

Bob Dole



NEWS

U. S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS

FROM:

SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER

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Contact: Clarkson Hine
(202) 224-5358

MIDDLE EAST TERROR ATTACKS

DOLE: TIME FOR ALL SUPPORTERS OF PEACE PROCESS
TO TAKE FIRM ACTION; ARAFAT NEEDS TO DO MORE

BUFFALO, NY -- Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole today issued the following statement after today's terror bombing in Israel:

"I share the shock and outrage expressed by all civilized people after the wave of vicious terrorist attacks in Israel. I condemn the brutal and cowardly attacks by those determined to kill Israelis and kill the peace process. I offer my condolences to the families of all the innocent victims. More than sixty Israelis -- and two Americans -- have been murdered over the last ten days. Talks with Syria and the Palestinian Authority have been suspended. The peace process in the Middle East faces a moment of decision. Peace cannot prosper when the streets of Israel are turned into a war zone. If a secure and just peace is to be built, it is time for all supporters of the peace process to take firm action -- in the Palestinian Authority, in the Middle East, and around the world.

"Chairman Arafat needs to do much more to crack down on Palestinian terrorism. The Palestinian Authority must take visible, effective steps to dismantle terrorist groups, disarm terrorists and turn over suspected terrorists to Israeli authorities. Syria must also do more to show it is serious about peace -- shutting down terrorist groups which continue to use Damascus as a base of operations. Finally, the international community must do more to sever the economic lifeline to the state sponsors of terrorism in Iran and Libya. It's time for our allies to put principle before profit when dealing with Tehran and Tripoli. International support for Hamas and other terrorist groups must be cut off, and their international supporters must be isolated.

"In the coming days, I expect the Congress to act. Legislation toughening U.S. and international sanctions on Iran and Libya has already passed the Senate. The events of the last week increase the urgency for final action on this measure increasing pressure on Libya and Iran to cease their support for terrorist organizations like Hamas. I expect Congress to complete action soon on broad anti-terrorist legislation passed by the Senate last year. This legislation restricts the ability of terrorist groups to raise money in the U.S., facilitates the deportation of alien terrorists, and strengthens U.S. counter-terrorism efforts overseas.

"I believe Congress will also take a hard look at assistance to the Palestinian Authority after these terrorist assaults. Unless and until serious anti-terrorist actions are implemented by Chairman Arafat, it is difficult to justify continued U.S. assistance to the Palestinian Authority."

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