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# PENCE LAMENTS BASRA ATTACKS

*Congressman Was Part of First U.S. Delegation to Visit Basra February 27, 2004*

**Washington, Apr 21, 2004** - Washington, D.C.- Having toured Basra on February 27, 2004, U.S. Congressman Mike Pence (IN-6) issued the following statement:

“Our prayers go out to the families affected by today’s horrific bombings in the peaceful city of Basra. Today’s attacks on Iraqi men, women and children in the city of Basra show the utter depravity of the enemies of freedom in Iraq.

“Although Basra is the second largest city in Iraq, it has been relatively peaceful and secure since coalition forces liberated its people from Saddam Hussein in the early days of Operation Iraqi Freedom. The people of Basra with whom I met, leaders and ordinary citizens, are decent and freedom-loving people who suffered greatly under the Hussein regime.

“These attacks against Iraqis by Iraqi insurgents show how desperate the enemy has become.”

Pence was part of the first Congressional Delegation (CODEL) to visit Basra since the start of the war last March. During the CODEL’s time in Basra, Pence met with dozens of local civilians and leaders.

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