

depth and value of the relationship that was established between our two great nations 150 years ago.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LEACH. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HENSARLING). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. LEACH) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 418.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

CONDEMNING ATTACK ON AMIA JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER IN BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA, IN JULY 1994

Mr. LEACH. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 469) condemning the attack on the AMIA Jewish Community Center in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in July 1994 and expressing the concern of the United States regarding the continuing, decade-long delay in the resolution of this case.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 469

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

Whereas that attack showed the same cowardice and utter disregard for human life as the attacks on the United States on September 11, 2001;

Whereas the United States welcomes Argentine President Nestor Kirchner's political will to pursue the investigation of the AMIA bombing, as demonstrated by his executive order opening the archives of Argentina's Secretariat for State Intelligence (SIDE), for raising the AMIA cause to national status, and for emphasizing that there is no statute of limitations on those responsible for this attack;

Whereas it is reported that considerable evidence links the attacks to the terrorist group Hizballah, which is based in Lebanon, supported by Syria, and sponsored by Iran;

Whereas the decade since the bombing has been marked by efforts to minimize the international connection to this terrorist attack;

Whereas in March 2003 an Argentine judge issued arrest warrants for four Iranian government officials who are believed to have been involved in planning or carrying out the attack against AMIA and requested that the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) apprehend them;

Whereas the four indicted Iranians are Ali Fallahian, a former minister of security and

intelligence; Mohsen Rabbani, a former cultural attache at the Iranian Embassy in Buenos Aires; Ali Balesh-Abadi, an Iranian diplomat; and Ali Akbar Parvaresh, a former minister of education;

Whereas Hadi Soleimanpour, Iran's ambassador to Argentina in the 1990's, also has an international arrest warrant pending against him by Argentine authorities for his suspected primary role in the AMIA bombing;

Whereas it is reported that suicide bomber Ibrahim Hussein Berro, a Lebanese citizen, carried out the attack on AMIA;

Whereas it has been reported that contact was made by the Iranian embassy in Buenos Aires to Ibrahim Hussein Berro, who lived in a mosque in Canelas, Argentina, in the days before the AMIA bombing;

Whereas Argentine officials have acknowledged that there was negligence in the initial phases of the investigation into the 1994 bombing, including the destruction or disappearance of material evidence;

Whereas the first major criminal trial regarding the bombing did not begin until September 2001, and those who are currently on trial are former policemen and civilians who are accused of playing roles only in the procurement and delivery of the vehicle which was used in the bombing attack;

Whereas the judge who had presided since 2001 over the investigation and trial related to the AMIA bombing was removed in December 2003 due to charges that he bribed a key witness in the AMIA case;

Whereas the new trial judge, Rodolfo Canicoba Corral, deals with many other important cases and has few supporting staff;

Whereas on March 17, 1992, terrorists bombed the Embassy of Israel in Buenos Aires, Argentina, killing 29 people and injuring over 200, and the perpetrators of the attack also remain at large;

Whereas the inability to extradite suspected Islamic militants and Iranian officials has debilitated the efforts of the Argentine government to prosecute masterminds and planners of the 1994 AMIA bombing;

Whereas evidence indicates that the Tri-Border area where the borders of Argentina, Paraguay, and Brazil meet is suspected of harboring organizations which support terrorism, engage in drug and arms smuggling and an assorted array of other illicit, revenue-raising activities;

Whereas the Government of Argentina supports—

(1) 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"; and

(2) 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 their socioeconomic development of our countries";

Whereas the Government of Argentina actively supports the development of the "Three Plus One" (3+1) Counterterrorism Dialogue with Brazil, Paraguay, and the United States;

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 the Second Specialized Conference on Terrorism held in Mar del Plata, Argentina on November 23 and 24, 1998, concluded with the adoption of the Commitment of Mar del Plata, calling for the establishment with-

in the Organization of American States (OAS) of an Inter-American Committee Against Terrorism (CICTE); Now, therefore, be it—

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

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

(2) expresses its sympathy to the relatives of the victims, who have waited ten years without justice for the loss of their loved ones, and may have to wait even longer for justice to be served;

(3) underscores the concern of the United States regarding the continuing, decade-long delay in the proper resolution of this case;

(4) strongly urges the Government of Argentina to continue to dedicate and provide the resources necessary for its judicial system and intelligence agencies to investigate all areas of the AMIA case, including by implementing Argentine President Nestor Kirchner's executive order mandating the opening of the archives of Argentina's Secretariat for State Intelligence (SIDE), and to prosecute with due haste those who are responsible for the bombing;

(5) calls upon the international community to cooperate fully with the investigation, including by making information, witnesses, and suspects available for review and questioning by the appropriate Argentine authorities;

(6) encourages the President to direct United States law enforcement agencies to provide support and cooperation to the Government of Argentina, if requested, for the purposes of deepening and expanding the investigation into this bombing and suspected activities in support of terrorism in the Tri-Border area where the borders of Argentina, Paraguay, and Brazil meet;

(7) encourages the President to direct the United States Representative to the Organization of American States (OAS) to—

(A) seek support from OAS member countries for the creation of a special task force of the Inter-American Committee Against Terrorism to assist, as requested by the Government of Argentina, in the investigation of all aspects of the 1994 AMIA terrorist attack; and

(B) urge OAS member countries to designate Hizballah as a terrorist organization if they have not already done so;

(8) stresses the need for international pressure on Iran and Syria to extradite for trial individuals and government officials who are accused of planning or perpetrating the AMIA attack, and to immediately, unconditionally, and permanently cease any and all assistance to terrorists; and

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. LEACH) and the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. LEACH).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LEACH. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H. Con. Res. 469, the resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Iowa?

There was no objection.

Mr. LEACH. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, this past Sunday marked the 10th anniversary of the bombing of AMIA Jewish Community Center in Buenos Aires, Argentina, a terrorist act which killed 85 innocent victims and wounded 300.

Though a decade has passed, the investigation into this brutal attack has yet to yield one major conviction. It has failed to focus on the credible evidence linking this heinous attack to the international terrorist group Hezbollah, which is based in Lebanon, supported by Syria and sponsored by Iran. This lack of accountability should not be allowed to continue.

We must work together to ensure that all those responsible for this horrific act are brought to justice, so that terrorists everywhere understand they will be held accountable for their violence.

H. Con. Res. 469 is a bipartisan resolution which enjoys the support of over 50 cosponsors. It was introduced by the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) and the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS).

Among other provisions, this measure calls on the United States, the Argentine government, and international community to provide and utilize all necessary resources for a thorough, broad investigation of the AMIA bombing and other related activities in the Western Hemisphere.

It further asks the international community to assist in the prosecution of the perpetrators of the AMIA bombing, including by extraditing to Argentina those who are suspected of carrying out and participating in the attack, as well as by providing access to witnesses and other evidence related to this terrorist act.

H. Con. Res. 469, introduced by the Chair of the subcommittee and the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS), focuses on the international connection to the attack, placing special emphasis on the role of Islamic militants and Iranian officials as the masterminds and planners of the AMIA bombing.

It calls for the creation of a special task force of the Inter-American Committee Against Terrorism to assist in the AMIA investigation and encourages all OAS member nations to designate Hezbollah as a terrorist organization.

In addition, it seeks multilateral cooperation in applying international pressure on Iran and Syria to immediately and permanently cease their affiliation with, and assistance to, global terrorists.

For the sake of the victims and survivors of the AMIA attack, for the sake of hemispheric and global security, and for the sake of justice, it is important that Congress recall what happened 10 years ago in this hemisphere.

In this context, the staff of the committee has produced a chart. It is a chart of names, and we present this to the Congress for the sake of remembering that these are real people, with real histories and real lives; and if we think about philosophies, as well as terrorism, it is interesting to note that the first great philosophical tome on terrorism by a Harvard philosopher named Hannah Arendt pointed out that the great tragedy of the Holocaust was the effort by governments not only to take people's lives but to make them into numbers, to make people unknown in their own fates, to make them anonymous.

So it is important when people are subjected to terrorist kinds of circumstances that it be understood that these are real people with real histories, and this is a real tragedy.

It is always awkward in any sense of crime to think of statutes of limitations; but when it comes to terrorism, there should be no statute of limitation, and 10 years is a long time for no progress. It is the obligation of civilized people to remember the people and to remember that accountability is important.

It is for that reason that this resolution has been brought before the House, and I urge its unanimous adoption.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I want to commend my good friend from Iowa for his thoughtful and serious comments. I also want to thank my good friend, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE), the chairman of the Committee on International Relations, and the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN), the chairman of the Subcommittee on the Middle East and Central Asia, for their invaluable work on behalf of this resolution. I rise in strong support of the resolution.

Mr. Speaker, on the morning of July 18, 1994, life in downtown Buenos Aires, Argentina, hummed along as it had on many previous mornings. Students headed off to school, and an electrician repaired faulty wiring on a building. Receptionists tapped at their typewriters, and then, suddenly, a suicide bomber slammed an explosives-laden vehicle into the Argentine Jewish Mutual Association building.

The explosion which followed mercilessly killed 85 innocent men, women, and children and wounded over 300 others.

Little Sebastian Barreiro's life ended that day. The 5-year-old had been holding his mother's hand as both of them had been walking in front of the building of the Jewish Community Center when the bomb ripped through that building.

In addition to the terrible loss of life, the 1994 terrorist attack totally destroyed the seven-story building of the Jewish community in Buenos Aires and heavily damaged surrounding build-

ings. With the obliteration of the brick-and-mortar community center, a repository of 100-year-old historical archives documenting the history of the Jews in Argentina, as well as the literary treasures of Argentinean Jewry and the community's cemetery records were all irretrievably lost.

Mr. Speaker, much like the horrific attacks on our own country just 3 years ago, the brutal bombing in Argentina in 1994 was an international terrorist act. Among the 85 dead were six Bolivians, two Poles, and one Chilean.

□ 2000

The perpetrators are suspected of having received financial and logistical support from terrorist individuals and groups operating in a nefarious triborder region between Argentina, Brazil and Paraguay. And the cowardly bomber himself was an accomplice of Hezbollah, a U.S.-designated foreign terrorist organization headquartered in Syria.

In fact, just days after this brutal and cruel bombing, a Hezbollah-based organization based in Lebanon claimed responsibility for this heinous crime. Despite this claim of responsibility 10 years ago, the families and friends of the victims and the entire Jewish community in Argentina were left to ask when justice will finally be served.

Mr. Speaker, the initial phases of the investigation into the bombing were botched by Argentinian authorities. A criminal trial of 20 alleged local accomplices, finally begun in September 2001, over 6 years after the commission of this horrific crime and the investigation, unbelievably, is still ongoing.

In March 2003, the presiding judge issued arrest warrants for former Iranian Government officials who are believed to have orchestrated the terrorist bombing of the Jewish community center in Buenos Aires, but these Iranian officials have yet to be arrested and sent to Argentina for trial.

Mr. Speaker, justice cannot wait any longer. The families of the victims and the larger Jewish community in Argentina deserve to know, after 10 agonizing years, who is responsible for this horrendous terrorist act.

Our resolution, which I sponsored with my good friend and colleague, the chairman of the Subcommittee on the Middle East and Asia, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN), urges the administration, our administration, and the Government of Argentina, the Organization of American States, and all of our allies, to pursue the international culprits of this monstrous bombing, even if they are still hiding in Iran.

Mr. Speaker, we have known for many years that Iran, working through their Hezbollah stooges, commits wanton acts of violence against civilized society; and we strongly suspect that the Iranian Government was involved in this mass killing, just one of the many terrorist acts perpetrated by the

ayatollahs in Tehran and their accomplices.

I thank all of my colleagues for their hard work on this important resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LEACH. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

First, I would like to thank Yleem Poblete for her work on the subcommittee on this resolution, and I want to reraise this plaque of names. We are obligated to remember the victims of the AMIA bombing. We are obligated to remember the men, the women and children whose names are listed here, whose lives were abruptly ended by a terrorist assault simply because of their beliefs. We have no choice except to demonstrate our commitment to help bring murderers to justice.

I urge unanimous support of this resolution of the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) and the gentleman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN).

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I yield the balance of my time to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE).

Mr. LEACH. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE).

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlemen for yielding me this time.

I rise in support for H. Con. Res. 694 condemning the attack on the AMIA Jewish Community Center in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in July, 1994, and to express the concern of the United States regarding continuing, decade-long delay in the resolution of this case.

I think it is important to remember that whenever we see injustice anywhere, it is an attack on injustice everywhere. I think with the horrendous act in July of 1994, and with the lack of support or urgency of the Organization of American States, without the pushing of international organizations, that we leave a message that people can do what they feel like they want to do and get away with it. So I strongly urge that organizations responsible for seeing that justice is done worldwide would focus their attention on this.

It was 10 years ago that the genocide was going on in Rwanda. While we celebrated 10 years of independence for South Africa, we looked around with other terrible things happening.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. LEACH) and the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) for this resolution. We must continue to be vigilant because injustice anywhere is an insult to justice everywhere.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, this past Sunday marked the tenth anniversary of the deplorable terrorist attack against the AMIA Jewish Community Center in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Eighty-five innocent human beings, including frail little girls and boys were killed,

and 300 were wounded, by elements linked to the global terrorist network. Today, sorrow, despair and frustration still permeate the air, as justice remains an elusive, abstract concept for the victims and survivors of the AMIA bombing. This cannot and must not continue.

For this reason, the resolution I drafted with the Ranking Member of the International Relations Committee, Mr. LANTOS, renews and re-directs international attention to the AMIA bombing, in order to ensure that justice is finally served—to ensure that the terrorists are held accountable, and that they are no longer allowed to roam freely, enjoying virtual impunity for this horrific act.

It was clear from the onset that the AMIA attack and the earlier one on the Israeli Embassy, were part of a campaign of violence targeted at the Jewish community in Argentina and throughout the world, by radical militant groups in the Middle East. Considerable evidence now supports this linkage, attributing the bombing to the terrorist group Hizballah, based in Lebanon, supported by Syria, and sponsored by Iran.

Argentine authorities have issued various arrest warrants for Iranian government officials who are believed to have been involved in planning or carrying out the attack against AMIA. Among these are the former Iranian minister of security and intelligence; a former cultural attaché at the Iranian Embassy in Buenos Aires; an Iranian diplomat; a former minister of education; and the Iranian Ambassador to Argentina during the 1990s. It is further reported that one of the suicide bombers responsible for the murder and injuries of hundreds in the AMIA attack, had contact with the Iranian embassy in Buenos Aires in the days prior to the bombing.

Additional evidence indicates that the tri-border area, where Argentina, Paraguay and Brazil meet, was used to channel resources for the purpose of carrying out this terrorist attack. We now understand the importance of this critical piece of information, as the tri-border area is today widely reported to be a cesspool of Islamist terrorist activity. Yet, despite this growing evidentiary record, the decade since the AMIA bombing has been marred by negligence in the initial phases of the investigation, and by efforts to minimize the international connection to this second attack by the global terrorist network in our own Hemisphere.

The resolution we are considering today seeks to address this problem by, among other things: (1) Urging the Government of Argentina to dedicate the necessary resources for its judicial system and intelligence agencies to fully investigate and prosecute the AMIA case; (2) Calling upon the international community to cooperate fully with the investigation, including making all parties and information available to Argentine authorities, and, in particular, by honoring extradition requests for former Iranian officials who are now in third countries, such as Great Britain.

Notably, H. Con. Res. 469: (1) Encourages the President to direct U.S. law enforcement agencies to provide support and cooperation, if requested, to the Government of Argentina to ensure a resolution of the AMIA case; (2) Calls for the creation of a special task force of the Inter-American Committee Against Terrorism to assist Argentina in investigating all aspects of the AMIA attack, particularly the international connection; and (3) Urges OAS

member nations to designate Hizballah as a terrorist organization if they have not already done so.

My colleagues, the wounds will not begin to heal until the investigation in to the AMIA bombing is pursued with vigor and determination, and until effective action is taken by all to ensure that justice is served. The scars will serve as a constant reminder of the need for vigilance in our Hemisphere, of the need for democratic countries to unite in condemning such horrid acts and work together to protect the right of every citizen, in every society, to live in peace and liberty free from the threat of terrorism.

This resolution is an important first step toward achieving that goal. It is a call to action. It sends an unequivocal message to all that the United States considers the resolution of this case to be a priority, that it is prepared to take the necessary steps to ensure this end, working both with regional neighbors, as well as with the Argentine government.

Ten years have already passed. We cannot wait any longer. It is time for the rule of law to be seen and to be heard in this important case. We cannot allow justice to be held captive by inaction.

I thank the over 50 co-sponsors of this resolution for their support, and would especially like to thank the House Leadership and Chairman HYDE, for allowing this measure to move expeditiously to the Floor, and ask my colleagues to render their overwhelming support by voting "yes" on H. Con. Res. 469.

Mr. LEACH. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HENSARLING). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. LEACH) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 469.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

DECLARING GENOCIDE IN DARFUR, SUDAN

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 467) declaring genocide in Darfur, Sudan, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 467

Whereas Article 1 of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (signed at Paris on December 9, 1948) states that "the Contracting Parties confirm that genocide, whether committed in time of peace or in time of war, is a crime under international law which they undertake to prevent and to punish";

Whereas Article 2 of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide declares that "in the present Convention, genocide means any of the following