

House Adopts Crowley-Mahoney Bill Condemning Hamas for Using Television to Promote Anti-Semitism

(September 9, 2008)(Washington, D.C.)– Today, the House nearly unanimously (409-1) adopted a bill introduced by Congressman Tim Mahoney (FL-16) and Congressman Joseph Crowley (NY-7) that condemns Hamas for using children's television programming to promote hatred, violence, and anti-Semitism. Recent footage of an Al-Aqsa TV program for kids called "Tomorrow's Pioneers" includes a puppet show depicting a child murdering of President Bush. In the past, Al-Aqsa has used Mickey Mouse and Bugs Bunny look-alikes for Anti-Semitic and Anti-Western propaganda. The Crowley-Mahoney resolution condemns Hamas for its recent actions.

"Today, we are sending a clear message to Hamas that its anti-Semitic, anti-American behavior must stop," said Congressman Mahoney. "If we are to achieve lasting peace in the Middle East, we must put an end to propaganda that aims to indoctrinate children with messages of hatred and violence towards Israel. I am pleased that the House adopted this important legislation and I want to thank Congressman Joseph Crowley for all of his work on this issue."

"Hamas's usage of Al-Aqsa TV programming to promote hatred and violence, especially to our children, is unacceptable. Our children should be taught to respect and accept all people, no matter their faith," said Congressman Crowley. "I thank my colleagues for supporting passage of this important resolution, and for working with me to send a strong message to all parties in the Middle East that we must create an environment where we can establish lasting peace in the region." Congressman Mahoney has seen Hamas's destructive impact first-hand during a recent trip to Israel. He is also a member of the Congressional Task Force Against Anti-Semitism. Mahoney also submitted the following statement for the record: Statement for the Record H.Res. 1069 - Condemning the use of television programming by Hamas to indoctrinate hatred, violence, and anti-Semitism toward Israel in young Palestinian children September 9, 2008

I am honored to join my good friend and colleague, Representative Crowley, on this important piece of legislation.

I have seen the workings of Hamas first-hand on a trip to Israel. Their rockets and attacks kill innocent Israelis. And now, by using of Al-Aqsa TV programming to promote hate and violence among Palestinian children, they are poisoning another generation.

There is no place for cartoon characters telling children they "will finish off the Jews and eat them" or depictions of President Bush being murdered. Children should be taught to respect and accept all people, no matter their faith.

This blatant propaganda aims to indoctrinate children, incite hatred and violence towards Israel, and undermine efforts to establish peace in the Middle East.

At a time when the United States is working to bring peace to the region, it is incomprehensible and counterproductive to be filling Palestinian children with more hatred and fear.

If lasting peace is to be achieved, this type of anti-Semitic and anti-American propaganda must be stopped.

Today, we are sending a clear message to Hamas that this type of behavior must come to an end. I thank my colleagues for their support.