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Bombing in Netanya

Secretary Condoleezza Rice

Washington, DC
July 12, 2005

I condemn in the strongest possible terms today's murderous bombing in Netanya, for which the terrorist group Palestinian Islamic Jihad has assumed responsibility.

Our deepest sympathy goes to the victims of this heinous attack, their families, and the Israeli people. We have been in contact with Israeli officials to express our condolences and to reiterate our stand with Israel against terrorism.

This terrorist attack is indeed an attack against the Israeli people. It is also a direct attack against the aspirations of the Palestinian people.

We have been in touch with the Palestinian leadership and made clear that they must take immediate steps to find those responsible and bring them to justice. The Palestinian leadership has been clear in condemning the attack and now we must see actions that send a message that terror will not be tolerated.

It is also essential that the Syrian government end its support for terrorist organizations, particularly those which are headquartered and harbored in Damascus such as the Palestinian Islamic Jihad. Syria should immediately stop letting its territory be used for insurgent activities and for activities which frustrate the aspirations of the Lebanese, Iraqi, and Palestinian people.

2005/T11-9

Released on July 12, 2005

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Published by the U.S. Department of State Website at <http://www.state.gov> maintained by the Bureau of Public Affairs.