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Shuster Statement on the Gaza Flotilla

Washington, DC - Congressman Bill Shuster released the following statement concerning the events surrounding the Gaza Flotilla's efforts to break Israel's blockade of the Gaza Strip:

“Like any other nation, Israel has an absolute right to protect itself from attack. Hamas has received weapons hidden in humanitarian aid shipments to the Gaza Strip in the past and there is no question that Israel’s blockade of Gaza has decreased the threat of attack by Hamas on innocent Israeli civilians.

The actions of the flotilla activists over the past few weeks prove that they are not concerned with the peace process or with working with Israel to secure its border along the Gaza Strip. Instead, their violence upon breaking the blockade demonstrated that they are more interested in attacking Israel than helping the Palestinians. The international community should recognize this instead of jumping to conclusions and investigations on Israel’s motives for enforcing the blockage.

Further, the international community should be alarmed at recent remarks by the Iranian regime promising to add Iranian Revolutionary Guard support to future flotilla efforts. This cannot stand. Our ally Israel is under siege and the United States must reaffirm its support for the people of Israel and their right to self-defense.”

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