

Bob Dole



NEWS

U.S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS

FROM:

SENATE MAJORITY LEADER

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Contact: Clarkson Hine
(202) 224-5358

MIDDLE EAST TERRORIST ATTACKS

WASHINGTON - Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole yesterday introduced a bipartisan resolution condemning brutal terrorist attacks in Israel. The U.S. Senate approved the resolution by a vote of 96-0. Senator Dole's remarks follow:

This resolution condemns the brutal terrorist attacks in Israel. Any peace process must show benefits if it is to work. Unfortunately, average Israelis are seeing increased terrorism and increased insecurity as extremists seek to use violence to derail peace. If the Israeli population concludes that the peace process is not in their interest, the process will halt.

Since September 13, 1993 when the Declaration of Principles was signed, 110 Israelis have been killed in acts of terrorism. Hundreds more have been wounded. And despite requirements for the Palestinian authority to bring those responsible for acts of violence to justice, not one terrorist has been convicted and sentenced.

Just as troubling as Chairman Arafat's inaction in the face of terrorism is the continued refusal of Syrian President Assad to crack down on terrorist groups operating from Syria and Syrian-controlled Lebanon. It is a sad fact that the statement claiming "credit" for last Sunday's barbaric attack was issued by "Islamic Jihad" from Syria. Syria and Syrian-controlled Lebanon remain the address of choice for many of the most bloodthirsty terrorists in the world.

The peace process in the Middle East is at a crossroads. Israel is divided over the best course to protect its future. We in the United States cannot and should not get involved in the internal Israeli debate. We can and should, however, express our condolences to those murdered, and our hope that those injured recover completely. We should also express our outrage that these acts continue -- without adequate responses from Syria or the PLO. I am pleased to be joined by Senators Daschle, Helms, and Pell in passing this expression of the Senate's views.

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