statement/YouTube](#))

*November 15, 2012*

“Israel, like all sovereign nations, has a fundamental duty to its citizens to defend their lives and their property. For years now, Israel has endured thousands of rocket attacks by Hamas from the Gaza Strip. These attacks have targeted civilian areas throughout Southern Israel - and today even reached as far north as the outskirts of Tel Aviv. As long as this terrorist organization continues to avoid disarming, abiding by past agreements, or recognizing Israel's right to exist, it will continue to be isolated by the international community and be the cause of further hardship for the Palestinian civilians who suffer at its hands.

“I urge all parties to exercise strong caution so as to avoid an escalation that would only lead to further violence, destruction, and loss of life. I also call on those countries with a leading role to play in the region to work toward a peaceful resolution to these events. Only when Hamas forswears violence, reaffirms prior agreements, and recognizes Israel's right to exist will we be any closer to a just and lasting peace: one in which the Palestinian and Israeli peoples can live, securely, side by side.” ([Press Release](#))

### **Congressman-elect Jared Huffman**

*November 22, 2012*

“The barrage of rocket attacks by Hamas and Islamic Jihad against innocent civilians in Israel is reprehensible and I firmly support the right of Israel to defend its people against such violent attacks,” said Huffman. “With so much turmoil and uncertainty in the Middle East, the need for direct Israeli-Palestinian peace negotiations leading to a two state solution is greater than ever before. That cannot happen if Hamas or its affiliates

continue their violent rocket attacks. I'm encouraged by the ceasefire brokered by Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and Egyptian President Mohammed Morsi, and I'm hopeful that the new Egyptian regime will use its leverage with Hamas to ensure not just a lasting ceasefire, but a new commitment to peace in the region." (Press Release)

**Sen. James Inhofe**

*November 15, 2012*

"Iran's overt support for terrorist organizations like Hamas and Hezbollah make the recent attacks on Israel possible. Iran has made their intentions against Israel clear, making it even more imperative that we prevent Iran from obtaining a nuclear arsenal and the means for its delivery. For the past 24 hours, Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) have moved to defend itself by striking Hamas and Islamic Jihad terrorist sites and their leadership in the Gaza strip in retaliation for repeated cross border attacks by these terrorist organizations against the nation of Israel and their innocent civilians. It is disgusting that these terrorist groups use the Palestinian people as human shields. America must stand in support of Israel and our ally's right to self defense. I stand with Israel, and as a nation, we should be pushing for the international community to condemn the attacks on Israel and call upon Hamas and its terrorist sponsor Iran to immediately halt this current reign of terror against the people of Israel." ([Press Release](#))

**Rep. Steve Israel**

*November 15, 2012*

"Today I am speaking with Israel's Ambassador to the United States, Michael Oren, to let him know that I unequivocally support Israel's right to defend itself in the face of unjustified attacks from Hamas and other terrorist organizations targeting innocent Israeli civilians. Israeli citizens have faced a constant barrage of rockets this month, more than 200 rockets have rained down from Gaza in the last 24 hours and nearly 1,000 rockets have hit Israel this year. My thoughts are with Israel today and every day." (Press Release)

**Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee**

*November 16, 2012*

"Israel, like all sovereign nations, has a fundamental duty to its citizens to defend their lives and their property. For years now, Israel has endured thousands of rocket attacks by Hamas from the Gaza Strip. These attacks have targeted civilian areas throughout Southern Israel - and today even reached as far north as the outskirts of Tel Aviv. As long as this terrorist organization continues to avoid disarming, abiding by past agreements, or recognizing Israel's right to exist, it will continue to be isolated by the international community and be the cause of further hardship for the Palestinian civilians who suffer at its hands.

"Innocent people on both sides of the conflict are being killed. I urge all parties to exercise strong caution so as to avoid an escalation that would only lead to further violence, destruction, and loss of life. I also call on those countries with a leading role to play in the region to work toward a peaceful resolution to these events. Only when Hamas stops this violence, reaffirms prior agreements, and recognizes Israel's right to exist will we be any closer to a just and lasting peace: one in which the Palestinian and Israeli peoples can live, securely, side by side." ([Press Release](#))

**Congressman-elect Hakeem Jeffries**

*November 19, 2012*

"When visiting Sderot and Ashkelon in December 2008, I witnessed first-hand the indiscriminate rocket-fire emanating from Gaza and the unacceptable threat it presents to Israel's children, seniors and citizens. Defensive action against such terror, including activity against militant Hamas leaders, is clearly the right decision by the state of Israel and one that America should support." (*Press Release*)

**Rep. Lynn Jenkins**

*November 16, 2012*

"Both Congress and the Administration strongly support the Israeli government's right and duty to defend its citizens against this unprovoked aggression. As a country, we can all agree no government should be asked to sustain daily attacks that threaten innocent lives.

"Continuing to engage in violence does nothing but destroy lives on both sides of the border and hinders any hope for peace between the Israeli and Palestinian people. I, along with my colleagues, condemn this violence, and urge Hamas to cease their rocket attacks." (*Press Release*)

**Governors Bobby Jindal and Scott Walker**

*November 21, 2012*

"We express our strong and unwavering support for the State of Israel and its right to defend itself against Hamas' senseless attacks. Israel is justified in not letting these attacks on their own soil go unnoticed.

Over the last 12 years, more than 12,000 rockets have been fired into Israel from Gaza by Hamas and other Palestinian terrorist groups. In just the last several days alone, more than 1,100 rockets have been fired into Israel from Gaza. According to reports, Iran has helped Hamas extend the range of their rockets which puts even more innocent Israelis at risk of attacks.

It's time for these terrorists to end the attacks against the people of Israel, recognize Israel's right to exist as a state and recognize previous Israeli-Palestinian agreements.

Until that happens though, Israel absolutely has a natural right to defend its people and borders and we stand shoulder-to-shoulder with the people of Israel during this difficult time.

We hope the President will continue to work with the international community to help de-escalate the attacks from Gaza, dismantle Hamas' missile capability, and prevent Hamas from launching terrorist attacks on civilian targets in the future.

The bottom line is that we must continue to stand up for our friends who sit in one of the most dangerous parts of the world and who serve as a beacon of freedom and democracy." (*Press Release*)

**Rep. Jim Jordan**

*November 16, 2012*

"No nation on Earth would suffer through the missile barrage targeted at Israeli civilians this year without taking defensive action. Israel has the right to defend itself and the obligation to protect its citizens. The United States and every nation in the world should stand with Israel against the terrorist actions of Hamas and other radical Islamist groups. Let us hope for a peaceful and permanent end to this violence." (*Press Release*)

**Congressman-elect David Joyce**

*November 20, 2012*

"America must firmly stand with Israel and its right to defend itself against these unprovoked terrorist attacks," Congressman Elect David P. Joyce said. "As one of the United States closest allies we must stand with this one shining example of freedom in the Middle East. I am firmly committed to supporting Israel, defending them and more importantly fighting for them." (*Press Release*)

**Rep. Marcy Kaptur**

*November 16, 2012*

"I condemn the rocket attacks against innocent civilians in Israel and fully support Israel's right to self-defense, which is why I have supported the Iron Dome.

"The path to peace in the Middle East is difficult enough without the unprovoked and unjustified offensive actions by Hamas. I urge all parties to redouble their efforts to end the bloodshed, but the first step is for Hamas and its allies to renounce violence." (*Press Release*)

**Rep. Mike Kelly**

*November 21, 2012*

"Our thoughts and prayers are with the people of Israel and all those seeking peace in the Middle East. While the recent campaign of terror launched by Hamas and other terrorist groups in Gaza appears to have come to a temporary halt, I want to take this opportunity to affirm Israel in its right to defend itself and its people whenever it is forced to do so. I sincerely hope this truce lasts, but, more important, I hope that Israel will once and for all be recognized for its right to exist and as the legitimate nation it always has been and will forever remain." (*Press Release*)

**Congressman-elect Joe Kennedy**

*November 15, 2012*

"I strongly condemn Hamas' continued rocket fire coming from Gaza into southern Israel. When I visited the communities under attack earlier this year, I saw firsthand the bomb shelters and sealed rooms in which a million Israelis are taking refuge right now. No one should be made to live under the threat of constant shelling, and I support Israel's right to defend its citizens from these attacks. My prayers are with Israel and with the innocent victims of this conflict - and my hope is that the violence soon subsides so people can begin to put their lives back together in an atmosphere of calm and security." ([Facebook](#))

**Senator-elect Angus King**

November 20, 2012

“The loss of life in Israel and Gaza is horrendous. This is detrimental to the people in Israel and Gaza, and to the entire region, however, Israel has an absolute right to defend itself as any country would when under attack.”

**Senator Mark Kirk**

November 16, 2012

“The passage of this resolution sends a strong and clear message that the United States stands in solidarity with the State of Israel,” Senator Kirk said. “Israel is a fellow democracy and has an inherent right to defend its citizens from terrorist missiles.” (Press Release)

**Rep. Pete King**

November 19, 2012

“Israel has the right to defend itself as its citizens face a barrage of rocket attacks. The Jewish State cannot and should not tolerate these attacks on its people.” (Press Release)

**Rep. Adam Kinzinger**

November 15, 2012

“I support Israel and respect each country’s right to protect and defend its citizens from terrorist attacks. I am deeply saddened and concerned by the recent escalation of attacks and urge the State Department to assist in peace efforts. I am hopeful that a peaceful resolution can be achieved soon to end the violence.” (Press Release)

**Congresswoman-elect Ann Kirkpatrick**

November 19, 2012

“I stand firmly with Israel and support her right to defend herself and her citizens against threats to her security and existence. Recent military action in Gaza is a direct response to rocket attacks from militants who have harmed and threatened many Israeli citizens. I am deeply saddened by the continued violence and loss of life in Gaza.

“The Israelis and the Palestinians must use direct negotiations to find a path toward peace and stability. I support a sustained effort by the United States to promote peace in this region between the Israelis and Palestinians. My thoughts and prayers are with the people of Israel and their families during these difficult times. (Press Release)

**Congresswoman-elect Annie Kuster**

November 20, 2012

“I stand with Israel and its right to defend itself against all threats made to its people. I join President Obama and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton in calling for an end to the rocket attacks and I remain hopeful that the ceasefire that is being negotiated will be in place tonight or tomorrow morning at the latest.

"My sympathies are with all of those in the region who are suffering, and our goal today should be to put an end to the rocket fire on Israel, limit civilian casualties, and de-escalate the violence in the region. In the longer term we need to continue to seek political solutions to advance Israel's security, as I believe this will be the only way to stop the spiral of violence in the region." (Press Release)

**Sen. Jon Kyl**

November 22, 2012

"No nation has faced more security challenges from Islamist terrorists than the State of Israel. The ongoing rocket attacks by Hamas are just the latest iteration of this continual war. The people of Israel deserve better--they deserve peace and a secure future. The United States must continue to stand by Israel's side—unreservedly." (Press Release)

**Rep. Doug Lamborn**

November 15, 2012

"I strongly condemn the attacks which took the lives of three innocent Israeli civilians earlier today. For too long the citizens of Israel have been terrorized by rockets launched by the terrorist regime Hamas in Gaza- over 800 rockets have been launched at Israeli communities in the past 11 months. This assault on the people of Israel is intolerable. It is the sovereign right of Israel to defend herself against these acts of terror and to take decisive action in order to defend the lives of the citizens of Israel.

"Additionally, the success of the Iron Dome Missile Defense System in protecting Israel against these missiles from Hamas, underscores the need for this system. Congress must continue to support Israel's missile defense system in the face of these deadly attacks." (Press Release)

**Rep. Leonard Lance**

November 16, 2012

*"I am pleased the U.S. House in bipartisan manner reaffirmed America's longstanding belief that Israel has every right to live in peace and defend itself," said Lance. "When nearly 400 Hamas and Islamic Jihad rockets are being fired into Israel and killing innocent Israeli citizens, America must firmly stand with Israel and denounce the recent terrorist attacks by Hamas and others." ([Press Release](#))*

**Sen. Mary Landrieu**

November 19, 2012

As Gaza-based rockets continue to rain down on Israel, including targets in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem, I want to assure you of my, and the U.S. Senate's, unwavering support for Israel's right to defend itself.

Last week, I joined 63 other Senators in sponsoring S. Res. 599, which urges the President to work with the international community to prevent Hamas and other terrorist organizations in Gaza from launching rockets against Israel. It also calls on the United Nations Security Council to condemn Gaza-based attacks against Israel. This resolution passed the Senate with unanimous support.

This resolution is a demonstration of America's steadfast alliance with Israel. Nearly 1,000 terrorist missiles have been fired at Israel this year alone and Israel has a right to defend itself against this aggression. As the President recently said "There's no country on earth that would tolerate missiles raining down on its citizens from outside its borders."

During this difficult time for the people of Israel, I want to offer my ongoing support as we continue to strengthen our alliance and improve the safety and security of our nations.  
*(Letter to Constituents)*

**Rep. Jeff Landry**  
*November 20, 2012*

"A year and a half ago, I cosponsored H.Res. 271 – a resolution expressing support for Israel's right to defend itself. Today, I reiterate that support. I firmly stand alongside our friend Israel in this difficult time. Israel has suffered greatly as Hamas continues to escalate rocket attacks.

I call on Palestinian authorities to end these assaults. Hamas must end its blatant, terrorist attacks against innocent Israeli civilians. Israel has my unwavering support to defend itself. We have no greater ally than Israel, and my prayers are with the Israelis in this trying time.

I pledge to continue my work in Congress to give Israel the support it needs going forward. In addition to H.Res. 271, I have cosponsored and voted for the United States-Israel Enhanced Security Cooperation Act which will help strengthen our strategic defense partnership with Israel and ensure Israel continues to have the needed military edge to protect itself." *(Press Release)*

**Rep. Jim Langevin**  
*November 16, 2012*

"As Hamas continues to senselessly launch rockets into Israel, threatening the safety and security of Israelis and putting Palestinian civilians in Gaza in danger, we must be steadfast in supporting our ally's right to self-defense. No government would stand aside and tolerate such attacks on their populace and way of life. Our leaders and responsible nations around the world should be united in condemning these attacks, which have now reached Tel Aviv and the outskirts of Jerusalem.

"I'm proud of the United States' support for the Iron Dome missile defense system, which has prevented even greater damage and loss of life, and we must continue to make clear that our alliance with Israel is unbreakable. We mourn the loss of life on both sides while calling for a halt to all violence and a path to a negotiated peace agreement."  
[\*\(Press Release\)\*](#)

**Sen. Frank Lautenberg**  
*November 16, 2012*

"No country should be forced to withstand attacks on its own people. We cannot expect Israel to stand idly by while its citizens are the targets of continued rocket attacks. We

support Israel's right to defend itself and call on Hamas to immediately renounce terror and recognize Israel's right to exist."

**Rep. Dan Lipinski**

*November 16, 2012*

"Over the past few days, the citizens of Israel have been barraged by a torrent of rockets shot from Gaza, leading to the deaths of citizens and a growing terror in the society of our strong ally. I condemn these terrorist actions and call on Hamas to cease its senseless aggression on the Israeli people. I support Israel's need to defend herself from these attacks and to pursue the militant elements that lead and organize these threats. Every nation has the right to defend itself and its citizens from acts of terror. I urge the United States to provide all necessary support to Israel in this troubling time. I regret the loss of innocent life, and pray for a return to stability and peace." (*Press Release*)

**Congressman-elect Alan Lowenthal**

*November 18, 2012*

"I fully support the position of President Obama, Congressman Waxman and all Americans in proclaiming that the United States totally supports Israel's right to defend itself against missile attacks by Hamas". (*Press Release*)

**Rep. Nita Lowey**

*November 15, 2012*

Israel has right & responsibility to defend itself from Hamas attacks. Must be no doubt such terrorism will never be tolerated. ([Twitter](#))

**Rep. Kenny Marchant**

*November 16, 2012*

"I strongly support the right of Israel to use any means necessary to defend herself in response to recent rocket attacks by Hamas. The actions by Hamas are indeed an act of war and Israel is justified in its swift response to strike back at Hamas and destroy its terrorist infrastructure. The people of Israel deserve to live in peace and should not have to endure indiscriminate rocket attacks that have killed many of its citizens in the last week. Furthermore Hamas' use of Palestinian civilians as human shields must be condemned in the strongest possible terms.

"Israel has both the right and obligation to defend its citizens. The United States stands shoulder to shoulder with the Middle East's beacon of freedom, Israel, and we showed this today by unanimously passing a resolution in the House (H. Res. 813) which expresses our unwavering commitment to the welfare, security, and survival of Israel as a Jewish state. I call upon all freedom-loving nations to stand with Israel and against the terrorist group Hamas.

"The Palestinian people must once and for all reject Hamas and its terrorist tactics which threaten any prospects for lasting peace. Israel's security is vitally important to the United States as she is our strongest ally in the region. As such, dismantling Hamas and

its terror regime is essential to achieving stability in the region and a peace that serves all who live there.” ([Press Release](#))

**Rep. Carolyn Maloney**

*November 19, 2012*

Israel has sustained more than 800 rocket attacks since the start of the year, and more than 120 since November 10th. No country can tolerate that kind of barrage without taking action to protect its population. Israel has every right to take responsible steps to end the assaults on its territory.” (*Press Release*)

**Rep. Tom Marino**

*November 16, 2012*

“Today I stand with many of my colleagues in strong support of the nation of Israel and condemn the terrorist attacks against the Israeli people from the Palestinian Hamas in the Gaza Strip.”

“As Hamas militants continue to target its assault against innocent Israeli civilians, Israel will continue its efforts to defend her people. No nation should be forced to subject itself to such violence and destruction, nor should its people be forced to live in fear. Just as the United States would not stand idly by if such horrific attacks were waged against Americans, I support Prime Minister Netanyahu’s acts of self-defense.”

“My thoughts and prayers are with the nation of Israel as they withstand and defend against these heinous attacks. I hope that this conflict soon ends and firm groundwork is established to solidify a long-term, mutually agreed upon peace agreement between Israel and Palestine.”

**Rep. Doris Matsui**

*November 20, 2012*

“The U.S. has been a steadfast ally to Israel, our democratic partner in the Middle East. Just last week the United States House of Representatives passed a resolution supporting Israel’s right to self-defense, and I supported that resolution in its entirety. Israel has the right to defend itself and its citizens from attack.

“The indiscriminate rocket attacks that have threatened innocent Israeli families must stop. I am encouraged to hear that all-sides are working together to de-escalate the conflict and strongly support efforts to put in place a sustainable cease-fire agreement and an end to the violence that has plagued the region for decades.”

**Sens. John McCain and Lindsey Graham**

*November 19, 2012*

“We regret that the Prime Minister of Turkey referred to Israel today as a ‘terrorist state.’ Israel has the same sovereign right as every country to defend itself, and no government could be expected to remain passive under the daily barrage of hundreds of rockets fired intentionally at innocent men, women, and children, which Israel has had to endure at

the hands of Hamas. This challenge should be familiar to Turkey, which has been a victim of terrorism itself.

“Prime Minister Erdogan, a man we know and respect, should play a constructive leadership role in pushing Hamas to cease its attacks on Israel so this conflict can be brought to an end. His comments today, unfortunately, will have the opposite effect, encouraging Hamas to continue with its acts of terrorism, thereby prolonging the fighting and risking further loss of life on both sides. This serves no responsible interest.” (*Press Release*)

**Rep. Carolyn McCarthy**

*November 20, 2012*

“I wish Secretary of State Clinton a safe and productive trip to the Middle East today and urge her to strongly reinforce our nation’s support for Israel’s right to defend itself from terrorist attacks against its civilians.

“The fact is that the recent escalations in conflict at the Israeli border stem from Hamas’s rocketfire into civilians areas and Hamas must stop for the fighting to stop. Our nation would never stand for attacks targeting our civilians or soldiers and we must support Israel fully in its current state of crisis.

“In times of conflict like this you must stand firm behind your beliefs and with your allies – the responsibility for the current state of fighting lies squarely with the terrorist organization Hamas and the U.S. should not shy from its support for peace and its support for Israel today.”

*November 15, 2012*

“Israel and its citizens are under a grave and immediate threat and need the world’s support right now.

“Israel has been suffering a barrage of rocket fire by terrorists from Gaza recently and has not just the right but the obligation to defend itself and its citizens with a forceful response that will stop the shelling.

“The rocket attacks against Israel are an unconscionable act of terrorism and the world community – starting with the United States and its Congress – should stand behind Israel as she defends herself.

“These attacks against Israel are a major setback to peace in the region and need to stop immediately.” ([Press Release](#))

**Governor Bob McDonnell**

*November 21, 2012*

“In recent days, the citizens of Israel have come under attack by Hamas. Rockets fired from Gaza into Israel have struck civilian centers, and terrorized the nation. And today a terrorist attack struck a city bus in Tel Aviv, the first such event in the city since 2006. Israel has rightly responded to these attacks with appropriate force. Now, a cease fire has

been called to these hostilities. America stands with Israel as it continues to move through this dangerous period. Hamas must cease all attacks on Israel, and it is my hope that the unwarranted and random violence the group has unleashed on our friends in Israel will now come to a permanent end.”

**Rep. Buck McKeon**

*November 16, 2012*

"I unequivocally stand with the Israeli people and their right to defend themselves against terrorists. About 500 rockets have been fired into Israel over the past two days, and 184 have been intercepted by Iron Dome missile defense system. As Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, I work to ensure that Israel has resources like Iron Dome and other defense systems it needs to maintain its qualitative military edge. It is our duty as Americans to stand with our strongest ally in the Middle East. As rockets continue to be aimed at Israel, now even in the big cities of Tel-Aviv and Jerusalem, I pray for all of their citizens' safety and peace." ([Facebook](#))

**Rep. David McKinley**

*November 16, 2012*

“This violence against Israel is unacceptable,” said Rep. McKinley. “We stand squarely behind our ally Israel and support its right to defend itself. The global community should be expressing outrage as Hamas and other terrorist groups in the Gaza Strip continue to launch deadly attacks against civilian targets in Israel.”

“The Islamic world should be condemning these attacks rather than showing solidarity with violent extremists,” said McKinley. “Israel’s neighbors in the Middle East are just as accountable for bringing peace to the region as Israel is. The recent violence only brings us further from a peaceful future in the Middle East.”

**Congresswoman-elect Negrete McLeod**

*November 21, 2012*

“I fully support Israel’s right to defend her borders and safeguard the lives of her citizens. The loss of innocent life in any conflict is deplorable and highlights the need for the re-initiation of the peace process. I applaud President Obama and Secretary Clinton’s intense diplomacy in bringing this conflict to a peaceful conclusion but stand steadfastly with Israel’s right to protect her people.” (Press Release)

**Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers**

*November 18, 2012*

“The recent terrorist rocket attacks by Hamas into Israel have killed innocent civilians and must not be tolerated. These deplorable, cowardly atrocities have no possible justification and should be condemned by all Americans. We would not tolerate one rocket launched against our homeland, much less the 800 rocket attacks on Israel in 2012, with over 500 this past week alone.

“Recently, air raid sirens blared in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem, sending one million Israelis to huddle in bomb shelters. I have visited Israel and been to the areas targeted by the terrorists. My heart goes out to the brave families who live there, and I send my condolences to the families of those who have been killed.

“America must continue to stand firmly with Israel, our friend and closest ally in the region. I will continue to fight for them, support them, and defend them.” (*Press Release*)

**Congressman-elect Mark Meadows**

*November 20, 2012*

“I stand fully in support with Israel as they exercises their right to defend its citizens against the rocket attacks from Gaza by terrorists. For years the terrorist organization Hamas has denied Israel's right to exist as a Nation and continues to use brutal terrorist acts against Israeli citizens. Again, I fully support Israel taking all necessary steps to continue to protect its citizens.

I agree with the Israeli government and regret the loss of civilian life in Gaza. However, Gaza will never know true peace until they denounce Hamas and recognize Israel's right to exist. As Prime Minister Netanyahu surveys the needs to protect his county, I am confident he will take necessary steps to ensure the security of his country and all humanity in the region.

I also want to commend President Obama for his support earlier today of Israel, and his recognition that no country would tolerate cross-border rocket attacks against its people. Now it is time for Egyptian President Mohamed Morsi to respect Israel's right to defend itself, return his ambassador to Israel and stand to end the terrorist attacks taking place in Israel.” (*Press Release*)

**Rep. Pat Meehan**

*November 16, 2012*

“Mr. MEEHAN. Madam Speaker, I rise to urge my colleagues here in the House of Representatives and citizens all across the United States to join in an unambiguous message of support for Israel in this time of great and dramatic concern and rising tensions in the Gaza Strip.

Look, the facts are clear: The 400 rockets that have been launched from Gaza into Israel over the last 48 hours represent a dramatic provocation of Israel and its people. Second, the use of long-range missiles--for the first time reaching into population centers like Tel Aviv--represents an irresponsible escalation of the acts of terrorism that have been generated by Hamas and underscored by Iran.

Today, we must send an unambiguous signal that we stand with Israel in the right to defend itself and make sure that we simultaneously call on those who are coming into Gaza from Egypt with a message that they have a responsibility to begin the process immediately of deescalating this conflict, standing shoulder to shoulder for peace, and making sure that this escalation does not lead to further provocation.” (*Floor Speech*)

**Rep. Gregory Meeks**

*November 15, 2012*

“After days of incessant rocket fire into its territory, Israel launched Operation Pillar of Defense to protect its citizens. I want to express in the strongest terms possible that Israel has an absolute right to defend itself against such attacks. I also hope that other countries in the region will not attempt to use Israel’s self-defense as an excuse to back-track on vital peace agreements that would undermine regional stability.” ([Press Release](#))

**Sen. Robert Menendez**

*November 15, 2012*

“For years now, the terrorists in Hamas-controlled Gaza have refused to recognize Israel’s right to exist and have launched thousands of rockets and missiles at Israel and innocent civilians in southern Israel. In just the last year, more than 700 rockets and missile shells have been launched from Gaza into Israel – resulting in the senseless destruction of countless homes and the tragic loss of innocent lives. In the face of this undeterred threat, we must again recognize Israel’s absolute and inherent right to defend itself and demand that Hamas immediately renounce the use of violence and recognize Israel’s right to exist as a Jewish and democratic state. Furthermore, the United Nations Security Council and regional neighbors, like Egypt and Turkey, should condemn Hamas’ escalation of rocket and missile attacks and call on Hamas to cease all of its terrorist activity.” (*Press Release*)

**Congresswoman-elect Grace Meng**

*November 16, 2012*

"The State of Israel has an absolute right to defend itself, and it is doing so effectively and precisely. If a terrorist organization were indiscriminately firing rockets into New York City, we would demand our military protect us and our closest allies support us. The United States must stand shoulder to shoulder with Israel at this trying time and support it in pursuing the goals of Operation Pillar of Defense." (*Press Release*)

**Congressman-elect Luke Messer**

*November 17, 2012*

"Israel has every right to protect herself from terrorist groups like Hamas who threaten innocent lives. America must stand with one of our closest allies." ([Facebook](#))

**Sen. Barbara Mikulski**

*November 19, 2012*

Israel has the right to self-defense. No nation would stand by as it is attacked by terrorist missiles. I am proud to be a support of the Iron Dome program, which is saving lives. During this time, it is important that we continue to stand by Israel. ([Press Release](#))

**Sen. Jerry Moran**

*November 19, 2012*

When I traveled to Israel in 2008, I visited the town of Sderot. Located a mile east of Gaza, residents of this border town have been the target of rocket and mortar attacks

launched by terrorists in Gaza for years. When the warning of an attack sounds, residents have just 10 seconds to find shelter. No one should have to live like this.

Yet, more than a million Israelis live within range of the rockets Hamas and other terrorists fire daily into Israel. This year alone, more than 1,900 rockets have been fired at Israel. A recent increase in the number of attacks from Gaza led Israel to respond this week. Like any nation, Israel has the right and responsibility to defend its citizens.

I sponsored a resolution this week expressing support for Israel as it battles to protect its people from acts of terrorism. Passage of this legislation with unanimous support sends a powerful message that in this difficult time, America stands with Israel at it defends itself. ([Newsletter to Constituents](#))

**Congressman-elect Markwayne Mullin**

*November 23, 2012*

"I am speaking out today in solidarity with our ally Israel. While I am hopeful that the current cease fire will continue, I want our friends in Israel to know one important thing: you have many allies in the United States who are standing firm with you in supporting your right to defend your people and your freedom.

"I also have a very clear message for President Obama: don't hesitate, don't waver, and never doubt that America must always support Israel in every way possible.

"And to the people of America, I ask you to join me in praying for Israel."

**Rep. Chris Murphy**

*November 20, 2012*

I strongly condemn the ongoing rocket attacks against Israel, which began without provocation and have resulted in the death of innocent civilians. No country in the world would stand by while missiles were launched towards its towns and cities. I support Israel's inherent right to self-defense and call on those responsible to immediately halt the attacks and avoid a further escalation of violence, which will hurt both Israelis and Palestinians. ([Press Release](#))

**Rep. Tim Murphy**

*November 21, 2012*

"The American people strongly condemn Hamas' cowardly acts of violence, which have escalated in the past eight days, against Israeli families. Our country stands firm with our allies in Israel and will not tolerate violence by terrorists who refuse to acknowledge Israel's right to exist. The terrorist actions of Hamas have intentionally put Palestinians in harm's way, risking civilian lives in a disgusting attempt to sway public opinion. Our thoughts and prayers are with the families. I support the cease-fire, and an end to the senseless violence."

**Rep. Jarrold Nadler**

*November 15, 2012*

"I condemn in the strongest terms the current aggression by Hamas against the civilian population in southern Israel. These attacks are entirely without justification and amount to murderous provocations by a terrorist regime which refuses to recognize Israel's right to exist, and which refuses to work toward a peaceful coexistence for both sides. Israel has every right to defend its borders, to repel such attacks, and to target those responsible. I applaud President Obama for his leadership and strong condemnation of these attacks. And I am gratified to see that the Iron Dome missile defense system has worked so well to prevent further bloodshed and destruction in Israel." ([Press Release](#))

**Rep. Pete Olson**

*November 16, 2012*

"Last Saturday, Hamas-affiliated militias began firing rockets from Gaza into Israel. These attacks, directed at Israeli civilians, are acts of war. Israel has every right and a solemn duty to protect her citizens. The rocket attacks have continued all week, and yesterday, three Israeli civilians were killed in an attack on Kiryat Malakhi.

"Regrettably, Israel was forced to take a necessary and appropriate step in defending her citizens by launching an offensive against Palestinian militants in Gaza. During the attacks, Israeli defense forces killed the military commander of Hamas in an air strike. Israel has clearly told those who kill the innocent that Israel will use whatever force necessary to protect her citizens.

"The people of Israel live in constant fear of rocket attacks from Gaza. In 2009, I visited the Israeli village of Sderot that borders on Gaza. I'll never forget talking to an Israeli mother who is always within arm's reach of her young children. Any time the air raid sirens scream a warning of an incoming barrage of rockets, she must be ready to grab her children and take cover in the family's bomb shelter. This has to be done within seconds or her family may be killed.

"The United States must continue to fully support Israel's right to defend herself against the constant threat of terrorist attacks by Hamas from Gaza. This is also a critically important moment for Egypt to step up as a responsible mediator to end the violence. The new Egyptian government has a chance to show its acceptance of the 1979 peace treaty. It is their choice, but whatever they decide, America will stand firmly beside our ally Israel." *(Press Release)*

**Governor Martin O'Malley**

*November 20, 2012*

"Israel, like every nation, has the right to defend herself and her people from attack. Israel also has the right to ensure its own security. No country would tolerate continuous rocket attacks. Hamas-controlled Gaza, should discontinue these destructive actions that only serve to harm." *(Press Release)*

**Senator Jeff Merkley**

*November 26, 2012*

"During my recent visit to Israel I spoke with a woman who described in vivid detail the stress and trauma of raising kids under the shadow of rocket fire from Gaza. Every nation has the right to defend its civilians from that kind of terror.

"The vast majority of Palestinians and Israelis want the same thing – an opportunity to live in peace and security, free to pursue a better life for themselves and their families. I'm pleased that the cease fire reached late last week seems to be holding. But to avoid a repeat of this situation, Hamas needs to renounce terrorism and focus on improving the lives of Palestinians, not perpetuating violence against Israelis."

**Rep. Frank Pallone**

November 16, 2012

"I continue to stand with our ally Israel as it faces ongoing rocket attacks from Hamas and other terrorist organizations in Gaza. Nearly 1,000 rockets have been fired into southern Israel this year, including more than 270 rockets fired in the past two days.

"More than one million Israelis remain under threat of Gaza rocket fire. I firmly support the right of Israel to act in self-defense against these attacks and to protect its citizens from harm. My thoughts are with the people of Israel at this time." ([Press Release](#))

**Rep. Bill Pascrell**

November 16, 2012

*"I am increasingly concerned with the intensifying violence across Gaza and Israel, and I unequivocally condemn Hamas' continued rocket attacks against Israeli civilians. No one should have to live with the constant fear that a terrorist's rocket could take the life of a loved one. President Obama has reiterated the unwavering support of the United States for Israel's right to defend itself, and I strongly echo that sentiment. I appreciate that Israel has taken important steps to target only Hamas militants and limit civilian casualties. I call upon involved parties to find a path to bring an end to the violence and prevent further bloodshed."* ([Press Release](#))

**Gov. Deval Patrick**

November 19, 2012

"I came here tonight to stand with my friends. To stand with my friends who are worried sick about their friends and their family, here and in Israel...And to stand with all of those who, like me, yearn for peace."

"Israel will endure and survive this, as scared and worried as we all are at this moment. Israel is timeless, it was meant to be, and she will survive." ([Remarks to Congregation Mishkan Tefila](#))

**Rep. Erik Paulsen**

November 15, 2012

"I strongly condemn the terrorist attacks against the people of Israel and continue to support Israel's right to defend itself. With rockets hitting as far North as Tel Aviv for the first time in more than 20 years, Hamas is increasingly putting civilian lives at risk. I stand by Israel as she seeks an end to violence." ([Press Release](#))

**Rep. Steve Pearce**

November 18, 2012

The people of Israel are in my thoughts and prayers today. Just last week I toured the region's Egypt-Gaza border, and I saw firsthand what little ground stands between Israel and their enemies. These recent attacks should remind the world what Israel is up against on a daily basis. Here at home, Americans must stand with them in their time of need. As a civilized society, we must stand against those who indiscriminately attack innocent civilians.

Throughout our existence, America has been the voice of liberty for the world. Simply, our friends in Israel want the freedom to exist in peace, freedom to live without the threat of attack. I call on my colleagues in Congress, and the President, to join with me in firm support of our strongest ally in the Middle East. *(Press Release)*

**Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi**

*November 16, 2012*

“With Israel under assault, Members of Congress on both sides of the aisle have made it clear: Israel has a right to defend herself as a nation. No Israeli family should be forced to endure constant threats to their lives or the persistent fear of rocket attacks. The targeting of innocent Israelis must end, and all efforts must be made to avoid the further loss of life.

“We all mourn the deaths of innocent civilians, and we call on Hamas to no longer place civilians in harm’s way. It is imperative that nations and leaders across the region urge Hamas to halt all attacks on Israel’s cities and people.

“Congress and America’s leaders will continue to monitor the situation closely. We offer our condolences to the loved ones of the innocent victims who lost their lives in recent days and encourage a peaceful resolution to this conflict.” *(Press Release)*

*November 15, 2012*

As we gather here, we have growing concern about the escalating violence in Israel and in Gaza. I want to associate myself with the comments of President Obama and ... with our Secretary of State. As you know, the President has stated that he has spoken with Prime Minister Netanyahu and expressed what we all believe, that Israel has the right to defend itself as a nation, and we are also concerned about any civilian deaths. We mourn those deaths, and we want Hamas not to put people in harm's way so that we can avoid the loss of civilian life. Last night I spoke to the White House on this subject, I just got off the phone with Ambassador Michael Oren. We will continue to monitor that situation. *(Press Conference)*

**Gov. Rick Perry**

*November 20, 2012*

“We are deeply saddened to see that the State of Israel is once again under siege by Hamas forces. Please know that I stand with Israel and call upon the government of the United States to rally the international community in defense of this sovereign territory.” *(Press Release)*

**Rep. Gary Peters**

*November 15, 2012*

“One of the most impactful experiences of my tenure in Congress was my visit to S'derot where Israelis face constant rocket attacks. Today, these attacks have resulted in the tragic deaths of three innocent Israelis. I strongly support Israel's right to self defense from these indiscriminate attacks on its civilians because innocent children should never know this kind of fear. I am reassured to know that President Obama is strongly supporting Israel during this difficult hour and consulting closely with Prime Minister Netanyahu.” [\(Press Release\)](#)

**Congressman-elect Robert Pittenger**

*November 21, 2012*

“Israel has a right to defend its nation and its people and I fully support her effort to defend and protect freedom.

War has terrible consequences and Israel deeply laments the losses of innocent families as does America and all nations who stand for freedom. I applaud the goal of the Israel Defense Force as they stated recently to "Improve the reality of life for Israeli citizens". Israel should not be forced to live under the daily threat of rockets fired from Gaza upon her citizens. Additionally, I applaud Israel's effort to "surgically remove", as the IDF stated, Hamas leaders to limit any civilian casualties.

Suzanne and I urge you to pray for Israel and the peace of Jerusalem. And pray for a peaceful resolution to this crisis.”

**Rep. Ted Poe**

*November 16, 2012*

Sirens wailed the warning as over 300 rockets from Hamas in Gaza rained down on Israel this week. Israelis were injured -- and at least one was killed. But ensuring its absolute right of self- defense, Israel responded to defend its people. Prime Minister Netanyahu said it best:

“The terrorists are committing a double-war crime. They fire at Israeli civilians and they hide behind Palestinian civilians.”

But the new Muslim Brotherhood government in Egypt (which was backed by the Administration) has condemned Israel, not Hamas.

The terrorist group Hamas doesn't want peace with Israel. It wants war. Hamas is the aggressor here! It kills Israeli civilians and then hides behind the skirts of Palestinian women. The world should condemn Hamas, not Israel.

Israel has the moral right and legal duty to defend itself from the attacks by the barbarians like Hamas.

The United States should be bold in its total support of Israel, our ally. The United States should be bold in its condemnation of Hamas. And the United States should be bold in opposing this war by terrorists like Hamas, on civilized nations.

And that's just the way it is. *(Floor Statement)*

**Sen. Rob Portman**

*November 16, 2012*

*As the menace of a nuclear-capable Iran hangs over the civilized world, we must stand with our ally Israel as it defends itself against bombardment by the Iranians' proxy Hamas. We must give Israel our full and unconditional support to defeat this terrorist scourge.*

*"When I was in Israel in May of this year, I saw up close the Iron Dome missile defense system, which is a cooperative effort between our two nations. The events of the last few days underscore the need to strengthen our security cooperation in missile defense, as well as other areas." ([Press Release](#))*

**Rep. Tom Price**

*November 15, 2012*

We must continue to stand with our ally Israel and all those who seek peace and an end to violence in the Middle East. ([Twitter](#))

**Rep. Charlie Rangel**

*November 19, 2012*

"I stand by the people of Israel and strongly condemn the terrorist attacks from Gaza. There is no justification for such violence. While I regret the death of innocent Israeli and Palestinian civilians caused by these recent airstrikes, I believe Israel has the right to defend itself. The focus now should be on how to bring security to the region until we can agree on a long-term solution." (*Press Release*)

**Rep. Tom Reed**

*November 19, 2012*

The U.S. House of Representatives today passed H. Res. 813 by unanimous consent. This bipartisan resolution sends a clear message that the United States supports the Israeli military operations in Gaza in the wake of recent attacks. The Hamas leadership in Gaza has proven its total disregard for civilian life on both side of the border and their attacks must stop.

It is imperative that we stand up for Israel's right to self-defense. Israel has not only has the right, but it has the responsibility to defend and protect its citizens from attacks. Israelis deserve to live free from fear of attack and our thoughts and prayers remain with them.

We stand united with our fellow democracy Israel in the face of the indiscriminate violence its citizens are threatened with. (*Press Release*)

**Rep. Scott Rigell**

*November 15, 2012*

The United States stands shoulder to shoulder with Israel as she exercises her inherent right and moral obligation to defend herself. ([Twitter](#))

**Rep. Peter Roskam**

November 20, 2012

"I write to voice my concern over Hamas' control of the Gaza Strip and continual rocket fire into Israeli population centers. Hamas must be condemned by the international community for their intent to cause harm and instill unnecessary fear in the lives of innocent civilians."

"Hamas' barrage of rocket fire and acts of targeted hatred toward Israel, a sovereign nation and member state of the United Nation, expressly prevents enduring peace in the Middle East." ([Letter to UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon](#))

**Rep. Dennis Ross**

November 16, 2012

*"Reports of rocket attacks on Jerusalem, the true Capital of Israel, by the terrorist group Hamas are disturbing. I support Israel's right to defend herself and protect her citizens against all acts of terrorism. America must stand behind Israel in her hour of need."* ([Press Release](#))

**Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen**

November 16, 2012

"Three Israeli civilians were killed yesterday morning after a rocket struck an apartment building in southern Israel, the first fatalities from the barrage of rocket attacks targeting civilians that have come from Hamas-controlled Gaza in the past six days. This is hardly a unique situation. Israeli civilians were subject to several days of rocket attacks just last month, and they continue to live their lives day to day knowing that such an event could occur at any time.

"While Hamas intentionally targets Israeli civilians, Israeli officials have alerted civilians in Gaza to the need to stay away from Hamas and its operatives, attempting to minimize casualties. Hamas' deliberate attacks against Israeli civilians are despicable, as is their continued use of innocent Palestinians civilians in Gaza as human shields. Congress clearly supports Israel's right to protect itself against attacks from violent extremists such as Hamas, and I strongly urge this Administration to stand with our ally both bilaterally and in multilateral fora as it seeks to defend its citizens." ([Press Release](#))

**Rep. Steve Rothman**

November 16, 2012

"I strongly support the Jewish State of Israel's right to defend itself in response to the rocket and mortar attacks that have been fired on innocent Israeli civilians by Gaza terrorists. In fact, since Israel's voluntary departure from the Gaza Strip in September 2005, Hamas and other Gaza terrorists have launched more than 9,000 rockets and mortars on Israeli towns.

While I deeply regret the loss of civilian life on both sides, Hamas (which controls all of Gaza), bears full responsibility for the death of its citizens, who are being used as pawns and human shields by the Gaza terrorists. The Israeli government is absolutely justified

to take action to defend their endangered citizens and bring an end to the terror from Gaza.” ([Press Release](#))

**Rep. Ed Royce**

*November 15, 2012*

“Israel has more than the right to defend itself, it has a duty to protect its citizens, which it is exercising. A wave of missile attacks have been hitting Israeli territory for several days. Hamas’ missiles are designed solely to terrorize and kill. No country would stand for this,” said Royce.

“Sirens are now sounding in southern Israel, warning citizens that they have seconds to take shelter. Six years ago, I was in northern Israel, as Haifa came under rocket fire from Hezbollah. I heard those same sirens. Now is the time to stand by Israel as its citizens are being terrorized.” (*Press Release*)

**Congressman-elect Raul Ruiz**

*November 20, 2012*

"I support the President in affirming Israel's right to defend itself against rocket attacks from Gaza. No country on earth would stand by while its civilian population is shelled by rockets from a neighbor."

**Rep. John Runyan**

*November 20, 2012*

“The senseless violence that has taken the lives of too many innocent civilians in the Israel-Palestinian conflict must stop. The United States must remain committed to helping Israel and the State of Israel must retain its ability to protect their citizens and defend their country. Please keep all of those affected by this violence in your thoughts and prayers.” (*Press Release*)

**Congressman-elect Matt Salmon**

*November 19, 2012*

"It is imperative that we continue to stand united with Israel and support their right to defend themselves from terrorist organizations like Hamas. While Israel has consistently looked for peaceful avenues to end this conflict, Hamas has chosen to use violence and terrorize innocent Israeli citizens. The violent provocations from Hamas are unequivocally wrong and completely unacceptable. I send my support to Prime Minister Netanyahu and the entire nation of Israel and vow to assist them in any way possible." (*Press Release*)

**Rep. John Sarbanes**

*November 19, 2012*

“The rocket attacks against Israel are wantonly destructive of efforts to achieve peace and stability for both Israelis and Palestinians. I support Israel’s decision to respond to these attacks from Hamas and other sponsors of terror as a matter of its fundamental right to self-defense.

“Avoiding the loss of innocent life is in the interest of all parties. The United States and others whose good offices can be brought to bear must stand with Israel as efforts to de-escalate the current conflict are pursued.” *(Press Release)*

**Governor Rick Scott**

*November 19, 2012*

“I commend Florida’s congressional delegation for supporting House Resolution 813 and Senate Resolution 599. These important resolutions reiterate America’s unwavering support for Israel during this difficult time. When I visited Israel last year, I learned firsthand of Hamas’ relentless campaign of terror against Israel’s southern cities. Now, after a year in which Hamas has launched nearly 900 missile and rocket attacks, Israel has initiated defensive measures to protect its citizens. Like all democracies, Israel has the inherent right to act in self-defense to end terrorist attacks. I stand firmly with our ally Israel and offer my continued prayers for peace and security.” *(Press Release)*

**Rep. Jan Schakowsky**

*November 15, 2012*

“I strongly condemn Hamas’s decision to escalate violence by launching a barrage of rockets against civilian centers in southern Israel. I stand with the President of the United States in unequivocally supporting Israel’s right to defend itself and its citizens from violence. Hamas and other terrorist groups must immediately halt the attacks against Israel.

The loss of innocent civilian lives, both Israeli and Palestinian, is tragic and regrettable, and I urge all parties to take every precaution to protect civilian lives. I support Prime Minister Netanyahu’s statement that Israel is doing “everything in its power” to avoid civilian casualties.

Hamas’s ongoing use of indiscriminate violence against Israeli is harmful to the cause of Palestinian statehood and dangerous to the Palestinian people in Gaza. Its oppressive regime has caused immense suffering.” *(Press Release)*

**Rep. Adam Schiff**

*November 16, 2012*

No government can allow its citizens to be attacked, and I support Israel's right to defend its people from the rain of rockets from Hamas-controlled Gaza. This latest cycle of violence, after so many others, is extremely disheartening, and we grieve for the innocent loss of life in Israel and Gaza. It's time for the people of Gaza to reject Hamas and its endless campaign of violence, so that Israelis and Palestinians can return to fruitful negotiations over a two state solution. ([Facebook](#))

**Congressman-elect Brad Schneider**

*November 16, 2012*

I strongly condemn Hamas' attacks on Israel, and I stand in full support of Israel’s sovereign right to defend herself and bring peace and quiet to her citizens. I have personally visited many of the Israeli communities now under fire and stand in solidarity

with them and call on those responsible for the violence to halt the attacks against Israel's innocent civilians. *(Press Release)*

**Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz**

*November 14, 2012*

“With our deepest concern and strongest support, the United States stands firm with our ally Israel, currently under fire from an onslaught of Hamas rockets. I reject Hamas’s relentless violence, and commend President Obama’s unwavering commitment to our ally, including his fundamental support for the Iron Dome missile defense system. As the days unfold, we remain united in our support of Israel’s sovereign right to self-defense and ever hopeful for a return to calm and peace. My thoughts and prayers remain with the people of Israel in these uncertain times.” *(Press Release)*

**Sen. Charles Schumer**

*November 19, 2012*

“Israel has an unalienable right and duty to defend herself from rocket attacks designed to kill thousands of its citizens. There is no justification for the horrendous violence that Hamas and other terrorist organizations are employing against the people of Israel. Hamas should stop these cowardly acts immediately – and if they do not – Israel has the right to defend its citizens and ensure they will not be hostage to terrorist missile fire and cross-border attacks.” *(Press Release)*

**Rep. Allyson Schwartz**

*November 16, 2012*

“The continued and now escalated rocket attacks on Israel by anti-Israel Hamas extremists from Gaza are unacceptable and a threat to Israel's security and people. The continuation of these attacks and their extension into dense population centers must be stopped.

Israel's response is well within its right as it protects its people and its nation. I stand with Israel as she seeks to protect herself and her people and call on Hamas to stand down so that a peaceful resolution can be sought for Israel and her neighbors.” *(Press Release)*

**Rep. David Schweikert**

*November 19, 2012*

In the last week alone, the Hamas terrorist organization has launched 150 rockets and mortars at Southern Israel and has carried out three cross-border attacks. Over 760 rockets and mortars have been fired into Israel in 2012. Israel cannot tolerate the escalation of rocket fire aimed at its citizens.

Israel is acting in self-defense and out of its responsibility to protect Israeli civilians from terrorist attacks. Israel has demonstrated great restraint for a long period, but cannot stand for the recurring attacks on its citizens. No other state would accept a similar reality.

People around the world should support Israel's right to self defense. The message to Hamas should be clear: stop the attacks on Israel.

This operation comes after much restraint and repeated public and diplomatic warnings to Hamas to stop its attacks on Israel.

It should be noted that Hamas deliberately targets Israeli civilians while shooting from within populated areas such as near mosques, hospitals and schools. Israel is doing its utmost to protect civilian life in Gaza. *(Press Release)*

**Rep. Bobby Scott**  
*November 20, 2012*

"I continue to support Israel, our democratic ally in the Middle East, and its right to self defense. My thoughts and prayers are with all those affected by the current escalation of hostilities in the region, and I hope that stability and peace will soon prevail."

**Rep. Tim Scott**  
*November 15, 2012*

We will stand firmly with our Israeli allies as they defend themselves. Hamas must stop its campaign of terror against the Israeli people. [\(Twitter\)](#)

**Rep. Pete Sessions**  
*November 19, 2012*

"I strongly believe that Israel has the inalienable right to protect herself and keep her citizens safe from extremists as violence continues to escalate in the Gaza strip. Last week, my colleagues and I in the House approved H.Res.813, which reaffirmed our unwavering commitment to our ally Israel. As always, I will continue to stand by Israel and to give my steadfast support to advancing a safer and more open Middle East."  
*(Press Release)*

**Rep. Brad Sherman**  
*November 19, 2012*

*"I fully back Israel's right to defend itself against the terrorist infrastructure in Gaza. Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad terrorists in Gaza have fired over 1700 rockets and mortars at Israeli civilians in 2012. With new and improved rocket technology provided by Iran, millions, not thousands, of Israelis now live within range of these attacks in the south and center of Israel.*

*"Virtually all of the Hamas rocket attacks are aimed at civilian, not military targets, to incite terror and panic in the Israeli public. Palestinian rockets from Gaza are aimed at Israeli kindergartens, schools, hospitals, and apartment buildings. Each of these rockets represents a war crime.*

*"Israel by contrast tries to limit civilian casualties and only seeks to destroy military targets.*

*"Iron Dome has successfully intercepted more than 300 rockets launched at Israeli civilians, destroying about 90% of the missiles targeted by the system. I am pleased to have strongly supported Congressional funding for this successful program.*

*"Tehran has smuggled and armed Palestinian terrorists with the Fajr-5, a rocket with a range of over 45 miles, which can strike Tel Aviv and other areas in the heavily populated central region of Israel. Tehran's role in this conflict, and its training, funding, and arming of Hamas, Palestinian Islamic Jihad, Hezbollah, and other terrorist organizations, underscore the dire threat of the Iranian nuclear program. A nuclear-armed Iran would back terrorism throughout the world with total impunity. We must act now decisively to bring maximum economic pressure on Iran over its continuing nuclear path.*

*"Israel withdrew from Gaza and received endless rocket fire in return. Iran and Hamas' goal is to destroy the Jewish state. Hamas once maintained it is fighting to end the occupation of Gaza; now it is fighting to 'liberate' Tel Aviv, Haifa, and Jerusalem from Israel altogether.*

*"The U.S. remains committed to a two state solution for the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, as do many within the Palestinian Authority and the wider Palestinian society, especially in the West Bank. Hamas, along with its patron Iran, are violently opposed to such a solution.*

*"I will work with bipartisan colleagues in Congress and the Obama Administration to strengthen joint U.S-Israel defense projects and further expand economic, financial, and diplomatic pressure on Tehran. American national security interests in the Middle East depend on our effectiveness in countering Iran's nuclear program and Tehran's growing menace in the region." (Press Release)*

**Rep. Jackie Speier**

November 19, 2012

Act of aggression by Hamas must be put down. Egypt and the United States must act swiftly to stop the offensive. Israel has a clear right to defend itself. ([Facebook](#))

**Rep. Adam Smith**

November 17, 2012

*"I strongly condemn the relentless rocket attacks from Gaza into Israel. The random targeting of civilian populations is something that should never be tolerated and Israel has the absolute right to defend itself.*

*"The Israeli people have never known peace and stability and generations have grown up in a culture of warfare, fear, and terror. For these reasons it is critical that we support Israel and do everything we can to ensure Israel can defend itself.*

*"I am also sympathetic to the plight of Palestinians - the humanitarian crisis in Gaza is extremely troubling, but it cannot be resolved as long as Hamas and others in Gaza continue to attack Israel." ([Press Release](#))*

**Rep. Chris Smith**

*November 16, 2012*

Mr. Speaker, this week and even today Israel's terrorist enemies massively escalated their rocket attacks on our country's closest ally, Israel-- Hamas has fired its rockets at large cities whose population has not been under attack for decades, including Tel Aviv and Jerusalem, the latter of which had never been subject to rocket attack. Sadly, three people have been killed.

Words cannot express the inhumanity and barbarity of these rocket attacks. The number of Israelis who live under daily threat of air attack has increased exponentially: more than a third of Israel's population lives in the Tel Aviv metropolitan area alone, which was last under rocket fire during the first Gulf War.

This is the moment for America to send a clear message: Hamas's rocket attacks are completely and totally unacceptable and unjustified and intolerable, their escalation even more so. The Israeli government has not only the right but the duty to defend its people. I want to recognize and applaud Israel for vigorously doing so, and for taking every reasonable precaution to avoid civilian casualties. I want to remind my colleagues that Hamas's goal is not to avoid civilian casualties, but to initiate conflict that will cause it, so that all the people killed, whether Israeli or Palestinian, are in fact Hamas's victims. Our hearts and prayers go out to their families. *(Floor Statement)*

**Congresswoman-elect Krysten Sinema**

*November 18, 2012*

Both Houses of Congress have unanimously passed resolutions in support of Israel's inherent right of self-defense. I stand firm in my support of Israel's right to defend its population from these indiscriminate attacks as any other nation does. Cowardly rocket attacks against civilians are immoral and unacceptable. Hamas should immediately cease and desist. It is important that the Israeli Defense Forces continue to take reasonable efforts to minimize civilian casualties. *(Press Release)*

**Congressman-elect Steve Stockman**

*November 16, 2012*

"Every nation has the right, and the obligation, to protect their citizens. Israel has suffered through thousands of rockets and missiles launched by the terrorists of Hamas and other Palestinian terror organizations. Iranian money has flowed into the Gaza Strip and multiple jihadist organizations. The goal is to murder Jews, and make life unlivable for America's only true ally in the Middle East.

I support Israel's absolute right to strike back, and indeed to re-occupy the Gaza Strip if necessary in order to bring peace to Israeli communities in the South. My trips to Israel have convinced me of the urgency of reestablishing a deterrent against Hamas and their ilk.

I ask that the moderate Muslims in the Middle East join with Israel in pursuing the path of peace and rejecting the failed policies of war and terror." *(Press Release)*

**Congressman-elect Eric Swallwell**

*November 16, 2012*

I am very concerned about the terrorist attacks in Israel. No country deserves to have their innocent civilians under constant attack. I stand with hundreds of Members of Congress who support Israel's security and right to defend itself. I pray that long-term peace will soon find the region and that immediate calm for Israel's people will replace unsettling fear. *(Press Release)*

**Congressman-elect Mark Takano**

*November 19, 2012*

"Alongside President Obama and Secretary of State Clinton, I stand with the people of Israel. Any peace in the Middle East must be built upon acceptance of Israel's right to exist, her right to protect herself and her right respond to attacks. We must continue to stand alongside our friend and ally Israel during this trying time." *(Press Release)*

**Congresswoman-elect Dina Titus**

*November 17, 2012*

I strongly back the decision by Prime Minister Netanyahu and the Israeli government to act in legitimate self-defense. Like people everywhere, Israelis must have the right to live free from the threat or the use of force against them.

Israelis have lived under the constant threat of rockets from Hamas-controlled Gaza for years. More than 800 rockets have been fired from Gaza into southern Israel this year alone, threatening the lives of all those who live there. I saw the damage they've done when I visited Sderot and heard horrifying stories from residents. Until Hamas ceases these unjustifiable attacks, peace will not be attainable.

Like Israel's government, I regret the loss of life and harm done to all innocent people but I stand with Israel, our strongest democratic ally in the region, and I encourage others to do so as well. Israel must have the right to protect its citizens and its sovereignty. *(Press Release)*

**Senator Pat Toomey**

*November 15, 2012*

"Israel is our greatest friend in the region and one of our strongest allies in the world. In the face of unrelenting attacks from a terrorist organization bent on destroying the Jewish state, Israel has every right to defend its borders and its citizens. I'm glad President Obama has voiced his support for Israel during this trying time, and I urge our allies around the world to do the same." *(Press Release)*

**Rep. Niki Tsongas**

*November 16, 2012*

"The escalation of violence in Israel and the Gaza Strip and the loss of civilian life on both sides of this conflict is a grave tragedy. Both Palestinians and Israelis suffer because of the violence of Hamas and the United States should play a constructive role in the peace process. Israelis must be assured that their security will not be compromised and that rocket attacks on their citizens will cease. Palestinians must see

that that a rejection of violence and terror can bring significant economic and social benefits, including the realization of a Palestinian state." ([Facebook](#))

**Sen. Mark Udall**

*November 21, 2012*

"This cease-fire is welcome news for Israelis, the Palestinians and all who reside in the region. Too many lives have already been lost over the past week," Udall said. "Israel has a right to defend itself and its citizens from attack. And Hamas should realize that every rocket it fires into Israel sets back its cause — and prospects for a sustainable resolution to this conflict. It is my hope that the cease-fire holds and provides a starting point for a lasting peace."

**Congressman-elect Juan Vargas**

*November 18, 2012*

"I condemn in the strongest possible terms the current aggression by Hamas against the innocent civilian population in Israel. Israel has suffered an unrelenting and intensifying barrage of rocket and mortar attacks and has every right to defend herself, her borders, and her citizens against these senseless and indiscriminate killings. Recent reports suggest over the past eleven months Hamas has fired more than 900 rockets and projectiles at Israel, with more than 300 of these having been launched over the past week alone. Israel cannot allow these attacks to continue unanswered and has an obligation to defend herself as well as her people. I applaud President Obama for his leadership and strong condemnation of these attacks. I stand united with the citizens of Israel and offer my thoughts and prayers in this moment of crisis and hope for a swift and just resolution to the situation." (*Press Release*)

**Rep. Chris Van Hollen**

*November 15, 2012*

"I strongly condemn Hamas' firing of rockets from Gaza into Israel, which has terrorized Israel's civilian population. Israel has every right to defend herself from these senseless and cowardly attacks on her citizens. I call on Hamas to immediately stop its attacks on Israel to allow the situation to de-escalate." (*Press Release*)

**Congressman-elect Marc Veasey**

*November 20, 2012*

"I support Israel's right to defend itself and its people. Israel is a sovereign nation with a right to self-defense. In order to achieve a lasting peace, Hamas must acknowledge Israel's right to exist, and cease its unprovoked missile attacks on Israel and its people. Absent that commitment from Hamas, Israel has no choice but to respond to these attacks; both to protect its own people and to prevent future attacks. My thoughts and prayers are with Israel and its leaders during this difficult time." (*Press Release*)

**Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa**

*November 21, 2012*

"I would like to commend President Obama and Secretary Clinton for their leadership in arranging a cease-fire between Israel and Hamas."

Israel must always retain its right to defend its people. My heart goes out to those – both Israeli and Palestinian –who have lost loved ones in the violence. I support our on-going efforts to achieve a lasting peace." (Press Release)

**Sen. David Vitter**

*November 19, 2012*

"The violence against the Israeli people by Hamas and terrorists organizations in Gaza, always bad, has been escalating horribly for the past six days. Israel has every right to defend itself, and I believe it's crucial for the U.S. to stand with its strongest ally in this hostile region during Operation Pillar of Defense." (*Press Release*)

**Rep. Joe Walsh**

*November 15, 2012*

"I applaud Secretary Clinton for reiterating the United State's support for Israel's right to self defense," said Walsh. "But this is hardly enough. More than 220 rockets have been fired at Israeli civilians from militants in Gaza. The United States must hold the Palestinians accountable for these unprovoked, heinous acts. It must also hold Egypt, Qatar, and Iran accountable for their support of Palestinian militants and the terrorist group Hamas."

"I am disappointed that Egyptian President Mohamed Morsi has used this unprovoked attack on Israel to reveal both his sympathy for the terrorist group, Hamas, and his opposition to Middle East peace. Why are we providing Egypt with \$2 billion in foreign aid every year to vilify our allies and oppose American interests? It's time to hold Egypt accountable as well. I urge the President to withhold foreign aid to Egypt until it publicly reaffirms its treaties with Israel." ([Press Release](#))

**Rep. Greg Walden**

*November 27, 2012*

"Now more than ever, America must stand shoulder-to-shoulder with our friend and ally Israel. Our countries and people share a common desire for individual freedom, security, and peace. We value democracy and we understand that these basic human rights are achieved and safeguarded at a steep price by those who wear our nations' uniforms.

"Earlier this month, I was proud to support a resolution unanimously passed by the U.S. House to send a clear message: we stand with Israel. The resolution expresses our unwavering commitment to Israel's security and strongly supports its right to defend its citizens from acts of terror.

"I will continue to work with my colleagues—on both sides of the aisle—to ensure that U.S. cooperation with and support for Israel remains a priority in the U.S. House of Representatives."

**Senator-elect Elizabeth Warren**

*November 19, 2012*

I wish I could be here with you today in solidarity. My thoughts and prayers are with the people of Israel and the innocent people who are the victims in this conflict. There is no justification for Hamas's attacks against the Israeli people, and I strongly condemn these rocket attacks from Gaza into Southern Israel. I support Israel's right to defend itself, and my deepest hope is that the violence and suffering can come to an end. *(Statement to Congregation Mishkan Tefila)*

**Rep. Henry Waxman**

*November 15, 2012*

“The United States stands firmly with Israel as it responds to the onslaught of rockets terrorizing cities across Southern Israel. The deadly escalation of attacks by Hamas is a war on Israeli civilians and a grave danger to the Palestinians in Gaza already suffering under the oppressive Hamas regime. It is imperative that the international community defend Israel’s right to defend itself.” [\(Press Release\)](#)

**Congressman-elect Randy Weber**

*November 19, 2012*

In no other country, has public pressure worked so diligently to tie the hands of Israel's right to defend herself. And yet, few others endure the barrage of bombings and terrorist attack on a daily basis. Israel has an inherent right to defend their borders and protect their own. They have exemplified to the world what it means to stand firm in the face of terrorism, and the world is better for it. The United States must remain resolute in their support and respect of Israel's right to self-defense.” *(Press Release)*

**Rep. Allen West**

*November 15, 2012*

“I fully support the Israeli military strike that killed the Hamas military wing chief, Ahmed Jabari. Hamas is a known Islamic terrorist organization and clearly states in its charter the aim to destroy the modern day State of Israel.

Mr. Jabari has been responsible for countless rocket and missile attacks originating from Gaza Strip into Southern Israel. I have personally seen the destruction this causes, and visited the City of Sderot where bomb shelters stand on school playgrounds and children suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder.

The Israeli’s turned over Gaza to the Palestinians in an offer to further the peace process. What they have received in return are more attacks and carnage. I stand with Israel, and as a Member of the House Armed Services Committee, will support supplying the requested resources enabling Israel to defend herself from our common enemy, radical Islamic terrorism. We cannot abandon our best ally in her true time of need. We have no doubt that the new Muslim Brotherhood government in Egypt supports Hamas.” [\(Press Release\)](#)

**Sen. Roger Wicker**

*November 16, 2012*

We must continue to stand with our ally Israel & support its right to act in self-defense to protect its citizens against acts of terrorism. ([Twitter](#))

**Congressman-elect Roger Williams**

*November 19, 2012*

"Today, we pray for peace in the Middle East. But we do so while maintaining our commitment to a free and secure Israel. We hope that the violence will end. But we should not and cannot ever deny Israel's right to defend itself." (*Press Release*)

**Rep. Frederica Wilson**

*November 16, 2012*

*"In light of the escalating violence in Gaza, it is my hope that there will be a swift and peaceful resolution to prevent any further loss of civilian lives. I stand in support of Israel's right to self-defense against rocket attacks or any other acts of aggression. Israel is one of our greatest allies and has my full support. I stand in support of President Obama and his vigilance to see that these attacks will cease immediately without escalation," says Congresswoman Wilson. ([Press Release](#))*

**Rep. Joe Wilson**

*November 16, 2012*

"The escalating conflict in the Middle East between Hamas and Israel is a result of ongoing attacks in which Hamas indiscriminately targets Israeli civilians with rockets and mortars. Israel, our most valued Ally in the region, has a right to defend herself against these threats. The United States will continue to stand by Israel and the Israeli people, just as we have done since her founding in 1948.

"The rocket and mortar attacks being launched by Hamas are acts of cowardice and terrorism and have no place in a civil world. As a nation, our thoughts and prayers are with the people of Israel. It is our hope that the conflict will be resolved and the region will return to peace. I encourage the President to stand behind Israel and help bring this conflict to an end." (*Press Release*)

\*AIPAC has made every effort to include ensure this list is as comprehensive as possible. Please email [information@aipac.org](mailto:information@aipac.org) with any statements which may have been inadvertently left off.