

Madam Speaker, we would now know that at least seven Iranian government officials, including the former Iranian Ambassador to Argentina, planned and orchestrated this vicious attack. There is little doubt that these Iranian officials called upon their Hezbollah stooges to execute their nefarious plans.

We also know that the Hezbollah terrorist cell that carried out the attack received financial and logistical support from sympathizers in the tri-border region between Paraguay, Argentina and Brazil. The suicide bomber himself probably entered South America and transited to the Argentine capital through this lawless frontier.

The varied nationalities of those who were murdered in the bombing also reflect the international character of this shameful terrorist attack. Among the 85 victims there were six Bolivians, two Poles, and a Chilean.

Although the modus operandi of the terrorists in the bombing has not been replicated since 1994, supporters and facilitators of Islamic terrorist organizations have gathered in scattered outposts throughout the Western Hemisphere. Operating from hard to reach areas in Chile, Colombia, Venezuela and Panama, these individuals lend financial and logistical assistance to terrorists organizations in the Middle East.

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Although these isolated communities have yet to metastasize into operational cells of Islamic terrorists, the threat to regional security remains strong and requires our constant vigilance.

We must redouble our efforts to root out the fundraising networks in the Western Hemisphere of Islamic terrorists and to disperse the growing web of links between terrorist financiers and narcotics traffickers.

Our important resolution furthers both of these goals. It promotes the establishment of a special task force in the Organization of American States to assist regional governments in investigating and combating the proliferation of Islamic terrorists within our hemisphere.

Our resolution urges all Latin American and Caribbean countries to designate al Qaeda, Hezbollah, Hamas, and the Palestinian Islamic Jihad as terrorist organizations.

Madam Speaker, international terrorists have demonstrated that they will not rest in pursuit of their villainy. Our resolution once again puts them on notice that they will fail, whether they are in the Middle East or here in the Americas.

I strongly urge all of my colleagues to support this important measure.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, because Islamist terrorism anywhere is a threat to free people everywhere, I ask my colleagues to render their strong support of H. Con. Res. 338.

This resolution which I drafted with the distinguished Ranking Member of the House

International Relations Committee, and which enjoys the support of both Chairman BURTON and Ranking Member ENGEL of the Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere, calls for a preventive approach to rising threats in our hemisphere. Islamist terrorist activity in our Hemisphere has been increasing and becoming more prominent for at least 15 years.

Reports document that Hezbollah is active in the tri-border area of Paraguay, Brazil and Argentina, raising money to support its murderous acts and recruiting people to carry them out.

Hamas and the Egyptian Islamic Group also reportedly maintain a presence in Latin America, and al-Qaeda is active there, too. Although such activity is dominated by financing and money laundering, these Islamist extremists have not hesitated in launching direct attacks as well.

In 1992, the Israeli Embassy in Argentina was bombed, killing 29 people and wounding almost 250. In 1994, terrorists linked to Hezbollah and the Iranian regime, bombed the MIA Jewish Community Center in Buenos Aires, killing 85 and wounding over 300.

Islamist jihadists often use countries in the Western Hemisphere as staging areas for entry into the United States.

Before Abu Musab al-Zarqawi was eliminated as a threat last week, it has been reported that he instructed members of Al-Qaeda in Iraq to go to Brazil, with the goal of entering the U.S. through Mexico and carrying out acts of terror.

Just 10 days ago, on June 2nd, 14 suspects in an Islamist terror cell in Canada were arrested. The cell possessed 3 tons of ammonium nitrate, 3 times the amount used in the Oklahoma City bombing in 1995. They planned to blow-up buildings and take politicians hostage. Such terrorists, with such explosives, were only two hours away from the U.S. border.

This cell was captured. Others, however, remain free and growing—both to our north and to our south.

Islamist terrorists are ready, willing, and able to strike in this hemisphere. What should our nation and our allies do about this threat?

After September 11th, our Nation has vigorously combated terrorists and their state sponsors. We removed the Taliban in Afghanistan and Saddam Hussein's regime in Iraq, and have captured and eliminated numerous members of al-Qaeda.

We have refused to wait for terrorists to again strike at our homeland by taking the battle to them and denying them sanctuaries throughout the world.

We must proactively identify and address emerging problems before they can threaten our homeland, our allies, and our interests—particularly, in the Western Hemisphere; our neighborhood.

This resolution acknowledges the threat that Islamist terrorist groups and their sympathizers, operating in this hemisphere, pose to America and her allies.

Many governments in the hemisphere have cooperated with us on counterterrorism and have committed to denying the use of their territory for such fundraising, recruitment and operations. Despite these efforts, the Islamist terrorist presence in our hemisphere is growing. We must do more.

This resolution encourages the President to direct the U.S. Representative to the OAS to

seek support from OAS member countries to create a special task force of the Inter-American Committee Against Terrorism. This task force would assist governments, and coordinate efforts between nations, in investigating and combating the proliferation of Islamist terrorist activities in this hemisphere.

The measure further calls for the U.S. Representative to the OAS to work with OAS member nations to designate groups such as Hezbollah, Hamas, Palestinian Islamic Jihad and al-Qaeda as terrorist groups, if they have not already done so.

Madam Speaker, if we are to one day realize a more secure and peaceful world, we must address all threats, starting with those closest to our shores.

We see the growth of Islamist terrorist groups in the Western Hemisphere. The resolution before us provides us with a roadmap on efforts we should undertake to begin to eradicate the threat before it festers and strengthens.

I ask for a "yes" vote on this resolution.

Mr. LANTOS. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 338.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. LANTOS. Madam 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 question will be postponed.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 338.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

COMMENDING THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA FOR ITS RENEWED COMMITMENT TO THE GLOBAL WAR ON TERROR

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 408) commending the Government of Canada for its renewed commitment to the Global War on Terror, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 408

Whereas twenty-four Canadian citizens were killed as a result of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the United States;