

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

July 11, 2013

The Honorable John Kerry  
Secretary of State  
U.S. Department of State  
2201 C Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Secretary Kerry:

We write to express our strong concern over recent actions by the Government of Argentina. We are particularly troubled by Argentina's growing ties with Iran, utter contempt for U.S. law, growing corruption within its government, and repeated failure to meet its financial obligations. While our concerns are not new, we write today with a new level of urgency to request that you to address Argentina President Fernández de Kirchner's recent attempts to undermine an oversight investigation of the U.S. Congress.

As you know, on July 9, 2013, the Subcommittee on Oversight and Management Efficiency of the House Homeland Security Committee held a hearing entitled, "Threat to the Homeland: Iran's Extending Influence in the Western Hemisphere." One of the key witnesses scheduled to testify at this hearing was the General Prosecutor of the AMIA Case, Mr. Alberto Nisman. Nisman was invited to share the findings from his 2006 and 2013 investigations into the AMIA bombings because his work sheds critical light on how the U.S. and our regional allies should understand the threat from Iran.

In May, Nisman published an exhaustive report showing clear infiltration of the Iranian regime within countries in Latin America using embassies, mosques, and cultural centers. As if that weren't troubling enough, Nisman's investigation also found that Iran was the "main sponsor" of an attempted attack on American soil in 2007 to blow up the John F. Kennedy airport in Queens, New York.

Given Iran's growing assertiveness with its terrorist activity "reaching a tempo unseen since the 1990s" according to the 2012 Country Report on Counterterrorism, we take Nisman's report that Iran is building terror networks in such close proximity to the United States very seriously.

Therefore, we were deeply troubled to learn shortly before the hearing that Argentina denied Nisman permission to testify before the U.S. Congress on the grounds that the hearing "has no relation to the official mission of the General Attorney's Office." While we respect the sovereignty of Argentina, we believe this decision is disturbing and grossly inaccurate. Nisman sent a copy of his findings to the U.S. Department of Justice, and the U.S. has a vital interest in learning more about Iran's operations within this hemisphere.


Nisman's investigation uncovered evidence that many countries within the Western Hemisphere could stand to examine more deeply. Argentina's decision to disallow Nisman from sharing his findings with the U.S. Congress is self-destructive and indicative of deeper systemic problems within Argentina. President Fernández de Kirchner's agreement with Iran to establish the so-called "Truth Commission" calls into question Argentina's very credibility and legitimacy as a responsible member of the international community.

Furthermore, we find it extremely troubling that Argentina would be aiding and abetting any process designed to allow Iranian senior officials to rewrite history and disavow the findings from extensive judicial investigations and the indictment of Iranian senior officials for their role in the 1994 AMIA bombings. This rapprochement with Iran is not isolated to the "Truth Commission." Trade has skyrocketed with Argentinian exports to Iran growing from \$266 million in 2008 to almost \$2 billion in 2011. Testimony from witnesses at the July 9, 2013 Subcommittee hearing also revealed concerns that Argentina may be seeking to aid Iran's illicit nuclear weapons program through growing military ties with Venezuela and through the possible sharing of nuclear technology. We understand that Argentina has recently filed a petition for a writ of certiorari from the U.S. Supreme Court in a case stemming from that dispute, even though its leaders have vowed never to obey any U.S. court no matter what the ultimate outcome of its case.

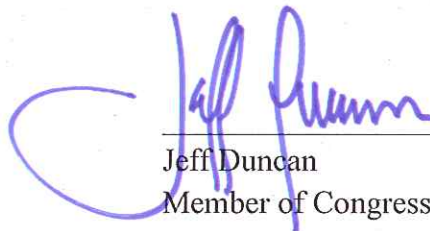
We are aware that the U.S. government has offered legal support to Argentina in the past. However, in light of Argentina's growing cooperation with Iran and recent decision to deny Nisman to testify before the U.S. Congress, we believe that the U.S. should reconsider its legal support to Argentina.

Iran has demonstrated a chilling patience for building networks within the Western Hemisphere. Its willingness to conduct terrorist operations within the hemisphere is clear from the 1992 and 1994 attacks in Argentina, the 2007 attempted attack in New York, and the 2011 foiled assassination plot in Washington, DC. Any country that seeks to develop deeper ties with the world's leading sponsor of terrorism needs to hear a very strong response from the U.S. We respectfully urge you to raise these issues in your discussions with Argentina and in your considerations of legal assistance to Argentina.

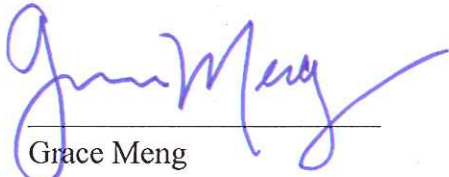
Sincerely,



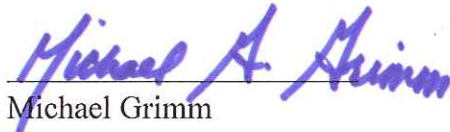
Michael T. McCaul  
Member of Congress



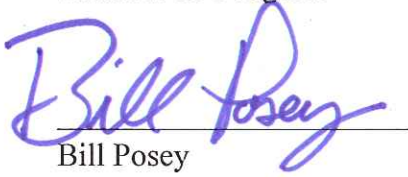
Jeff Duncan  
Member of Congress



Grace Meng  
Member of Congress



Michael Grimm  
Member of Congress



Bill Posey  
Member of Congress

cc: The Honorable Eric H. Holder, Jr., Attorney General, U.S. Department of Justice  
cc: The Honorable Janet Napolitano, Secretary of Homeland Security, U.S. Department of Homeland Security