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## **Shuster Statement on Gaza Conflict**

*Washington, DC* - **Congressman Bill Shuster**, a member of the Armed Services Committee, released the following statement supporting Israel's right to self defense against Hamas' continued aggression in Gaza:

"Israel is beset on all sides by enemies that will settle for nothing less than the eradication of the Israeli state and her people from the earth. Article thirteen of Hamas' own charter unequivocally states that 'There is no solution for the Palestinian question except through Jihad. Initiatives, proposals and international conferences are all a waste of time and vain endeavors.' The rocket attacks that continue to be carried out by Hamas against innocent Israeli civilians demonstrate that the terrorists are determined to hold true to their charter regardless of what it may cost in human life or destruction of property.

Over 3,000 Hamas rockets have been launched into Israeli territory since the beginning of the year. It was Hamas, not Israel that broke the ceasefire on December 19th. I ardently support a lasting two state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and hope that a mediated and durable ceasefire can be implemented to stop the current violence. However, there is no question in my mind that as a sovereign nation, Israel has the absolute right to self defense to protect its territory and its people from harm."

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