



CONGRESO JUDÍO LATINOAMERICANO • CONGRESSO JUDAICO LATINOAMERICANO  
WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS • LATIN AMERICAN BRANCH

### ***AMIA bombing anniversary***

## **THE LATIN AMERICAN JEWISH CONGRESS CONVENE LATIN AMERICAN PARLIAMENTARIANS IN BUENOS AIRES**

On August 17 and 18, under the framework of the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the AMIA bombing, the Latin American Jewish Congress (LAJC) convened in Buenos Aires parliamentarians of Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Paraguay and Uruguay. The purpose of the meeting was to exchange views and experiences on international terrorism, and to participate in the commemoration of the AMIA bombing.

Legislators met with Alberto Nisman, the prosecutor investigating the bombing, who reported on the case. They also attended the central act commemorating the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the attack, in which also attended President Kirchner. Then they held a debate at the reconstructed AMIA building, where they shared views and experiences on terrorism, and agreed on the need to pass legislation against terror in all their countries.

To close this Second Meeting of Parliamentarians convened by the Latin American Jewish Congress, participants signed a Declaration against Terror (see below).

The meeting was chaired by Eduardo Elsztain, Chairman of the World Jewish Congress Board, and Jack Terpins, President of LAJC. Congressmen from Argentina, Brazil, Uruguay, Chile, Colombia and Paraguay participated of the meeting, as well as the heads of those communities.

# DECLARATION AGAINST TERRORISM

On July 18, 1994 a car bomb went off at the door of *Asociación Mutual Israelita Argentina*- AMIA, murdering 85 persons and injuring 300. Two years earlier, also in Argentina, another car bomb had blown up the Israeli Embassy, leaving a toll of 28.

Fifteen years after the terrorist bombing of AMIA, we persist in our claim for justice, so that the culprits, still unpunished, will be brought to justice, the relatives of the victims will find some comfort, and a message of rejection will be given to those who kill and destroy.

Today, the **Latin American Jewish Congress** will meet at the reconstructed building of the Buenos Aires Jewish community to show solidarity to the relatives of the victims of brutal murder, and to society at large, the commitment to work so that international terror will never again stage attacks in our country. Members of Latin American Parliaments will attend the act, adding their voices to the claim for Justice.

The Latin American Parliaments represent peoples' will and incarnate democracy. They are responsible for defining each country's legal structure, and their institutional mandate involves defending democratic coexistence, building pluralistic societies, and protecting human rights.

Democracy and the rule of law are tools to fight terrorism; therefore Parliaments play a key role in legislating and defining the instruments that States will avail of to prevent and avoid terrorist attacks like the one against AMIA.

We urge people to increase their efforts to bring the culprits to Justice. We appeal to the international community's cooperation in the search for Justice and the battle against terror.

Sensitized by the pain of the victims of terrorism, we witnessed how life was reborn in the same place where death had taken its toll. We reaffirm our commitment to work

hard in each of our countries, to prevent and fight international terror, a scourge that jeopardizes life, coexistence, and democracy.

In the 21<sup>st</sup>. century, Latin America is still struggling for a fairer society living in democracy, where **Coexistence, Peace** and **Justice** are the supreme values.

Buenos Aires, August 18, 2009

(Signed by 25 congressmen and 20 Jewish leaders)