



Congresswoman Marilyn Musgrave
Colorado's Fourth Congressional District



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Congresswoman Urges President To Support Removal Of Arafat
Rep. Musgrave leads petition with 48 Members of Congress signing on

Washington DC: Today, Congresswoman Marilyn Musgrave (CO-04) urged President George W. Bush to support the removal of Palestinian Prime Minister Yasir Arafat. In a letter to Mr. Bush, Musgrave explains that the lack of cooperation by Arafat to negotiate peace between Israel and the Palestinian Authority necessitates his removal.

“Arafat’s delineation from the peace process is deliberate, and it destructive to the ongoing efforts for resolution,” said Musgrave upon sending this letter. “Since the president and the administration laid out this plan for peace, Arafat has acted as a major road block in his refusal to cede authority and to end to the onslaught of recent terror attacks on Israel.”

Musgrave garnered the support of 48 Members of Congress for her letter. Among those who signed are Representatives Eric Cantor (R-VA), Tim Holden (D-PA), Ed Schrock (R-VA), Nick Smith (R-MI), Joe Wilson (R-SC), Joe Pitts (R-PA). Fellow Colorado Representatives Scott McInnis, Tom Tancredo and Bob Beauprez also signed Musgrave’s letter.

In her letter, Musgrave states, “We are a nation committed to ending terrorism, and now is the time to be consistent in that vow. Yasir Arafat is a terrorist. We urge you to lend your strong support to the people of Israel in their call to remove Yasir Arafat, the chief obstacle to progress in the peace process, as the leader of the Palestinian Authority.”

Letter Attached

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Marilyn Musgrave was elected to the United States House of Representatives in January 2003, and she represents Colorado’s Fourth Congressional District. Musgrave is a member of the House Committees on Agriculture, Education and the Workforce, and Small Business. To learn more about Rep. Musgrave please visit her official website at <http://www.house.gov/musgrave>.

October 30, 2003

The Honorable George W. Bush
President of the United States
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

We write to you to address an issue of great concern, both to our nation and the nation of Israel: Yasir Arafat's failure to end terrorism sponsored by the Palestinian Authority and his continual effort to thwart a meaningful peace process. Recently, Israel has called for the removal of Yasir Arafat as the leader of the Palestinian Authority, and we urge the administration to take a firm stance in support of his removal.

Recent events, such as the extremely short tenure of Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas, indicate that Yasir Arafat has no intention of ceding his authority to another Palestinian leader. However, as long as Yasir Arafat continues to remain in power, peace will not come to the Middle East.

In 2000, Arafat not only rejected the opportunity to build a Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza, but he also unleashed a wave of terrorist attacks that have killed hundreds of innocent Israelis. Today, Arafat continues this reign of terror and is again rejecting a peaceful solution, the road map advocated by your administration.

As you are aware, Israel has long been our strong ally and, as the only democratic stronghold in the Middle East, it continues to be one of our most strategic partners. The people of this nation and its government have stood by us in our own fight to secure our borders, and it is vital that we stand by them and ensure the security of their nation and the safety of their people.

We are a nation committed to ending terrorism, and now is the time to be consistent in that vow. Yasir Arafat is a terrorist. We urge you to lend your strong support to the people of Israel in their call to remove Yasir Arafat, the chief obstacle to progress in the peace process, as the leader of the Palestinian Authority.

Sincerely,

Marilyn Musgrave
Member of Congress