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Congressman Mario Diaz-Balart Outraged at St. Pete Democrat Club Ad

WASHINGTON—Congressman Mario Diaz-Balart (R-Fla.) today released the following statement voicing his outrage at the St. Petersburg Democratic Club's newspaper advertisement urging the assassination of Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld and comparing Iraqi insurgents to American patriots in the Revolutionary War:

"Outrage does not begin to express how I feel about this. To call for the open assassination of any U.S. official is unconscionable.

"This reprehensible ad is a disservice and insult to all the troops, including the thousands from Florida, in Iraq honorably protecting our nation and our world. How dare anyone compare murderous Iraqi thugs to the patriots of the Revolutionary War even as they try to kill coalition troops, relief workers, and other Iraqis.

"It is disgusting to see to what level of anti-Americanism the left-wing extremists in the Democrat party have lowered themselves. John Kerry needs to condemn the left-wing extremists in his party. Their unbridled hate and venom for the United States are a blight on the Democrat party as a whole."

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