

## **H. Res. 531**

### ***In the House of Representatives, U.S.,***

*July 17, 2000.*

Whereas on July 18, 1994, 86 innocent human beings were killed and 300 were wounded when the AMIA Jewish Community Center was bombed in Buenos Aires, Argentina;

Whereas the United States welcomes Argentine President Fernando de la Rúa's political will to pursue the investigation of the bombing of the AMIA Jewish Community Center to its ultimate conclusion;

Whereas circumstantial evidence attributes the attack to the terrorist group Hezbollah, based in Lebanon and sponsored by Iran;

Whereas evidence indicates that this bombing could not have been carried out without local assistance from elements of the Argentine security forces, some of which are reported to be sympathetic to anti-Semitic positions and to have participated in the desecration of Jewish cemeteries in recent years;

Whereas additional evidence indicates that the tri-border area where Argentina, Paraguay, and Brazil meet, and which is known to be rife with terrorist activity as well as drug and arms smuggling, was used to channel resources for the purpose of carrying out the bombing attack;

Whereas the 6 years since the bombing have been marked by efforts to minimize the involvement of these Argentine security elements;

Whereas Argentine officials have acknowledged that there was negligence in the initial phases of the investigation and that the institutional and political conditions must be created to advance the investigation of this terrorist attack;

Whereas failure to duly punish the culprits of this act serves merely to reward these terrorists and help spread the scourge of terrorism throughout the Western Hemisphere;

Whereas the democratic leaders of the Western Hemisphere issued mandates at the 1994 and 1998 Summits of the Americas that they condemn terrorism in all its forms and that they will, using all legal means, combat terrorist acts anywhere in the Americas with unity and vigor;

Whereas the Government of Argentina supports the 1996 Declaration of Lima To Prevent, Combat and Eliminate Terrorism, which refers to terrorism as a serious form of organized and systematic violence that is intended to generate chaos and fear among the population, results in death and destruction, and is a reprehensible criminal activity, as well as the 1998 Commitment of Mar del Plata which calls terrorist acts serious common crimes that erode peaceful and civilized coexistence, affect the rule of law and the exercise of democracy, and endanger the stability of democratically elected constitutional governments and the socioeconomic development of our countries;

Whereas the Government of Argentina was successful in enacting a law on cooperation from defendants in terrorist

matters, a law that will be helpful in pursuing full prosecution in this and other terrorist cases; and

Whereas it is the long-standing policy of the United States to stand firm against terrorist attacks wherever and whenever they occur and to work with its allies to ensure that justice is done: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

(1) reiterates its condemnation of the attack on the AMIA Jewish Community Center in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in July 1994, and honors the victims of this heinous act;

(2) strongly urges the Government of Argentina to fulfill its international obligations and its promise to the Argentine people by pursuing the local and international connections to this act of terrorism, wherever they may lead, and to duly punish all those who were involved;

(3) calls on the President to continue to raise this issue in bilateral discussions with Argentine officials and to underscore the United States concern regarding the 6-year delay in the resolution of this case;

(4) recommends that the United States Representative to the Organization of American States seek support from the countries comprising the Inter-American Committee Against Terrorism to assist, if required by the Government of Argentina, in the investigation of this terrorist attack;

(5) encourages the President to direct United States law enforcement agencies to provide support and cooperation to the Government of Argentina, if requested, for purposes of the investigation into this bombing and terrorist activities in the tri-border area; and

(6) desires a lasting, warm relationship between the United States and Argentina built on mutual abhorrence of terrorism and commitments to peace, stability, and democracy in the Western Hemisphere.

Attest:

*Clerk.*