



*The Mystery Holding
Everyone In Suspense*

Who Killed Alberto Nisman?



By Shimon Rosenberg

In just hours, prosecutor Alberto Nisman was scheduled to reveal evidence of the Argentine president's involvement in a conspiracy to clear the Iranian government of responsibility for the horrific 1994 terror attack that cost 85 lives, including dozens of Jewish children. Before he could do so, Nisman was found lying dead in his apartment. Did the president of Argentina order the Jewish prosecutor eliminated in order to avoid the negative political consequences of his investigations?



What I am about to do now had already been decided a while ago, and I am prepared for this. I do it convinced that it is not going to be easy. Completely the opposite. But sooner or later, the truth will triumph.

Those were the words Alberto Nisman sent via text to a group of friends just days before he was to drop a bombshell of national and international proportions in front of the Argentine Congress.

He was well aware of the risks. He had received death threats and numerous enemies had vested interests in suppressing his report to Congress. Yet, Nisman was determined and fearless. He cared little about the colossal political tsunami that would follow in the wake of his revelation. He knew one thing: The truth must be revealed and nothing would deter him.

Nothing... except the assassin's bullet hours before he was due to present his report.

Deadly Attack

It has been close to 40 years since the world first had to reckon with the radical Islamic government of Iran. From the minute that the Ayatollah Khomeini entered the political arena Iran became one of the worst enemies of the West. His most abrasive attacks were reserved for the United States and Israel, two countries that strongly supported the previous regime of the Shah in the years leading up to the Iranian Revolution of 1979. Since then, America has become "The Great Satan," and Israel "The Lesser Satan."

Iran did not satisfy itself with mere rhetoric, but orchestrated terror attacks on American and Israeli targets around the world. It was behind the deadly attack that Hezbollah—a Shiite terror group in Lebanon financed by Iran (see **Zman** 57—Elul 5774)—carried out in 1983 against the US military barracks in Lebanon, which claimed the lives

of 299 American and French soldiers, the deadliest terror attack against America until 9/11. Likewise, Iranian agents committed the terror attack against the Israeli embassy in Argentina in 1992, with a death toll of 29.

Yet, it was a different terror attack in Argentina that placed Alberto Nisman at the center of the international arena.

July 18, 1994, began like a regular Monday. The Jewish Center known as AMIA (*Asociación Mutual Israelita Argentina*) in Buenos Aires, capital of Argentina, was bustling with activity as usual. The Jewish Center is the largest Jewish umbrella organization in Latin America. Argentina's Jewish community numbers close to 250,000, ranking it as one of the most significant Jewish centers outside of *Eretz Yisrael* and New York. Hundreds of people work at the complex on a typical day.

That Monday was especially busy. It was the day following *Tishah B'Av* and various projects were already under way in preparation for the approaching *Tishrei Yom Tov* season. That year, 1994, marked exactly 100 years since AMIA's founding—its original name was *Jevrá Kedushá* (or Chevrah Kadishah)—and the organization was using its centennial anniversary to showcase its achievements.

At 9:53 in the morning, a white Renault van drove toward the building. At first it did not arouse any suspicion; thousands of vans



Alberto Nisman, the courageous Jewish prosecutor from Argentina.



Argentina's Congress.

flood the streets of Buenos Aires on a daily basis. However, this van did not park on the street in front. It drove right up to the building itself. Before anyone had a chance to realize what was happening, a massive explosion jarred the area. The driver had detonated hundreds of pounds of explosives, which tore through the Jewish Center with incredible force.

In seconds, the lives of 85 innocents were snuffed out. There were 67 fatalities inside the building and another 18 on the street. Another 300 people were badly wounded. Beyond the physical devastation, Argentina's Jewish community suffered a deep psychological wound that throbs to this day.

Years have passed, but the controversy surrounding the attack continues to rage. A series of investigations have produced conflicting theories as to who was behind the atrocity. The lack of clarity made the bombing of the Buenos Aires Jewish Center fertile ground for conspiracy theories.

Then, just as it seemed like the truth would finally come to light, the man most qualified to reveal it, Alberto Nisman, was found dead in his apartment.

Official Story vs. "Syrian Lead"

Although there is no official consensus, sources in Israel claim—and this is the



An observant Jew searches among the debris after the attack.



The scene shortly after the attack on the Buenos Aires Jewish Center.