

Statement on H Con Res 385

Condemning the Attack on the AMIA Jewish Community Center in Buenos Aires , Argentina, in July 1994 and for other purposes

15 July 2008

Madam Speaker, as one who is most consistently opposed to war and violence, I join my colleagues in condemning the brutal and unjustified attack on a Jewish community center in Argentina 14 years ago. I do not support this resolution, however, as it misuses a tragedy 14 years ago in a foreign country to push for US war against Iran today.

Although this resolution clearly blames Iran and Hezbollah for the bombing, in fact the investigation is ongoing and far from conclusive. In an article titled “ U.S. uses probe to pressure Iran ,” the *Wall Street Journal* earlier this year suggested that renewed US interest in this 14 year old case is more related to politics than a genuine desire for justice. Reported the *Journal*

“As tensions between the U.S. and Iran persist, Washington and its allies are using an investigation into a 1994 terrorist attack in Argentina to maintain pressure on the Iranian regime. “Behind the scenes, Bush administration officials are encouraging the probe, which centers on the bombing of a Jewish community center in Buenos Aires . One U.S. goal is to cause legal problems for some of Iran 's political leaders. Administration officials also hope to use the matter to highlight Iran 's alleged role in financing and supporting terrorism around the world.”

Those pushing for a US attack on Iran are using this tragic event to foment fear in the United

States that Iran and Hezbollah are perpetrating terrorist acts in the Western Hemisphere . This is another in an ongoing series of resolutions we see on the House floor pushing us toward war against Iran . I have no doubt that we will see another similar resolution on the floor next week, and the week after, and so on until we find ourselves making another tragic mistake as we did in 2002 with H J Res 114 giving the president the authority to attack Iraq.

I urge my colleagues to resist this push to war with Iran before it is too late.