

ROS-LEHTINEN), from the Committee on International Relations, the distinguished chairwoman of the Subcommittee on International Policy and Trade, for introducing this resolution.

Last year, the Argentine Congress passed important legislation that allows Investigating Judge Juan Jose Galeano to engage in plea bargaining. Nonetheless, the trial of the Argentinian citizens charged with complicity in this terrorist bombing has, regrettably, been much delayed.

During a recent visit to the United States, Argentina's president, Fernando de la Rúa, made a point of visiting the Holocaust museum and issuing a public apology for the role Argentina played in harboring Nazis during World War II.

President De la Rúa said, "Today, before you and before the world, I want to express my most sincere pain and to ask forgiveness that this happened, that Nazis were hidden among us."

Solving this terrible crime and bringing those responsible to justice is the proper way to bring healing to the still open wounds in Argentina.

Mr. Speaker, this Member urges his colleagues to join in unanimously supporting this resolution. Again, I commend my colleague the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) for his outstanding statement and especially the distinguished gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) for her eloquent statement and for her introduction and able movement of this legislation to the House floor.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my good friend the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BERUTER) for his powerful and eloquent statement. I want to thank the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) for her diligent and outstanding work on this issue.

I urge all of my colleagues to support this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleague the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) for his eloquent words, for his skilled leadership, and for his deep knowledge of history that has helped us to pass this resolution today. I also thank our colleague the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BERUTER) for his constant support of all items worthy of support, and certainly our fight against terrorism is on that list. I thank the gentleman for that.

I also thank the gentleman from California (Chairman GILMAN) for his assistance in allowing this resolution to be brought up to the floor so rapidly.

Mr. Speaker, in conclusion, I would like to quote from Ambassador Aviran of Israel, whom I believe encapsulated the need for this resolution and for jus-

tice. He said, "Crimes that go unpunished are crimes that get repeated."

The time to act is now. Six years more should not be allowed to pass before the guilty are brought to justice.

I would like to especially commend the organization B'nai B'rith for its efforts on behalf of the Argentine Jewish community and on behalf of justice in this case. May that day of justice come quickly.

Therefore, I ask my colleagues to support House Resolution 531.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, this resolution properly places the U.S. Congress on record in marking the tragic occasion of the sixth anniversary of the July 18, 1994 terrorist bombing of the AMIA Jewish Community Center in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Eight-seven people lost their lives and two hundred people were injured in this attack.

I thank my colleague from our International Relations Committee, the distinguished chairwoman of the Subcommittee on International Economic Policy and Trade, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN of Florida, for introducing this resolution.

I have long been interested in seeing that this heinous crime is resolved and those responsible are brought to justice.

Last year, the Argentine Congress passed important legislation that allows Investigating Judge Juan Jose Galeano to engage in plea bargaining. Nonetheless, the trial of the Argentinian citizens charged with complicity in this terrorist bombing has, regrettably, been unduly delayed. Six years is too long a time to let pass without justice.

When the local trial does finally get underway, I urge Argentina's authorities to invite and permit international observers to witness the trial proceedings.

During a recent visit to the United States, Argentina's president, Fernando de la Rúa, made a point of visiting the Holocaust museum and issuing a public apology for the role Argentina played in harboring Nazis after World War II.

President De La Rúa said, "Today, before you and before the world, I want to express my most sincere pain and to ask forgiveness that this happened, that Nazis were hidden among us."

I believe in President De La Rúa's sincerity and thank him for his important statement.

Solving this terrible crime and bringing those responsible to justice is the proper way to bring healing to the still open wounds in Argentina.

I urge my colleagues to join me in adopting this important resolution.

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 531 and would like to add my voice to those marking the sixth anniversary of the cowardly bombing of the AMIA Jewish Community Center in Buenos Aires, Argentina. This searing event horrified the world and has, unfortunately, become a barometer for the political culture of Argentina.

While we commend the statements of interest and commitment made by President Fernando de la Rúa, I, along with many in this House, remain wary, in light of the six years of stumbling, ineffectual investigation and the reality of justice denied. The truth in this matter points unmistakably to elements within the Argentine state and unfortunately, this reality

has been a source of delay and obfuscation rather than a catalyst for action by Argentine investigators.

In addition to this disturbing procrastination on the part of investigators to dig deep into the roots of official involvement, the search for justice in Argentina has also skipped lightly over the possible involvement of Hizbollah, Iran and Syria. Notwithstanding the myriad statements pledging an absolute commitment to the search for truth and justice, the reality of the Argentine investigation has been a half-hearted, poorly funded, undermanned, uninspired, slow-motion search for answers.

Mr. Speaker, six years ago in Buenos Aires, 86 people were killed and hundreds more were injured by a car bomb created and delivered by an unknown group of conspirators, who targeted their victims because of their Jewish faith. Cowardly and offensive, the bombing of the AMIA Jewish Community Center came little more than two years after the bombing of the Israeli embassy in the same city. By all accounts, Argentina's response to these two horrific crimes has been lackadaisical and disappointing. The victims of these crimes, old and young, male and female, deserve better than to have their quest for justice fade in a bureaucratic haze.

I want to commend my colleagues Congresswoman ROS-LEHTINEN and Congressman LANTOS for their excellent leadership on this important resolution, which I strongly urge this House to adopt. Putting the House on record on this matter is a vital step toward ensuring a genuine and effective investigation, and ultimately, a fair trial which provides just punishment for the guilty parties.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MILLER of Florida). The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 531, as amended.

The question was taken.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 7 p.m.

Accordingly (at 4 o'clock and 41 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until approximately 7 p.m.

□ 1900

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. SHIMKUS) at 7 p.m.