

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

IT'S TRULY AN HONOR TO JOIN YOU THIS EVENING,
GATHERED AS ONE COMMUNITY...

MIAMI UNITED FOR ISRAEL.

I WANT TO THANK THE GREATER MIAMI JEWISH
FEDERATION FOR INVITING ME TO THIS RALLY.

I ALSO WANT TO THANK THE MANY DISTINGUISHED
SPEAKERS, STUDENTS, SOLDIERS, AND OTHERS
THAT HAVE JOINED US TO SUPPORT THE PEOPLE
ISRAEL...

AND TO SUPPORT THE RIGHT TO SELF-DEFENSE
FOR THE ISRAELI NATION.

JUST A FEW YEARS AGO, IN 2011, MY WIFE
LOURDES AND I HAD THE PRIVILEGE OF VISITING
ISRAEL.

WE BOTH EXPERIENCED THE BEAUTY OF THE HOLY
LAND.

WE STOOD AT THE WALLS OF THE TEMPLE, VISITED
THE MANY SITES, AND SAW THE BIRTHPLACE OF
OUR SHARED RELIGIOUS FAITH AND TRADITION.

WE WERE TREATED TO THE OPENNESS AND HOSPITALITY OF THE ISRAELI PEOPLE, AND WE WERE ALSO SHOWN THE DANGEROUS REALITY THEY FACE EVERY SINGLE DAY.

WE VISITED SDEROT, AND I STOOD ON A HILL IN A LOOKOUT POINT OVER GAZA...

WE LEARNED HOW BUS SHELTERS CAN DOUBLE AS BOMB SHELTERS...

WE TOURED A FORTIFIED PLAYGROUND THAT WAS BUILT SO CHILDREN CAN PLAY SAFELY AWAY FROM ROCKETS AND MORTAR ROUNDS.

EVERY TIME A SIREN GOES OFF, YOU HAVE FIFTEEN SECONDS TO RUN FOR COVER.

FIFTEEN SECONDS DETERMINE WHETHER YOU LIVE OR DIE.

CHILDREN AS YOUNG AS KINDERGARTEN AGE, THE ELDERLY, THE DISABLED, THEY HAVE ALL LEARNED TO LIVE UNDER THIS REALITY, THAT AT ANY MOMENT THEY COULD LOSE THEIR LIVES.

I SAW FIRSTHAND HOW SO MANY OF OUR FRIENDS IN ISRAEL LIVE UNDER THIS CONSTANT THREAT OF ATTACK.

THESE ATTACKS HAVE INTENSIFIED IN THE PAST FEW WEEKS WITH MORE THAN 2,000 ROCKETS BEING LAUNCHED INTO ISRAEL.

AND IT CONTINUES TODAY...

THIS IS NOT A FEAR OR DANGER ANYONE SHOULD HAVE TO LIVE UNDER.

LOURDES AND I FOUND OUR VISIT TO BE VERY EDUCATIONAL, AND VERY MOVING.

I GAINED A DEEP ADMIRATION FOR THE SPIRIT, RESOLVE, AND SHEER TENACITY OF THE ISRAELI PEOPLE.

I ALSO GAINED A DEEPER SENSE OF SOLIDARITY WITH THEM...

NO NATION SHOULD BE SUBJECT TO ROCKET ATTACKS WITHOUT THE RIGHT TO DEFEND ITSELF.

THIS IS WHY I AM HERE WITH YOU TODAY, TO CALL FOR AN END TO THE ATTACKS ON ISRAEL...

AND TO PUT AN END TO THE VIOLENCE THAT IS CAUSING SO MUCH SUFFERING TO OUR FRIENDS.

TODAY, I AM PROUD TO STAND WITH EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOU...

JOINING OUR COLLECTIVE VOICES IN A PRAYERFUL DESIRE THAT ISRAEL MAY SHARE IN THE ENDURING PEACE THAT WE ALL ENJOY HERE IN OUR OWN NATION.

FINALLY, I GIVE MY DEEPEST CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILIES OF GILAD SHAAR, NAFTALI FRANKEL, AND EYAL YIFRACH...

THE THREE ISRAELI TEENS WHO WERE ABDUCTED AND LATER FOUND DEAD.

I ALSO EXPRESS MY CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILIES OF ALL THE VICTIMS OF THE RECENT ATTACKS.

WE JOIN OUR PRAYERS WITH THEM...

WITH THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL...

AND WITH PEOPLE OF ALL FAITHS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD WHO SEEK A LASTING PEACE FOR ALL IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

SHALOM TO ALL!