

**Washington, DC (September 12, 2012)** – Congressman Gus Bilirakis (FL-09), a Member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, today issued the following statement regarding riots in Libya and Egypt that resulted in the murder of America’s ambassador to Libya and three members of his staff:

“I am deeply saddened and outraged by the attacks which led to the brutal murder of Ambassador Stevens and three Americans in Benghazi. I strongly condemn this horrific act, and my thoughts and prayers go out to the families of those killed serving our country. Authorities in the region must condemn these senseless acts and commit to bringing those responsible for the deaths of our diplomats to justice.

“While the Arab Spring brought hope to the Middle East for true democratic reform, this movement has been tainted by extremists who do not believe in freedom of speech, freedom of religion and the fundamental rights that democratic societies value. It is up to the people of Egypt and Libya, as well as their leadership, to condemn this violence and distance themselves from those that threaten the future of their nations.”

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