

JUNE 6, 2001

**STATEMENT OF U.S. REPRESENTATIVE JAN SCHAKOWSKY--
CHICAGO COMMUNITY RALLY IN UNITY WITH ISRAEL**

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Dear Friends, religious leaders, community organizations, local elected officials and other distinguished participants in this important event, I regret that I am not able to be with you today to mourn the loss of 20 innocent Israeli youth and to display our solidarity with Israel.

Please know that I am with you in spirit and that my thoughts and concerns, like yours, are with those grieving the tragic loss of life that occurred in Tel Aviv on Saturday. I join all of you in decrying the cowardly terrorist acts that too often have robbed Israeli families of their loved ones and only hurt efforts to bring peace to the Middle East.

Saturday's attack reminds us of how important it is for the community here in the U.S. to continue our active support for Israel. The commitments made by the U.S. to ensure Israel's security and prosperity are due in large part to the efforts of those of you here today and especially to the great work that the Federation and its member organizations perform every day.

I will continue to work closely with all of you and my colleagues in the Congress to guarantee that that commitment remains and is strengthened during this difficult time. Please consider me a partner in your efforts to reinforce the U.S.-Israel alliance and in the struggle for peace and security in the Middle East.