



**Permanent Secretariat of the Latin American and Caribbean
Network for Democracy (Redlad):
Agreement between Iran and Argentina may imply impunity for a
terrorist attack**

February 2013.

***Unofficial translation done only for the purpose of being understood.**

The Permanent Secretariat of the Latin American and Caribbean Network for Democracy (RedLad) alerts on the approval by the Argentine Congress of an agreement with the government of Iran, in order to clarify the 1994 bombing of the AMIA (Asociación Mutual Israelita Argentina) which killed 85 people and that was the second terrorist attack against Jews in Argentina. Such atrocities are not prescribed and should be investigated and those responsible brought to justice. Impunity generates the conditions for events like this can be repeated.

The agreement seeks to allow the interrogatory but only to the Iranians wanted by Argentina Justice. Specifically, these Iranians sought are Ahmad Vahidi, Iran's defense minister, Ali Fallahijan, former Information Minister, Mohsen Rezai, former advisor of the Iranian government, Moshen Rabbani, ex worker in Iranian embassy in Buenos Aires and Ahmad Reza Ashgari, former diplomat.

The suspects, against whom there are arrest warrants by Interpol could be prosecuted under Argentine law but regardless of the version of the relatives of victims or witnesses. After that the "cause" would be solve, the Interpol could not intervene. Another element that has generated controversy is that by the agreement, approved as International Treaty by Argentina, the defendants must give their testimony and be part of an "interrogation" but not of inquiries, which are always required in judicial proceedings.

Opposition deputies have argued that the agreement would allow the interrogate those involved briefly and then release them of justice Argentina and Interpol. In fact, there have been intense demonstrations in Buenos Aires, contrary to the



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agreement, however, was approved by Argentine Congress with the vote by the ruling party (winning by three votes) compared to the negative vote of all deputies of opposition.

In response, the Permanent Secretariat of RedLad, platform promotion of democracy and human rights comprising more than 480 organizations, as an official member of the Civil Society Forum of the Organization of American States (OAS) and Regional Chapter of the World Movement for Democracy (WMD):

- Makes an exhaustive called the Argentine government to desist in the agreement with Iran, which tends to cloud the reality of the sad events in 1994 and allow the impunity in human rights violations.
- Shows its solidarity with the opposition legislators, especially to the Deputy Laura Alonso, who was verbally attacked in Congress of Argentina when she gave her view on the subject, by a government deputy.
- Urges President Cristina Fernandez to seek impartial justice against those involved and their prosecution by an international body that allows a court in accordance with the facts.
- Urges the Argentine government to allow not only questioning of the accused but also the use of witnesses and relatives of the deceased as part of a fair trial.
- Calls upon the international community, civil society organizations and the general public to demand the prosecution of the accused and transparent implementation of appropriate penalties for crimes if they are found guilty.
- Condemns impunity for serious human rights violations and the "forgiveness" of terrorist suspects by geopolitical and ideological reasons.

**Permanent Secretariat
Latin American and Caribbean Network for Democracy
San José, Costa Rica**
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