

Dr. Burgess Weekly Video Address July 25, 2014 “Supporting Israel”

Hello, this is your Congressman, Michael Burgess. This week, I'd like to talk about the issues in the Middle East between Israel and the Palestinian terror group Hamas.

In recent weeks, the fighting between the two has escalated. Hamas has fired tens of thousands of rockets and mortar fire into Israel. They have built tunnels from Gaza into Israel to better carry out attacks against the Israelis. Even the recent cease-fires negotiated by Egypt have been broken by Hamas. They have continued to fight.

Hamas' actions were unprovoked, and Israel has understandably retaliated. They have taken reasonable steps to defend themselves against these attacks, including the launching of an air campaign to take out rocket batteries. They have also launched a tactical, measured ground offensive to eradicate actions by Hamas and prevent its access to Israel.

I believe Israel has been just in defending its homeland. As the 16-day war rages on, it is important that the United States continues to stand in support of Israel, our ally. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said it best when he summed up the conflict by saying, “Here's the difference between us. We're using missile defense to protect our civilians, and they're using their civilians to protect their missiles.”

And just yesterday, Secretary of State John Kerry met with both parties to try to broker a deal, and it was again rejected by Hamas.

On a Congressional level, I'm staying up to date on this topic. Recently, I signed onto two resolutions, H. Res. 657 and H. Res. 98, which declare support for Israel's right to self defense and call on Hamas to stop launching rockets. I will continue to monitor this situation closely.

As always, I welcome your questions and comments on this issue. Thank you for taking the time to listen. May God bless you and your family, and as always may God bless Texas.