

**Security Council Open Debate
Threats to International Peace and Security Caused by Terrorist Acts
International Cooperation on Combating Terrorism and Violent Extremism
November 2014, Security Council Chamber**

Statement by Mr. Timerman Permanent Mission of Argentina to the United Nations

At the outset, I would like to thank Ms. Julie Bishop, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Australia, for the invitation to participate in this debate and to thank the Secretary-General for his informative briefing. Likewise, I would like to greet my colleague from Luxembourg and the high representatives of Rwanda, the Republic of Korea and Lithuania.

We all agree that today we are facing a proliferation of terrorist acts that share with terrorist acts of the recent past a common condition of being resounding manifestations of extreme violence, radicalized fundamentalism and an absolute and cruel devaluation of human dignity. However, today, we are also facing innovative modalities, if I may use that expression, that combine the reality of cruelty with virtual horror. The images of decapitations circulated by the networks place us, in real time, before what we might characterize as the virtual globalization of horror, a phenomenon that universalizes fear, uncertainty and alarm in a tangible manner.

The normalization of horror in the media and the acceleration of extreme violence cannot bring us to see the military response as the only, or preferred, option for combating terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. That approach has already shown its limitations and failings. We have a responsibility, in the light of a humanity that seems paralysed by terror, to work for the full rule of law in each of our countries, assuming the imperative need to build a balanced and fair world order based on real multilateralism and cooperation.

In the recent past, no country could consider itself immune from the possibility of falling victim to terrorist acts. However, today the threat is more clear than ever, and the implementation and strengthening of mechanisms for effective cooperation based on mutual respect are more necessary than ever. Although the international community has still not reached a universally agreed definition of terrorism, it is possible to identify what acts the international community condemns. We join the condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, as it is one of the most serious threats to international peace and security and to human dignity, peaceful coexistence, the consolidation of democracy, and the economic and social development of nations.

Argentina is one of the many countries that have suffered terrorism directly. First, from 1976 to the end of 1983, our society suffered from terrorist acts perpetrated by the State and with the State apparatus by the most savage civil-military dictatorship that we have experienced. It was responsible for heinous crimes and crimes against humanity. The persecution of individuals who had ideologies considered subversive, potentially subversive or simply dangerous led to a systematic plan for exterminating and annihilating more than 30,000 people for their political or social activism, religious beliefs, class, ethnic identity or sexual orientation. They were victims of the genocidal violence of a fundamentalist conservatism, inspired by the doctrine of national security and trained by important centres of power that, during the Cold War, prevented the advance and consolidation of democracy, pluralism,

tolerance and peace.

Secondly, we experienced in our own flesh the dehumanizing and terrible actions of foreign terrorist groups that, motivated by hatred, fanaticism and destruction, committed terrorist attacks in 1992 and 1994 against the Jewish community centre, AMIA, and the Israeli Embassy in Buenos Aires. As the President of the Argentine nation said in the Security Council in September (see S/PV.7272), the Argentine Republic and the United States of America are the two countries on the American continent to have been the object of savage terrorist attacks. Those painful experiences and the numerous terrorist acts carried out since then have reaffirmed Argentina's conviction that the response to terrorist acts should not and cannot be exclusively military. Rather, they should be based on a comprehensive approach, such as that reflected in the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. I also wish to express my country's conviction that terrorism must be fought within the framework of the rule of law and respect for due process. Indeed, the measures adopted by States to combat terrorism must fully respect international law, in particular international human rights law, international humanitarian law and refugee law. Those measures should also respect the purposes and the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, such as the sovereignty, territorial integrity, political independence of States and the principle of non-intervention in domestic affairs.

Likewise, Argentina advocates respect for due process in the work of this Council. The creation of the Office of the Ombudsperson represents a significant step forward in that regard, but the Members of the Organization continue to raise concerns about procedural guarantees. One of the major concerns is that the mandate of the Ombudsperson covers only those individuals included in the Al-Qaida sanctions list. Argentina calls for broadening the mandate of that Office to all of the Security Council sanctions committees.

Argentina is a party to the 13 legal instruments that have been established to combat terrorism and has taken internal measures to implement them and the Council's resolutions 1373 (2001) and 1624 (2005). Furthermore, together with your country, Madam President, and many others, Argentina helped to initiate the Arms Trade Treaty, which comes into force on 24 December. One of the Treaty's purposes is to prevent the transfer of arms to human-rights violators and perpetrators of crimes against humanity, as well as to reduce the risk of weapons being diverted to the illegal market, with the possibility that they might end up in the hands of terrorist or criminal groups. We therefore encourage all States Members of the United Nations, especially the members of the Council, to ratify the Treaty, since it will contribute significantly to our countries' security.

I should mention that during the Treaty negotiations, Argentina, like a significant number of delegations, also proposed banning the sale of arms to unauthorized non-State actors. Regrettably, no consensus was reached on including such a ban at the time of the Treaty's adoption, but Argentina is hopeful that the parties to the Treaty will approve it as one factor in preventing arms transfers that could help to fuel conflicts in various parts of the world. Reality has shown us that when some countries decide today to arm those calling themselves freedom fighters, tomorrow those freedom fighters may be the terrorists we are trying to combat.

It is clear that the 13 conventions on combating terrorism oblige us, among other things, to prevent terrorist groups from having access to resources and funding for their activities. It is

also clear that the Council's resolutions oblige us to prevent individuals, groups and entities associated with Al-Qaida from having access to weapons and related material. Argentina maintains that States should also refrain from sending weapons to areas of conflict, which only helps to increase such conflicts' intensity and duration and to endanger civilians.

Argentina believes firmly that the United Nations, as a cornerstone of the multilateral system, should be the Organization directing States' actions to combat terrorism. While we value the contribution that other forums or initiatives can make, ours is the body with the primary responsibility for maintaining international peace and security. Moreover, the universal representation it provides ensures both the participation of all States Members on equal terms, as well as the legitimacy of decisions that are reflected in standards, guidelines and good practices. Argentina believes that multilateral action through the United Nations, in accordance with the principles of the Organization, will enable us to address the threat of terrorism and achieve a safer world for all.