

111TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. CON. RES. 295

Condemning the attack on the AMIA Jewish Community Center in Buenos Aires, Argentina, on July 18, 1994, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 1, 2010

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN (for herself, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mrs. MALONEY, Mr. KLEIN of Florida, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. INGLIS, Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida, Mr. MCMAHON, Mr. PENCE, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. ACKERMAN, Mr. ROYCE, Mr. POE of Texas, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. BERKLEY, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. MANZULLO, Mr. MACK, Mr. MEEK of Florida, Mr. SIRES, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. MCCOTTER, Mr. BILIRAKIS, and Mr. ROHRABACHER) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Condemning the attack on the AMIA Jewish Community Center in Buenos Aires, Argentina, on July 18, 1994, and for other purposes.

Whereas, on July 18, 1994, 85 people were killed and 300 were wounded when the Argentine Jewish Mutual Association (AMIA) was attacked in Buenos Aires, Argentina;

Whereas extensive evidence links the planning of the attack to the Government of Iran, and the execution of the attack to Hezbollah, which is based in Lebanon, supported

by Syria, sponsored by Iran, and designated by the Department of State as a Foreign Terrorist Organization;

Whereas, on October 25, 2006, the State Prosecutor of Argentina, an office created by the Government of Argentina, concluded that the AMIA attack was “decided and organized by the highest leaders of the former government of . . . Iran, whom, at the same time, entrusted its execution to the Lebanese terrorist group Hezbollah”;

Whereas, on October 25, 2006, the State Prosecutor of Argentina concluded that the AMIA attack had been approved in advance by Iran’s Supreme Leader Ali Khamene’i, Iran’s then-leader Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, Iran’s then-Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati, and Iran’s then-Minister of Security and Intelligence Ali Fallahijan;

Whereas, on October 25, 2006, the State Prosecutor of Argentina stated that the Government of Iran uses “terrorism as a mechanism of its foreign policy” in support of “its final aim [which] is to export its radicalized vision of Islam and to eliminate the enemies of the regime”;

Whereas, on October 25, 2006, the State Prosecutor of Argentina identified Ibrahim Hussein Berro, a Lebanese citizen and member of Hezbollah, as the suicide bomber who primarily carried out the attack on the AMIA;

Whereas, on November 9, 2006, Argentine Judge Rodolfo Canicoba Corral, pursuant to the request of the State Prosecutor of Argentina, issued an arrest warrant for Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, a former leader of Iran and the current chairman of Iran’s Assembly of Experts and of Iran’s Expediency Council, for his involvement in the AMIA attack;

Whereas, on November 9, 2006, Argentine Judge Rodolfo Canicoba Corral, pursuant to the request of the State Prosecutor of Argentina, also issued arrest warrants for Ali Fallahijan, a former Iranian Minister of Security and Intelligence, Ali Akbar Velayati, a former Iranian Foreign Minister, Mohsen Rezaei, a former commander of Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC), Ahmad Vahidi, a former commander of the elite Al-Quds Force of the IRGC, Hadi Soleimanpour, a former Iranian ambassador to Argentina, Mohsen Rabbani, a former cultural attaché at the Iranian Embassy in Buenos Aires, Ahmad Reza Asghari, a former official at the Iranian Embassy in Buenos Aires, and Imad Moughnieh, a leading operations chief of Hezbollah;

Whereas, on March 5, 2007, the Executive Committee of INTERPOL unanimously supported the issuance of Red Notices for Hezbollah operative Imad Moughnieh and for Iranian officials Ali Fallahijan, Mohsen Rezaei, Ahmad Vahidi, Mohsen Rabbani, and Ahmad Reza Asgari, thereby allowing arrest warrants for those individuals to be circulated worldwide with an eye to their arrest and extradition;

Whereas, on November 7, 2007, the General Assembly of INTERPOL upheld the Executive Committee's decision to support the issuance of six Red Notices in connection to the AMLA case;

Whereas, on February 12, 2008, Hezbollah operative Imad Moughnieh reportedly was killed in Syria;

Whereas in June of 2008, the Government of Saudi Arabia hosted an international Muslim conference that was reportedly attended by Iranian officials Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, against whom an Argentine arrest warrant

has been issued, and Mohsen Rezaei, against whom both an Argentine arrest warrant and INTERPOL Red Notice have been issued;

Whereas the Government of Saudi Arabia reportedly made no attempt to detain or arrest Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani or Mohsen Rezaei during their time in Saudi Arabia, and the two departed Saudi Arabia without incident;

Whereas, on May 22, 2008, Argentine prosecutor Alberto Nisman filed a request with Argentine Judge Ariel Lijo for the arrest of Carlos Saul Menem, who was president of Argentina at the time of the AMIA bombing, and four other former Argentine high officials in connection with the AMIA case;

Whereas Mr. Nisman claimed in his request for an arrest warrant that Menem and the other four officials had attempted to cover up the involvement of a Syrian-Argentine businessman, Alberto Jacinto Kanoore Edul, in the AMIA bombing;

Whereas in December 2008, at the AMIA Special Prosecutor's request, the presiding Argentine judge in a civil suit against the Iranian suspects and Hezbollah requested that select European governments freeze up to \$1 million in bank accounts allegedly belonging to former Iranian leader Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani and another Iranian accused of involvement in the attacks;

Whereas between October of 2008 and March of 2009, nearly a dozen Iranian properties were reportedly seized in the Buenos Aires area in connection with a civil suit presented by an unnamed survivor of the AMIA attack;

Whereas, on January 27, 2009, Secretary of Defense Robert Gates said, “I’m concerned about the level of . . . subversive activity that the Iranians are carrying on in a number of places in Latin America . . . They’re opening a lot of offices and a lot of fronts, behind which they interfere in what is going on in some of these countries.”;

Whereas in May 2009, Argentina issued an international arrest warrant for Samuel Salman El Reda, a Colombian citizen of Lebanese descent who Argentine prosecutor Alberto Nisman believes was the top local connection in the AMIA attack and had connections to Hezbollah and the Tri-Border area, a zone between Argentina, Paraguay, and Brazil suspected of being a haven for Islamic radical groups;

Whereas in October 2009, Federal Judge Ariel Lijo charged former president Carlos Menem of “instigating” several crimes related to the AMIA attack, including concealing evidence and abuse of authority;

Whereas in September 2009, Ahmad Vahidi was selected as Defense Minister of Iran;

Whereas, in March 2010, the Federal Court in Argentina confirmed the indictments of ex-president Carlos Menem, former Judge Juan Jose Galeano, and former Federal Police inspector Jorge “Fino” Palacios; and

Whereas the issuance of an Argentine arrest warrant for an attaché of the Iranian Embassy in Argentina in connection with the AMIA case, indicates that Iran has used its embassies abroad as tools and extensions of radical Islamist goals and attacks: Now, therefore, be it

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

1 (1) reiterates its strongest condemnation of the
2 1994 attack on the Argentine Jewish Mutual Asso-
3 ciation (AMIA) Jewish Community Center in Bue-
4 nos Aires, Argentina, honors the victims of this at-
5 tack, and expresses its sympathy to the relatives of
6 the victims;

7 (2) applauds the Government of Argentina for
8 its ongoing efforts in the AMIA bombing investiga-
9 tion;

10 (3) urges the Government of Argentina to con-
11 tinue to dedicate and provide the resources nec-
12 essary for its judicial system and intelligence agen-
13 cies to investigate all areas of the AMIA case and
14 to prosecute those responsible;

15 (4) urges all responsible nations to cooperate
16 fully with the AMIA investigation, including by mak-
17 ing information, witnesses, and suspects available
18 for review and questioning by the appropriate Ar-
19 gentine authorities, and by detaining and extraditing
20 to Argentina, if given the opportunity, any persons
21 against whom Argentine arrest warrants or
22 INTERPOL Red Notices are pending in connection
23 with the AMIA case, including Iranian officials and
24 former officials, Hezbollah operatives, and Islamist
25 militants;

1 (5) encourages the President to direct United
2 States law enforcement agencies to provide support
3 and cooperation to the Government of Argentina, if
4 requested, for the purposes of deepening and ex-
5 panding the investigation into the AMLA bombing;
6 and

7 (6) urges governments in the Western Hemi-
8 sphere, who have not done so already, to draft,
9 adopt, and implement legislation designating
10 Hezbollah as a terrorist organization, banning fund-
11 raising and recruitment activities, and applying the
12 harshest penalties on those providing support for ac-
13 tivities involving Hezbollah and other such extremist
14 groups.

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