

INTERIM RESOLUTION 2011-010

URGING CONGRESS AND THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES TO STAND  
BESIDE ISRAEL IN THE FACE OF INCREASED ATTACKS UPON ISRAEL AS A  
SOVEREIGN NATION, TO HONOR OUR NATION'S LONG-STANDING  
RELATIONSHIP WITH ISRAEL AS AN ALLY, AND TO SUPPORT THE ARKANSAS  
JEWISH COMMUNITY AND THE NATION OF ISRAEL.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ARKANSAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OF THE 88TH GENERAL  
ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

WHEREAS, Israel is one of our country's strongest allies and shares  
common democratic values and national interests with the United States; and

WHEREAS, Israel is a small country in a strategically vital and  
increasingly inhospitable region of the world; and

WHEREAS, Israel has been repeatedly targeted by unprovoked rocket  
attacks and acts of terrorism; and

WHEREAS, more than one thousand one hundred fifty (1,150) rockets  
have been fired upon the nation of Israel since the beginning of 2012; and

WHEREAS, more than four thousand (4,000) rockets and mortar shells  
have been fired at Israel from the Gaza Strip by Hamas and other terrorist  
organizations since Israeli forces were withdrawn in 2005; and

WHEREAS, the rocket fire has been targeted primarily and intentionally  
at civilian communities in Israel, damaging homes, buildings, roads, power  
lines, and other infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, the attacks have forced Israel to suffer dozens of  
casualties, hundreds of shock victims, thousands of traumatized children, and  
the severe disruption of daily life; and

1           WHEREAS, the unprovoked rocket attacks and acts of terrorism represent  
2 the greatest obstacles to Israel's ongoing attempts to achieve a lasting  
3 peace with the Palestinians; and  
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5           WHEREAS, the United States and Israel maintain a special relationship  
6 based on shared cultural and political values and common interests; and  
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8           WHEREAS, since September 11, 2001, the United States has benefited in  
9 the war against terrorism from Israel's experience, expertise, innovations,  
10 and cooperation, saving American lives and bolstering America's defense; and  
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12           WHEREAS, the United States and Israel share a core strategic belief  
13 that democratic reform in the Middle East can bring peace and change to the  
14 political environment that breeds terrorists and funds terrorism; and  
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16           WHEREAS, Israel is an extremely capable and willing ally of the United  
17 States, as evidenced by Israel's support for the United States' positions in  
18 international forums such as the United Nations,  
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20 NOW THEREFORE,

21 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OF THE EIGHTY-EIGHTH GENERAL  
22 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
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24           THAT the Legislative Council:

25               (1) Condemns, in the strongest possible terms, rocket attacks  
26 and any form of terrorist act upon the nation of Israel and its civilian  
27 population;

28               (2) Supports the sovereign right of Israel to defend its  
29 territory and stop the rocket attacks on its citizens;

30               (3) Regards rocket attacks and the fostering of terrorism in the  
31 Palestinian territories as direct hindrances to the peace process in the  
32 region;

33               (4) Reaffirms the strong and unyielding friendship between the  
34 governments and the people of Israel and the United States; and

(5) Urges the President and Congress to staunchly support Israel, a friend and ally of the United States, against further rocket attacks and any other form of terrorism.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that upon adoption of this resolution, a copy be transmitted to the President of the United States of America and to each member of the Arkansas delegation to the United States Congress.

Respectfully submitted,

Senator Jason Rapert  
District 18

Respectfully submitted,

Representative Stephen Meeks  
District 47

Respectfully submitted,

Representative Mary P. "Prissy" Hickerson  
District 1

Respectfully submitted,

Representative Linda Collins-Smith  
District 80

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By: DLP/PAT