

ATTACK ON THE AMIA THE COVER-UP TRIAL

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1994 - 2015



1994. The attack

On **18 July 1994 at 9:53 am** a bomb exploded taking the lives of our relatives and friends. By the end of that same day, we came to know the very limited information that we have available to us now, twenty years later: we learned that a light-colored Renault Traffic van loaded with hundreds of pounds of ammonal had crashed into the AMIA building, causing an explosion and the collapse of the building.

Forty-five days earlier, the Intelligence Services had received a warning that a new attack could take place in Argentina, related to the Middle Eastern conflict. From that moment, local Intelligence Services tapped the phones of Iranian diplomats in Buenos Aires. Simultaneously, Brazilian national Wilson Dos Santos told the Argentinean Consulate in Milan that there would be an attack against a buildings belonging to the Argentinean Jewish Community, in 15 days.

Two years earlier, on March 17, 1992, the Israeli Embassy in Buenos Aires was bombed. No investigation and no preventive actions were taken after that attack.

Federal Judge Juan José Galeano and Federal Attorneys Eamon Mullen and José Barbaccia were assigned to the investigation.



1995. The set up

Six months after the attack and despite national and international demands for justice and clarification of what had happened, **the investigation had gone completely astray**, and all they had to show was the arrest of Carlos Alberto Telleldín, a chop shop owner who was the last known owner of the van that exploded in the attack.

Telleldín, the only person arrested, never stopped telling lies from the moment he negotiated his surrender with the Intelligence Secretariat. He was under pressure by the Federal Police, although it is not clear whether they wanted to make him talk or prevent him from talking.

The only strategy was to purchase perjured testimony from an arrested liar for 400,000 USD, to have a list of guilty people once and for all and thus close the investigation.

Nothing seemed more believable than the van having been given to two brigades of the Police of the Province of Buenos Aires, which at that point in its history, appeared capable of committing any massacre that took place in Argentina.



1996. The payment

From the start, the police officers were made to look guilty and thus the whole cover up was on its way. Judge Galeano and the prosecutors were absolutely backed by the government and the heads of the Jewish Community. They could use all necessary means to obtain the desired end result.

This situation allowed them to shift the focus away from the most incriminating leads and to abandon the task of seriously investigating the attack.

They then proposed the only available option: to pay him in exchange for false testimony to substantiate the accusation against the policemen, on the record, and to close the investigation.

Towards that goal, politicians (through the Intelligence Secretariat) Judge Galeano, the prosecutors and Beraja (chairman of DAIA, Argentine Jewish community's political arm) arranged many meetings with Telleldín until finally Telleldín and his lawyer agreed to cooperate.

Judge Galeano filmed these meetings and tried to keep those videos hidden forever, as kind of bureaucratic record of an operation he knew was illegal. Those videos show the Judge making arrangements with Telleldín to procure more false witnesses and agreeing on the terms of Telleldín's own testimony. This was done not only in exchange for good money, but also for cleaning him and his wife from the investigation.

Telleldín was paid with secret funds from the Intelligence Secretariat during the first days of July, in a race against the clock to finish everything by the second anniversary of the AMIA bombing.

Telleldín, too, did his part: he falsely accused the police brigades, whose members were arrested a few days later, and during the annual AMIA attack commemoration, were symbolically thrown into the fire by the government.



1997. The government's support

The videos that show Galeano negotiating Telleldín's false testimony were surprisingly stolen from his office and shortly after appeared on television.

Even though Judge Galeano should have been impeached immediately, he served another eight years before being removed, through impeachment proceedings initiated by MEMORIA ACTIVA.

The entire State apparatus, under President Menem's control, and Jewish community leaders, reacted by shamefully covering up and defending the judge's crimes.

Finally, as if nothing had happened and in order to close the deal that Galeano and his sidekicks had already begun, the head of the prosecuting authority, who worked under Menem's leadership, appointed a new prosecutor, Nisman, to join Mullen and Barbaccia's team to continue the case against the policemen and finally shut down the investigation for good.



1998. The grateful

In support of Judge Galeano and his sidekicks' criminal activity, the government announced the creation of the the “Antiterrorist Investigation Unit” of the Federal Police. Its leader was a high officer within the Police Force: Commissioner Jorge “Fino” Palacios, who was linked to the investigation of the bombing since day one.

Their job was to search violently for witnesses that could be of interest, to arrest them and to pressure them into giving more false evidence against the police to build a stronger cover-up operation.

Years later, **that same AIU was recognized by DAIA, the organized Jewish community, and for its alleged contribution in the in the investigation in a public ceremony.**



1999. The accusation

As occurred every year, this year's offering to placate calls for justice at the annual AMIA attack commemoration was the announcement that prosecutors Mullen, Barbaccia and Nisman had requested the initiation of an oral and public trial for the attack, by accusing and requesting life imprisonment for Telleldín and the Buenos Aires police, thereby validating all the **irregularities and crimes committed for the construction of a false narrative**. The entire lie was visible and ready to be confirmed, since even the court that would hear the trial was selected in a fraudulent manner.

At that moment, MEMORIA ACTIVA's lawyers demanded an unconventional way of selecting the court, and through this method, the court in charge of the trial became Federal Criminal and Correctional Court Number 3 (TOF 3, in Spanish).



2000. The whistle blower

The Bi-Chamber Commission to Monitor the Bombing Investigation within the Argentine Congress received a whistle blower who explained the cover-up operation: Claudio Lifschitz, who worked as Judge Galeano's assistant while most of the irregularities were committed was now willing to report them.

Unfortunately, this testimony was given first to Judge Cavallo and later on to Judge Claudio Bonadío, who in 1994 was a close collaborator of Carlos Corach (who was from 1995 to 1999 President Menem's Minister of Interior). As was expected, the investigation of the payment given to Telleldín did not make any progress for the next five years.



2001. The trial

The trial against the so-called “local connection” of the bombing began before the Federal Criminal and Correctional Court 3, with judges Larrambebere, Gordo and Pons presiding. During the three years of the trial, a Representative of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights of the Organization of American States observed the process. This was possible thanks to the petition filed by MEMORIA ACTIVA before that organization in 1999 against the Argentine State for violating its responsibility to prevent the bombing and for denial of justice for its citizens.



2002. The hard truth

The court analyzed each piece of evidence with a clear goal of searching for truth and with skepticism towards Judge Galeano's and the prosecutors' work.

They took the time necessary to evaluate evidence in the courthouse. For everything to be done in front of everyone. For everyone to be able to analyze the entire body of evidence so as to avoid future complaints.

The evidence showed the construction of a cover-up operation and the Executive Power was requested to lift State secrecy to permit all intelligence officers who intervened in the investigation to provide unrestrained testimony about what they knew.

The State Intelligence Secretariat and DAIA opposed this, claiming that it could pose a danger to national security. The leadership of the community has yet to explain this shameful stance.



2003. The Intelligence Secretariat

When State secrecy was lifted, the intelligence officers within the area of the Intelligence Secretariat known as “Sala Patria” gave testimony describing the way the payment to Telleldín was made on behalf of the Secretariat led by Hugo Anzorreguy and how the cover-up was set up under the command of Judge Galeano. That is how the Intelligence Secretariat confessed its own involvement in covering up the attack.

In December, the Federal Court of Appeals finally removed Judge Galeano from the investigation of the attack against AMIA.

For some time, Judge Canicoba Corral was put in charge of the investigation. The judge later delegated the investigation to a new Judicial Unit created especially for this investigation, under the leadership of prosecutors Nisman and Martínez Burgos. They had differences and ended up filing lawsuits against each other, until Alberto Nisman became the sole head of the Unit.



2004. The verdict

On 2 September, Federal Court Number 3 read its verdict **declaring the entire investigation null and acquitting all of the accused for the bombing.**

It was considered established fact that on 18 July 1994 at 9:53 am, a light-colored Renault Traffic van with hundreds of pounds of ammonal inside crashed against the entrance of the AMIA building, causing the explosion and collapse of the building and the death of 85 people.

It was also proven that the State committed irregular acts aimed at falsely accusing people as perpetrators of the attack.

The Court ordered the investigation of irregularities and crimes committed by Judge Galeano and the members of his office, prosecutors Mullen and Barbaccia, Minister of Interior Carlos Corach and some members of the Federal Police, by Secretary of Intelligence Anzorreguy and his agents, by Federal Judges Cavallo and Oyarbide, by the chairman of DAIA Rubén Beraja and by his lawyers Zaidemberg and Nercellas, as well as different members of the Bicameral Legislative Commission. Shortly thereafter, former President Menem, Fino Palacios, Telleldín, Castañeda and Anchezar joined this list.



2005-2014. The Cover-up case

In 2005, the cover-up case was assigned to the federal court led by Ariel Lijo.

During these years, the accused attempted to use procedural mechanism, like claims of nullity and statues of limitation to obtain acquittals. Combined with the delays in the justice system, it was not until 2011-2012 that the request to begin the oral hearings phase of the trial for the cover up was presented. The trial was assigned to Federal Court number 2. After over a dozen federal judges recused themselves from the trial, the court was constituted by Judges Jorge Gorini, Nestor Costaber and Karina Perilli. Domingo Altieri was recently appointed as alternate judge.

The trial will show, among other things, the payment of 400 thousand dollars to Carlos Telleldín to falsely implicate officers of the Provincial Police of Buenos Aires and the failure to investigate the so-called “Syrian track” of the attack.

6 August 2015: The cover-up trial begins.



Accused of cover-up



Juan José Galeano

Former judge for the AMIA investigation, impeached by the Council of the Magistrature following the impeachment trial initiated by Memoria Activa

Accusations:

- Principal in the crime of embezzlement through agreement with Carlos Telleldín, arrested pursuant to Galeano's orders in relation to the AMIA investigation, of a 400,000 USD payment in exchange for Telleldín's modification of his previous testimony to include within it the story of the fate of the Renault traffic van and to involved policemen within the Buenos Aires Provincial Police Force.
- Criminal responsibility for the crime of coercion against Miriam Salinas and Gustavo Semorile (both witnesses) and the crime of deprivation of freedom against Miriam Salinas.
- Four counts of the crime of falsification of documents of a public document through the manipulation of the record of Gustavo Semorile's testimony.
- Four counts of abusive deprivation of freedom against former policemen of the Province of Buenos Aires Ribelli, Leal, Ibarra and Barreiro.
- Breach of duty by knowingly proceeding in unjust and illegal ways within his role as judge.
- Crimes of cover up, abuse of authority, breach of duty and violation of the means of proof in the circumstances that led to the interruption of the investigation of the leads that involved Alberto Jacinto Kanoore Edul and associates in the attack.





Carlos Saúl Menem

Former president of Argentina

Accusations:

Instigating the concealment of the crime, falsification of documents repeated eight times and the crime of abuse of authority in circumstances that led to the interruption of the investigation of the lead that involved Alberto Jacinto Kanoore Edul and associates in the attack.

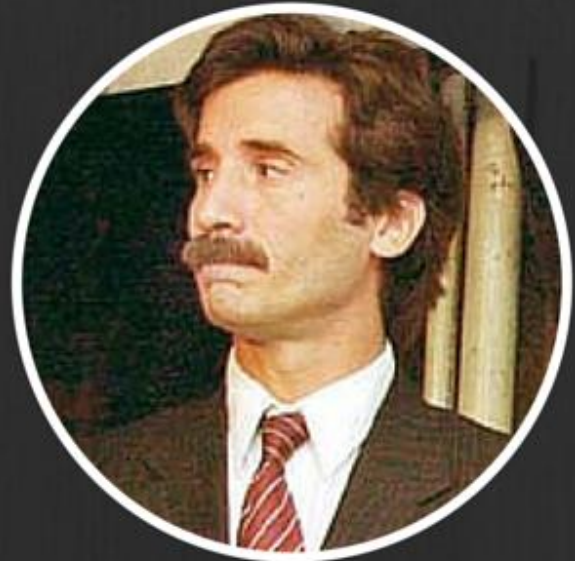


Eamon Mullen

Former prosecutor in the AMIA investigation

Accusations:

- Primary participant in the crime of embezzlement through the payment of 400,000 USD to Carlos Telleldín.
- Secondary participant in the crime of coercion against Miriam Salinas.
- Four counts as primary participant in the crime of abusive deprivation of freedom against former members of the Buenos Aires Provincial Police Force Ribelli, Leal, Ibarra and Barreiro.



José Barbaccia

Former prosecutor in the AMIA investigation

Accusations:

- Primary participant in the crime of embezzlement through the payment of 400,000 USD to Carlos Telleldín.
- Secondary participant in the crime of coercion against Miriam Salinas.
- Four counts as primary participant in the crime of abusive deprivation of freedom against former members of the Buenos Aires Provincial Police Force Ribelli, Leal, Ibarra and Barreiro.



Rubén Beraja

Former chairman of DAIA

Accusations:

Primary participant in the crime of embezzlement through his participation in the negotiations with Telleldín aimed at procuring at procuring perjured testimony against former Buenos Aires policemen in the AMIA bombing.



Jorge Fino Palacios

Former Commissioner in charge of the Federal Operations Division in the Dangerous Drugs Superintendency

Accusations:

Participant in the crime of covering up the attack, abuse of authority and violation of means of proof through the facts that led to the interruption of the investigation of the clues that involved Alberto Jacinto Kanoore Edul and associates..



Hugo Anzorreguy

Former State Secretary of Intelligence during Carlos Menem's government

Accusations:

- The crime of embezzlement through the illegal use of State funds (the payment of 400,000 USD to Carlos Telleldín) in order to obtain a testimony from an accused person without following the procedure established by the law and violating constitutional guarantees.
- The crimes of cover-up, criminal responsibility for abuse of authority and five counts of principal in the crime of falsification of documents that led to the interruption of the investigation of leads that involved Alberto Jacinto Kanoore Edul and associates in the attack.



Carlos Telleldín

Last owner of the Renault Traffic van whose engine was found among the debris of AMIA

Accusations:
Primary participant in the crime of embezzlement by receiving 400,000 USD in exchange for giving false testimony involving people who were not involved in the AMIA bombing.



Ana María Boragni

Carlos Telleldín's former partner

Accusations:
Participant in the crime of embezzlement by having received part of the money paid through the funds belonging to the Intelligence Secretariat, with knowledge of the illegitimacy of the payment.



Víctor Stinfale

**Former defense attorney
to Carlos Telleldín**

Accusations:
Primary participant in the crime of embezzlement through the counsel given by him to Telleldín for the payment of 400,000 USD. He also allegedly discussed this matter with Beraja. According to phone taps, he received 20,000 out of the 400,000 USD paid by the State Intelligence Secretariat.



Carlos Castañeda

**Former Commissioner in
the Federal Police Force**

Accusations:
Participant in the crime of the covering up a crime, abuse of authority, violation of the means proof and falsification of documents through the facts that led to the interruption of the investigation of the clues that involved Alberto Jacinto Kanoore Edul and associates.



Patricio Finnen

Former agent in the State Intelligence Secretariat - Chief of the "Sala Patria" section

Accusations:

Primary participant in the crime of embezzlement through the organization and effective payment of 400,000 USD with the knowledge that the payment was part of a ploy devised by Judge Galeano to obtain perjured testimony from Telleldín.



Juan Carlos Anchezar

Former undersecretary within the State Intelligence Secretariat

Accusations:

Participant in the crimes of cover up, abuse of authority and falsification of documents through the facts that led to the interruption of the investigation of the clues that involved Alberto Jacinto Kanoore Edul and associates.

**'Justice, justice shall
you pursue.'** [Deut. 26:20]



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