

Castle Responds to Middle East Violence, Joins Congress in Condemning Violence Against Israel -- July 20, 2006

Washington, D.C. -- Delaware Congressman Mike Castle released the following statement on the recent violence in the Middle East, in the wake of a vote by the House of Representatives today condemning the recent attacks against the State of Israel.

"Over the last few weeks, terrorists operating from Lebanon and the Gaza Strip have attacked civilian targets in Israel and kidnapped Israeli soldiers. As a result, the Israeli government has responded with force, and the region has been engulfed in violence.

"The United States Congress is working closely with the State Department to help reestablish stability in this region, and I join my colleagues in condemning in the strongest terms such unprovoked acts of terrorism against Israel. Hundreds of people have already been killed in the course of this dispute and I believe it is crucial that the international community play a greater role in ending this conflict. As part of this effort, it is very important that the UN and moderate governments in the region assume more responsibility.

"Negotiating a peace agreement in the Middle East will be extremely difficult. Still, achieving stability in this part of the world is essential to our security and it is vital that all involved parties come together and consider realistic solutions to end the fighting."