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August 23, 2014

Dear Friends,

As the Israeli-Gaza conflict continues, earlier this month I joined several of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to see first-hand the challenges faced by our democratic ally in the Middle East, and to report back to my constituents.

Please [read my op-ed](#) in the *Chicago Sun-Times* about what I saw in Israel and what challenges this tiny nation faces every day. I believe we can and must work to end the hostilities and pursue peace among Israel and the nations in the region.



"It was Friday night, the beginning of the Jewish Shabbat (Sabbath), and our host family had graciously invited us to join them for dinner...The parents prayed, sang and blessed their son as he headed back to the front to defend his country and protect his family. Like all parents, they love their child but worry for his future, and for the future of their nation...Our dinner with this Jewish family in Jerusalem underlined the struggles, hopes and fears of modern-day Israelis whose heritage extends back thousands of years."

Read the full piece here:
http://www.suntimes.com/news/otherviews/29399503-452/israel-seeks-only-to-survive.html#.U_ciWsVdUll

In Your Service,



Randy Hultgren
 Member of Congress
 14th District, Illinois



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Survey Results

Given recent events in the Middle East, what policy should the President pursue?

Answer	Total
Stand by Israel and support their efforts to defend against Hamas's rocket attacks while striving to work for an end to hostilities.	74.38%
Use economic and diplomatic pressure on both sides to call for an extended ceasefire.	15.74%
Call for a halt to Israel's ground offensive.	7.41%
Support Hamas's claims to Israeli territory.	1.85%
I don't know.	0.62%

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