



H. Cámara de Diputados de la Nación

Buenos Aires, March 17, 2015

H.E. Frank-Walter Steinmeier
Federal Foreign Minister
Federal Foreign Office
Berlin, Germany

EMBAJADA ALEMANA
RECIBIDO

FECHA 17/03/15

Dear Minister Steinmeier,

Due to the participation of your government in the P5+1 ongoing nuclear negotiations with the Islamic Republic of Iran, we strongly urge you to take note of our experience with the Iranian regime's manipulation of high-level negotiations as well its ardent support of terrorism in our country and beyond.

In Argentina, we have been victims of Iran's diplomatic efforts gone wrong. Two of the most tragic moments in our history are the bombing of the Israeli Embassy in Buenos Aires on March 17, 1992 and the attack against the Argentine Jewish Mutual Aid Association (AMIA) on July 18, 1994. Combined, these terrorist attacks took 114 lives and injured hundreds more in our country. Most of these victims were Argentine's. Seven of Iran's former high-ranking military officials, clerics, political advisors and others still linked to the current Iranian government are indicted in the AMIA bombing. Five of those indicted, have red notices from INTERPOL and extradition orders from our government to face trial in Argentina for their actions in 1994.

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To this day, 21 years later, the government of Iran has persistently refused to allow their accused to even be questioned about the AMIA case.

According to the Argentine federal prosecutor and chief investigator of the AMIA case, Dr. Alberto Nisman, one of these accused, a former cultural attache of the Iranian embassy in Buenos Aires—Mohsen Rabbani—could be potentially complicit in a criminal conspiracy in our country to cover up Iran's role in the AMIA bombing.

Through a 289-page denouncement against our president Cristina Fernández de Kirchner submitted to the Argentine judiciary on January 14, 2015, Dr. Nisman describes in detail how Mohsen Rabbani engaged with representatives of the Argentine president, and was consulted throughout the process of developing, signing and ultimately ratifying a highly controversial Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Iranian government that, according to Dr. Nisman, was meant to white wash Iran's involvement from the AMIA bombing.

The negotiation of this controversial MOU involved several secret meetings between our foreign minister Hector Timmerman and then-foreign minister of Iran, Mr. Ali Akbar Salehi, who now heads its Atomic Energy Organization and is one of the chief nuclear negotiators on behalf of the Islamic Republic. The timeline of these secret negotiations with our government parallel the negotiations with your government prior to the interim agreement signed in Geneva on November 24, 2013.

On January 19, 2015, Dr. Nisman was found dead in his apartment in Buenos Aires, just hours before he was scheduled to present his allegations to our National Congress. A new federal prosecutor Gerardo Pollicita has continued the denouncement originally filed by Dr. Nisman.

Dr. Nisman's most recent investigations also uncovered a robust and clandestine network of Iranian agents and proxies operating in Argentina and neighboring countries. In particular, a 502-page dictum released on May 29, 2013, detailed how Iran's intelligence and terrorist network still operates in Brazil, Paraguay, Uruguay, Chile, Colombia, Guyana, Trinidad & Tobago and Suriname. This compliments additional evidence presented by other well-respected researchers in Latin America, that documents the heavy presence of Iranian intelligence operatives in nations belonging to the Bolivarian Alliance of the Americas (ALBA), which includes the countries of Cuba, Venezuela, Bolivia, Nicaragua and Ecuador. As well as the Caribbean countries of Dominica, Grenada, Saint Lucia, Antigua and Barbuda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. El Salvador and Haiti are also close allies to both Iran and the ALBA bloc.

In the past few months, we have witnessed the operational tempo increase by this Iranian terrorist network in Latin America, through both its own diplomats and operatives, as well as its primary proxy Hezbollah. On October 30, 2014, a Hezbollah operative was arrested in Lima, Peru for allegedly attempting to bomb a Jewish target in that country. On November 9, 2014 the respected Brazilian daily *O'Globo* released an exposé, based on intelligence reports by Brazil's Federal Police, describing Hezbollah's ties to the Brazilian prison gang the First Capital Command (PCC). Then on January 8, 2015, a few days before the death of Dr. Nisman, it was reported by Uruguayan press that an explosive device was found adjacent to the new Embassy of Israel in Montevideo. This follows from another incident six weeks prior where a suspicious suitcase was found near the former Israeli embassy in Uruguay. Most recently, the Iranian diplomat who was suspected to be linked to these suspicious activities in Uruguay has left the country.

Given the fact that Argentina has been victimized in the past by the Iranian regime's global ambitions, and given the extent of their growing terrorist network in Latin America—we fear that Argentina may become a target of a future attack by the Islamic Republic or its proxies if, for whatever reason, Iran is not content with the nuclear negotiations. Moreover, irrespective of the

proxies or terrorists known to be affiliated with the Islamic Republic and prevalent throughout Latin America.

As stated in our opening, and for all the reasons stated above, your government's ongoing nuclear negotiations with the Islamic Republic of Iran present a particular concern for our country. As such, we urge you to take note of the facts of the AMIA case, as well as the recent evidence of Iran's expanding terrorist network in Latin America, and its presumed criminal conspiracy with our government to manipulate our judicial process—before advancing the negotiations with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

It is not our intention to obstruct or delay your important negotiations with Iran; however, we feel compelled to inform you of the latest activities regarding the dangerous behavior of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Latin America. And at the least, help explain the highly incoherent attitude of our current administration in Argentina on this issue. The commitment to justice and human rights of all those involved should be the basis of any agreement moving forward.

Sincerely,

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G. ...

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