

106TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. RES. 329

Urging the Government of Argentina to pursue and punish those responsible for the 1994 attack on the AMIA Jewish Community Center in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 28, 2000

Mr. L. CHAFEE (for himself, Mr. HELMS, Mr. SANTORUM, and Mrs. HUTCHISON) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

JUNE 28, 2000

Reported by Mr. HELMS, without amendment

JULY 19, 2000

Considered, amended, and agreed to

RESOLUTION

Urging the Government of Argentina to pursue and punish those responsible for the 1994 attack on the AMIA Jewish Community Center in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Whereas on July 18, 1994, 86 innocent persons 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 Rua'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 the investigation indicates that this bombing could not have been carried out without assistance from elements of local security forces at the time;

Whereas 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 the bombing attack;

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 on March 17, 1992, terrorists bombed the Embassy of Israel in Buenos Aires, killing 29 persons and injuring more than 200 others, and the Government of Argentina has issued an arrest warrant against a leader of the Islamic Jihad but has not yet brought anyone to justice for that act of terrorism;

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

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;

Whereas the democratic leaders of the Western Hemisphere issued mandates at the 1994 and 1998 Summits of the Americas that condemned terrorism in all its forms and

that committed governments to combat terrorist acts anywhere in the Americas with unity and vigor; 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 Senate—

- (1) reiterates its condemnation of the attack on the AMIA Jewish Community Center in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in July 1994, and remembers the victims of this heinous act;
- (2) strongly urges the Government of Argentina to fulfill its international obligations and other commitments 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) urges the Government of Argentina to pursue and prosecute any person with ties to Hezbollah or any other terrorist organization;
- (4) calls on the President 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;
- (5) recommends that the United States Permanent Representative to the Organization of American States should seek support from the countries comprising the

Inter-American Committee Against Terrorism to assist, if requested by the Government of Argentina, in the investigation of this terrorist attack;

(6) 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 and other terrorist activities in the tri-border area; and

(7) desires a lasting and positive relationship between the United States and Argentina based on a mutual commitment to the rule of law and democracy in the Western Hemisphere and mutual abhorrence of terrorism.

SEC. 2. The Secretary of the Senate shall transmit a copy of this resolution to the President and the United States Permanent Representative to the Organization of American States.

