Congressman affirms U.S. support against oppressive force but urges regional primacy of action

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Congressman Jeff Fortenberry in an international news interview today urged the Arab League and African Union to lead their region in actions against the Libyan regime's oppressive force.

"The United States is constantly being called upon to fix all measures of problems across the world," said Fortenberry. "This is due to the generosity of the American taxpayer, the philosophical ideas that govern us, and our unique position as an exceptional superpower. Yet ultimately, the destiny of North Africa must be in the hands of North Africans."

Fortenberry stressed that unilateral action on the no-fly zone option is essentially an act of war. "The response to Gaddafi must be regional, supported by international bodies, such as the Arab League, African Union, and European Union.

"The Gaddafi regime should know that the U.S. stands with people across the world who demand their rights against oppressive force. It is important to continue efforts aimed at controlling the supply of arms, freezing Gaddafi's assets, and providing humanitarian relief."

Fortenberry is the Vice Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, and Human Rights.

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