

105TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. CON. RES. 20

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 14, 1997

Referred to the Committee on International Relations

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of Congress regarding the status of the investigation of the bombing of the Israeli Embassy in Buenos Aires in 1992.

Whereas on March 17, 1992, the Israeli Embassy in Buenos Aires, Argentina, a school, and several nearby buildings were destroyed by a powerful suicide car bomb blast in which 29 innocent children, women, and men lost their lives and an additional 252 innocent people were injured;

Whereas the victims of this terrorist attack included employees of the Israeli embassy and their families, children from a nearby Roman Catholic primary school, women and men from a nearby Roman Catholic church shelter, a Roman Catholic priest, and people from across the spectrum of Argentine society;

Whereas Argentina's Jewish community, which numbers 300,000 and is the largest Jewish community in Latin America, has suffered severe anti-Semitism during periods of military rule and feels particularly vulnerable to

assault from certain radical Islamic groups and from indigenous far right extremists in Argentina;

Whereas Islamic Jihad claimed responsibility for the bombing of the Israeli Embassy and praised the name of the alleged suicide bomber, Abu Yasser, by calling him a “martyr struggler”;

Whereas Islamic Jihad is a terrorist organization that is supported by Iran and, according to Department of State officials, Iranian diplomats collected information to plan the bombing;

Whereas the failure of Argentine and international efforts to bring the perpetrators of the embassy bombing to justice made Argentina a prime target for a second devastating terrorist attack on July 18, 1994;

Whereas the second bombing destroyed the Asociacion Mutual Israelita Argentina (AMIA) Jewish Community Center, killing 86 people and injuring over 200 people; and

Whereas the investigation of the Israeli Embassy bombing has been hampered by the inefficiency of having the entire membership of the Supreme Court of Argentina in charge of the investigation: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives*
2 *concurring), That Congress—*

3 (1) notes that as of March 17, 1997, 5 years
4 after the bombing of the Israeli Embassy and 2½
5 years after the bombing of the AMIA Jewish Com-
6 munity Center, Argentinean police and judicial au-
7 thorities have not identified and initiated prosecution

1 of the perpetrators of these 2 barbarous acts of ter-
2 rorism;

3 (2) urges the Supreme Court of Argentina to
4 designate a single investigative judge to conduct the
5 investigation of the terrorist bombing of the Israeli
6 Embassy in order to improve the efficiency of the in-
7 quiry;

8 (3) urges Argentinean judicial authorities to ag-
9 gressively investigate the bombing of the AMIA Jew-
10 ish Community Center and the possible connection
11 between that bombing and the bombing of the Israeli
12 Embassy in Buenos Aires;

13 (4) urges Argentinean authorities to acknowl-
14 edge publicly the reports submitted by Argentinean,
15 United States, and Israeli experts, that the explosion
16 at the Israeli Embassy took place outside the walls
17 of the embassy;

18 (5) urges the President and appropriate execu-
19 tive agencies to provide whatever assistance is re-
20 quested by Argentinean Government authorities in
21 order to help that Government investigate these 2
22 acts of terrorism; and

1 (6) directs the Secretary of the Senate to trans-
2 mit a copy of this resolution to the Government of
3 Argentina.

Passed the Senate April 10, 1997.

Attest:

GARY SISCO,
Secretary.