



**Statement by the Government of Saint Vincent and the
Grenadines on the Escalation of the Situation in the Middle East.**

The Government and people of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, in line with Article 2 of the UN Charter, join with our Caribbean Community (CARICOM) neighbours, to express our deep concern for all persons affected by the escalation in violence now being experienced in the Middle East.

We are especially concerned for the people caught in the crossfire and call for all parties to the hostilities to de-escalate and return to the table for resumed dialogue. Of paramount importance is the safety of civilians, including citizens of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines living and working in the Gulf Cooperation Council Member States and other countries in the region, who were directly affected by missile strikes.

We reiterate the call for all parties involved to uphold the best tenets of international law and the principles of the UN Charter. We encourage all parties involved to recall their obligation as sovereign states to do everything within their power, in times of conflict and disagreement, to choose dialogue and negotiation ahead of armed conflict. A war in the Middle East has consequences that are detrimental to all of us.

We continue to monitor the situation and urge our citizens to be diligent in taking steps to secure their safety during this period of volatility.

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