An Argentine federal court published a <u>report</u> on January 18, 2025, affirming that prosecutor Alberto Nisman, who investigated the deadly AMIA bombing, was murdered, dispelling the myth some have sought to perpetuate. The report came just days before the 10-year mark of Nisman's death.

Here are my key points from the report. The 56-page report was published in Spanish.

- On January 18, 2015, at 10:32 pm, Alberto Nisman, special prosecutor in charge of the Prosecutor's Unit for the Investigation of the bombing of the AMIA Jewish Community Center in Buenos Aires, was found dead inside his apartment with a bullet in his head. 85 people were killed in the bombing on July 18, 1994.
- Nisman had found, and an Argentine court affirmed, that the Islamic Republic of Iran planned the attack and, on its behalf, Hezbollah carried it out. It was Argentina's deadliest terrorist attack.
- Some 80 people from various agencies traipsed through his apartment when his lifeless body was found.
 The investigation into his death was politicization and suspicious activity. The same intel and National
 Executive branches that may have ordered or carried out his murder were part of the investigation into
 his murder.
- The Criminal and Correctional Prosecutor's Office, headed by Federal prosecutor Eduardo Taiano, issued a report on January 10, affirming that even while making progress in the investigation seemed impossible when he took is over, his team was able to confirm his 2017 finding that Nisman was murdered.
- Taiano further confirmed that Nisman's death was motivated by his work investigating the AMIA bombing and specifically, by Nisman's challenging the Memorandum of Understanding the Kirchner gov't negotiated with the Islamic Republic of Iran. Nisman asserted the MOU aimed to cover up Iran's role in the bombing.
- From the beginning, the investigation into Nisman's death was "aimed at diverting its course by different
 actors," the Taiano report said. He said it was extremely striking that the ordinary courts intervened rather
 than the federal courts as they should, given that the event being investigated was ...
- ...the violent death of a federal prosecutor in charge of the probe of the most serious attack in Argentine history, and that 4 days prior, Nisman had formally accused the highest authorities of the National Executive Branch in the framework of his work.
- There was an attempt to simulate suicide. He had been forced to kneel before he was shot in the head. One of perpetrators planted a "friendly weapon" as part of the criminal plan. The murder weapon, a .22-caliber Bersa, belonged to his computer consultant, Diego Lagomarsino, who had been charged as an accomplice.
- Taiano's report cast doubt on Lagomarsino's testimony that Nisman called him and asked to borrow his gun, noting that it was Lagomarsino who initiated the communication with Nisman via WhatsApp, not the other way around.

- Investigators found sections of the complaint Nisman was to file against Kirchner and her associates on Largomarsino's cell phone.
- For prolonged periods of time from Saturday night around 8pm until about noon on Sunday, Nisman's guards abandoned their posts, even while Nisman was under heightened threats. This allowed the homicide to take place while also allowing the crime scene to be "manipulated" without detection.
- Taiano requested the testimony of Lagomarsino as well as the guards on duty that weekend. In 2017, the guards were prosecuted for aggravated concealment and breach of the duties of a public official.
- Taiano noted many obstacles placed on the murder investigation: Most of the information requested was
 in the hands of agencies dependent on the National Executive Branch and/or the security forces
 dependent on it. From 2019-2023, those who were supposed to help investigators put obstacles and
 generated unjustified delays.
- Then-Minister of Security Sabina Frederic publicly stated she would intervene in the judicial case investigating Nisman's death. Interference by a political appointee was "paradigmatic" of the challenges. "There was not even an attempt to hide the intention of the Executive Branch to meddle...The facts speak for themselves."
- In 2004, Nisman took the helm of the AMIA investigation. In 2006, based on granular research, he asked
 an Argentine judge to order international arrests of Iranians accused by Argentina's judiciary of
 responsibility for the bombing and that INTERPOL issue red notices for these individuals. Red notices
 were issued in 2007.
- In May 2013, Nisman filed a lengthy report connecting religious leaders operating in the tri-border area to Hezbollah-linked terrorism.
- Nisman revealed a terrorist matrix showing how Iran carried out intelligence operations that were
 protected by diplomatic immunity. He showed how Iran used cultural and religious institutions to
 disseminate Islamist propaganda to recruit and radicalize its civilian population.
- Nisman showed how Iran used intelligence operatives to gather information about Argentine citizens. All
 this for the purpose of expanding Iran's revolution abroad through infiltrating third countries from which it
 could execute terrorist attacks.
- In November 2013, Nisman submitted a legal complaint challenging the MOU Kirchner's government sought to negotiate with Iran wherein he asserted the MOU violated constitutional principles of separation of powers and judicial independence and the guarantees of due process. In 2014, the court found the MOU unconstitutional.
- On January 14, 2015, Nisman filed a criminal complaint with Judge Ariel Lijo against then-president Kirchner and close associates, alleging a cover-up and an attempt to provide immunity to those who perpetrated the terrorist attack against the AMIA. The scheme would then redirect attention to new purported culprits.
- The Taiano report noted a fatwa, a religious edict, that imposed a death sentence on Nisman that was issued by Islamic clerics of Iran, following his presentation of evidence that senior Iranian officials plotted the bombing of the AMIA. Taiano also provided evidence of specific major threats to Nisman's life beginning in 2012.

- One threat on his life and the life of his family members said: "We warned you and you didn't pay attention
 to us, you DIDN'T STOP our prosecutions despite the fact that you could influence your ex-wife...We're
 going to keep our promise to kill you and your family."
- Two weeks before he was murdered, he vacationed with family members though cut his trip short. Security cameras reviewed as part of the investigation noted an intelligence officer casing him at the Ezeiza airport upon his return.
- On January 14, in an interview, Nisman discussed the contents of his complaint, underscoring the evidence was conclusive. In an interview with the newspaper Clarin, Nisman prophetically said, "I can get out of this dead," and told a television program: "Even if I am not there, the evidence is there."
- On WhatApp, he wrote to contacts: I have a lot at stake in this. Everything, I would say. But I always
 made decisions and today is not going to be the exception. And I do it with conviction. I know it's not
 going to be easy. Quite the opposite. But sooner rather than later the truth triumphs...
- ... and I have a lot of confidence in myself. I will do everything in my power, and more too, no matter who I have in front of me. Thank you all. It will be justice!! And I clarify that I didn't go crazy or anything like that. In spite of everything, I am better than ever. Ha ha ha ha ha ha::)"
- The guards left Nisman's complex around 8:00 p.m., at which time Lagomarsino entered the apartment and left a few minutes later. Nisman was left unprotected until almost noon the following day, more than 12 hours later.
- The main and service shafts, common areas like the elevators, emergency stairs, parking lot and Nisman's building complex, were not subject to analysis. Unjustifiably, some 80 people meandered through the apartment, some even sitting on his bed, not wearing protective gear, tampering with evidence.
- The investigation was so bungled that it appears intentional. Then-Vice Minister of Security Sergio Berni walked around in his dirty shoes. Viviana Fein, prosecutor in charge of the investigation, stepped in pools of Nisman's blood. Evidence was not taken into custody until months or even years after Nisman's death.
- Taiano's report discussed the concerns over a fire that broke out two days after Nisman filed his complaint
 with Judge Lijo. The fire broke out in the area in the Casa Rosada's presidential offices where files were
 kept that had implications on the AMIA investigation.
- [Earlier, an investigative article by Hector Gambini in Clarin asserted that Casa Rosada staff was directed to record the fire as accidental so that it would not trigger a judicial investigation.]
- A key piece of evidence to corroborate the facts presented by Nisman was a list of who had entered the Casa Rosada. That transcendental evidence was destroyed with the fire which occurred just hours before Nisman's murder.
- Taiano describes how Kirchner made sweeping changes in Argentina's intelligence agencies. This includes an order to the Secretariat of Intelligence (SIDE), to cease the investigation of the attack on the AMIA headquarters and its collaboration with Nisman. Some refused to comply with the new approach.

- In December 2024, Kirchner began to dismantle the SIDE. 34 agents from the General Directorate most linked to Nisman's work were ordered to retire. Nisman suspected he would be removed as well and accelerated his report. A month later, Nisman filed his legal complaint to Judge Lijo and a few days later he was murdered.
- Days after his death, Kirchner formally disbanded the SIDE, the top intelligence agency, knowing some
 agents had cooperated with Nisman. She created a new spy agency, Agencia Federal de Inteligencia,
 led by her cronies.
- Even with the challenges, Taiano drew his conclusions based on interviews with witnesses, phone records, testimonies and other documentary evidence.

Other noteworthy background points:

Taiano's report was published on the same day that Argentine President Javier Milei's government declassified new documents from its intelligence services and provided them to the courts. In December, Taiano had asked Milei to authorize the release of sealed intelligence files from the SIDE, the army and other intel agencies.

On January 18, Milei stated: "The Office of the President vehemently remembers the 10th anniversary of the murder of Federal Prosecutor for the UFI-AMIA, Alberto Nisman, at the hands of the darkest forces of power,"

In April 2024, Argentina's highest criminal court affirmed that Iran directed the 1994 bombing of AMIA which defined the attack as "a crime against humanity" and Iran as "a terrorist state."

Kirchner, who always denies the allegations, has been charged in several massive corruption cases in Argentina involving money laundering, bribery, and conspiracy to defraud the state while several other cases are winding their way through the courts.

In 2019, Argentina joined approximately 20 other countries in designating Hezbollah as a terrorist entity, adding to the legal authorities it can use to hold accountable terrorism financiers and those engaged in terrorist acts. In July 2024, the Milei government designated Hamas as a terrorist entity following the Oct 7, 2023 massacre.

Other statements about Nisman's murder:

Former president Jorge Macri: "10 years after the murder of prosecutor Alberto Nisman, the demand for justice remains firm as the first day. I share the pain of his family and all Argentines who, a decade after he left us, continue to wait for clear answers. Impunity is not an option."

Elisa Carrió, leader of the Civic Coalition ARI, stated: "It was a state crime, the Government killed it. Cristina Kirchner's government killed Nisman."

Deputy Juan Manuel López: "It is 10 years since one of the most shocking moments of our democracy, marked by secrets, mafias and impunity pacts. The perpetrators of Nisman's murder are unpunished. Those who hid the truth can still be held accountable. That way we'll be closer."

Iran still seeks to whitewash those in its ranks that have been implicated in the AMIA bombing by promoting them to high-ranking positions in the government.