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[www.house.gov/shuster](http://www.house.gov/shuster)

Contact: Jeff Urbanchuk, Press Secretary  
(202) 225-2431  
(202) 593-1040 cell  
(202) 225-2486 fax  
[jg.urbanchuk@mail.house.gov](mailto:jg.urbanchuk@mail.house.gov)

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### ***Shuster Condemns Hamas and Expresses Disapproval of Jimmy Carter's Freelance Diplomacy with Terrorists***

*Washington, D.C.* – **Congressman Bill Shuster** today introduced a resolution that condemns the terrorist group Hamas and expresses Congress' disapproval with former President Jimmy Carter's freelance shadow diplomacy with terrorists bent on attacking Israeli and American interests.

This week former President Jimmy Carter embarked on a trip to the Middle East where he will meet with Israeli and Palestinian Authority officials on the issue of peace talks. Carter arranged the trip on his own and is meeting with foreign officials against the wishes of the Bush Administration. Carter's insistence on meeting with Khalid Mashaal, the exiled leader of Hamas has angered the government of Israel, a key ally of the United States and a willing participant in the peace process.

"If President Carter thinks Hamas is interested in peace then he's far more naive than I first thought," Shuster said. "Hamas is a terrorist organization and nothing more. They have the blood of innocents on their hands and continue to plan future attacks that will kill more civilians."

According to the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs, since 2000, Hamas has executed over 52 suicide attacks that killed 288 Israelis and wounded 1,646. Most recently, Hamas proudly took credit for a March 6, 2008 attack that killed eight students of the Mercaz Harav Yeshiva in Jerusalem.

"Meeting with Hamas gains nothing and risks muddying the water in our official negotiations between the Palestinian Authority and the Israeli government," Shuster added. "The state of affairs between the Israelis and Palestinians is too fragile to have a former President mucking things up."

Within hours of its introduction, Shuster's resolution already attracted nine cosponsors. The resolution expresses Congress' solidarity with the State of Israel and its democratic government. Further, the resolution condemns Hamas and calls on the former President to stop meeting with known terrorists.

Congressman Shuster is available to speak to the media on his resolution. For a copy of the resolution as well as interview and booking requests, please contact Jeff Urbanchuk at [jg.urbanchuk@mail.house.gov](mailto:jg.urbanchuk@mail.house.gov).

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