

# LARSON STATEMENT ON ISRAEL RESOLUTION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 9, 2009

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WASHINGTON, DC &ndash; Today, members of the United State House of Representatives voted overwhelmingly in favor of a resolution that reaffirms our support for Israel and the right of the Israeli people to protect themselves.

Congressman John B. Larson (CT-01), Chairman of the House Democratic Caucus, said:

&ldquo;Today, the House of Representatives stood in solidarity with the people of Israel and reaffirmed their right to protect themselves from Hamas attacks.

&ldquo;When Israel pulled out of the Gaza Strip in 2005, they did it with the hopes of creating peace and calm. Unfortunately, since then Hamas has fired more than 6,000 rockets onto Israeli soil, killing and injuring Israeli citizens. During this time, Israel has shown remarkable restraint in not retaliating. But, in December 2008 Hamas brazenly refused to continue a ceasefire. Instead they chose to ratchet up attacks. Israel was forced to respond.

&ldquo;No other country in the world would have shown that kind of restraint, and none should be asked to.

&ldquo;At the same time, we recognize the dire humanitarian crisis currently taking place in Gaza. While Israel has provided humanitarian assistance throughout this conflict, the situation will not be fully addressed until a stable and lasting peace can be achieved between the Israelis and Palestinians.

&ldquo;For that reason, I support a ceasefire that ends rocket attacks by Hamas, prevents additional arms and explosives from entering Gaza, and jumpstarts a diplomatic initiative in the region.&rdquo;

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