



Sowers of Justice

Catholic Legislative Network

**Action
Alert**

***Please Thank Congressman
Ellison for Working Towards
Peace in Gaza!***

April 1, 2009

Background:

Congressman Keith Ellison recently joined Representatives Rush Holt (NJ), Brian Baird (WA) and Senator John Kerry (MA) for a visit to the Middle East, including stops in Israel and the Palestinian territories, most notably Gaza. After their visits, these members issued courageous statements and comments in support of humanitarian aid and open access for Gaza. Unfortunately, they are being attacked from both sides of this issue.

In partnership with Catholic Relief Services, we are working to ensure that Representative Ellison's constituents are aware of his efforts to foster peace and justice in the Holy Land and to encourage phone calls and emails of appreciation. The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops has prioritized this issue, and applauds the role of Congressman Ellison on this issue.

Recommended message:

- I am calling as a constituent of the 5th district and as representative of the Catholic community in the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Mpls.
- Thank you for your recent visits to key places in the Holy Land including Gaza, the West Bank, and Israel.
- Thank you for publicly addressing the security needs of Israel, as well as humanitarian and reconstruction needs in Gaza and West Bank.
- I applaud your efforts to seek more open access to Gaza, with appropriate safeguards, while pursuing a long-term solution to Middle East peace with two states living side-by-side in peace and security.

Recommended Action:

Call Congressman Ellison in Washington D.C. and thank him for his leadership role in the Israeli/Palestinian conflict. Use the talking points above, or deliver your own message of gratitude.

Representative Ellison's D.C. Office - (202) 225-4755

FFI: Contact Patrick Ness at 651-291-4484 or Kathy Tomlin at 651-291-4537.