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Letter dated 28 September 2008 from the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

I have the honour to enclose herewith the text of the written statement of the delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran in exercise of its right of reply to the remarks made by Her Excellency Ms. Cristina Fernández de Kirchner, President of the Republic of Argentina, in the sixty-third session of the General Assembly on 23 September 2008 (see annex).

It would be highly appreciated if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 8.

(Signed) Mohammad **Khazaei**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative



Annex to the letter dated 28 September 2008 from the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

1. On Monday, 23 September 2008, the President of the Republic of Argentina raised baseless claims against the Islamic Republic of Iran and a number of its nationals in her statement before the United Nations General Assembly. The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran categorically rejects those claims and allegations.

2. The Islamic Republic of Iran unequivocally condemns all acts of terrorism committed by whomever, wherever and for whatever purposes. By the same token, Iran reaffirms its condemnation of AMIA [Asociación Mutual Israelita Argentina] bombing and reiterates its call for urgent punishment of its culprits. It is regrettable that the Argentinean authorities, under pressure from certain quarters, continue to smokescreen their failure to punish the real perpetrators of that heinous act by blaming certain innocent Iranian nationals. The bitter fact that the real offenders are still scot free and, instead, the innocent Iranian nationals are unjustly targeted indicates that Argentina's judicial system has been either unwilling or unable to track the real offenders. The whole case against the Iranian nationals is but a sham. And the whole sham is premised on a funny phony hypothesis that this bombing occurred because of Buenos Aires' decision to suspend a nuclear material delivery and technology transfer contract with Iran!

3. How can the President of Argentina expect other countries to trust the Argentina's judicial system while it is plagued by high level of corruption and incompetence? The AMIA case, in particular, is marked by an unprecedented level of planned incompetence, political racketeering and influence, biasedness, and cover-ups. Judge Juan José Galeano, the leading judge who was in charge of investigation of the AMIA case and who brought up the baseless allegations against Iranian citizens merely on the basis of sheer lies by members of a notorious terrorist organization (MKO), was impeached and removed from his post on charges of serious irregularities in the investigation. This happened seemingly after his main mission, in absolving all local suspects and destroying evidence and proofs, had been accomplished. The panel of judges which took over the case in 2004 observed that there had been no real investigation and that officials had conspired to construct a case "serving obscure political interests". The level of incompetence and corruption was so high in the investigation that it was rightly characterized as "national disgrace" by former President Kirchner in 2005.

4. The Islamic Republic of Iran is not legally bound, either under its domestic law or under its international obligations, to cooperate with the Argentine judicial system. However, and despite the fact that no single credible evidence has been provided to indicate the involvement of any Iranian national in that terrorist act, the Judiciary of the Islamic Republic of Iran decided to consider a request for cooperation by Argentina, as an utter sign of good will and in order to help restore the reputation of the Iranian nationals unjustly harmed by groundless allegations and in the hope that some light will be shed on this complicated case. Unfortunately, this good will was not duly reciprocated by Argentina. Moreover, the Islamic Republic of Iran has offered certain constructive proposals in this regard, but has yet to receive a response.

5. The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran resolves to restore the reputation of its innocent citizens harmed by irresponsible allegations and shameless fabrications. In this context, those who collaborated to dishonouring the Iranian nationals by levelling unsubstantiated allegations against them shall be held accountable.

6. The inability of Argentina's judicial authorities to furnish credible evidence to prove allegations against one of the Iranian citizens detained by the British Government in 2003 at the request of Argentina, and the refusal by the British authorities to accept the documents presented by Argentina's judge against the person in question as well as his final acquittal from allegations — which was an indication of his innocence — should have dissuaded Argentina from pursuing the unjust and useless campaign against Iran and Iranian citizens.

7. The Islamic Republic of Iran sympathizes with all victims of terrorism, including those innocent people killed in the AMIA building. The AMIA case, for sure, is an open wound for Argentina; and it would not heal until and unless the Argentinean officials decide to stand determined to face the truth, act honestly, overcome domestic political rivalries which has for long taken the AMIA case hostage, and do justice once and for all.
