

110TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. CON. RES. 385

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 16, 2008

Received and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Condemning the attack on the AMIA Jewish Community Center in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in July 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 bombed in Buenos Aires, Argentina;

Whereas extensive evidence links the planning of the attacks to the Government of Iran, and the execution of the attacks 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 bombing 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 bombing 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 bombing and urged the International Criminal Po-

lice Organization (INTERPOL) to issue an international arrest warrant for Rafsanjani and detain him;

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 Rezai, 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 Rezai, 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 AMIA 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 Rezai, 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 Rezai 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 Argentine investigators have stated that prior to the AMIA bombing, Mr. Kanoore Edul was in contact with at least two men who have been identified as suspects in the AMIA case;

Whereas Mr. Nisman stated in an article published on May 29, 2008, that his request for arrest warrants against Argentine nationals in the AMIA case “does absolutely not change the accusations against Hezbollah and Iran

. . . To a certain degree, it reinforces them, because [suspect Alberto Jacinto] Kanoore Edul has many links with Islamist extremists”;

Whereas during the last two years, the Government of Argentina has made significant advances in the AMIA investigation and other counter-terrorism efforts including the enactment, in July 2007, of counter-terrorism legislation which seeks to criminalize financing, fund-raising, and money laundering activities of groups linked to terrorism;

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;

Whereas in recent years, Iran has greatly expanded its diplomatic, political, and economic presence in the Western Hemisphere, including the opening of nearly a dozen embassies in Latin America; and

Whereas according to news reports published in June 2008, intelligence agencies in the United States and Canada have warned of significant evidence that Hezbollah, with the support of the Government of Iran, plans to launch a major attack against “Jewish targets” outside the Middle East, and that possible targeted areas include Canada and Latin America: Now, therefore, be it

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

3 (1) reiterates its strongest condemnation of the
4 1994 attack on the Argentine Jewish Mutual Association (AMIA) Jewish Community Center in Bue-
5 cios Aires;

1 nos Aires, Argentina, honors the victims of this at-
2 tack, and expresses its sympathy to the relatives of
3 the victims;

4 (2) applauds the Government of Argentina for
5 increasing the pace of the AMIA bombing investiga-
6 tion and for enacting counter-terrorism legislation;

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

12 (4) commends the General Assembly of the
13 International Criminal Police Organization
14 (INTERPOL) for upholding and issuing the Red
15 Notices supported by the Executive Committee of
16 INTERPOL in March 2007;

17 (5) expresses grave concern regarding the Gov-
18 ernment of Saudi Arabia's failure, when given the
19 opportunity, to detain Iranian officials against whom
20 Argentine arrest warrants or INTERPOL Red No-
21 tices are pending in connection with the AMIA case;

22 (6) urges all nations to cooperate fully with the
23 AMIA investigation, including by making informa-
24 tion, witnesses, and suspects available for review and
25 questioning by the appropriate Argentine authori-

1 ties, and by detaining and extraditing to Argentina,
2 if given the opportunity, any persons against whom
3 Argentine arrest warrants or INTERPOL Red No-
4 tices are pending in connection with the AMLA case,
5 including Iranian officials and former officials,
6 Hezbollah operatives, and Islamist militants;

7 (7) encourages the President to direct United
8 States law enforcement agencies to provide support
9 and cooperation to the Government of Argentina, if
10 requested, for the purposes of deepening and ex-
11 panding the investigation into the AMLA bombing;
12 and

13 (8) urges governments in the Western Hemi-
14 sphere, who have not done so already, to draft,
15 adopt, and implement legislation designating
16 Hezbollah as a terrorist organization, banning fund-
17 raising and recruitment activities, and applying the
18 harshest penalties on those providing support for ac-
19 tivities involving Hezbollah and other such Islamist
20 terrorist organizations.

Passed the House of Representatives July 15, 2008.

Attest: LORRAINE C. MILLER,
Clerk.

By ROBERT F. REEVES,
Deputy Clerk.