Argentina Rocked by Death of Prosecutor in Terror Case

Buenos Aires, January 20 (RHC-EFE) --The death of the prosecutor who accused President Cristina Fernandez of concealing the involvement of Iran in a deadly 1994 terrorist attack on a Jewish cultural center in Buenos Aires sent shockwaves across Argentinian society on Monday.

Alberto Nisman, 51, was found shot to death early Monday, hours before he was due to appear before Congress to present his reasons for seeking to indict the president, Foreign Minister Hector Timerman and five other people in connection with 85 deaths in an explosion at the offices of the Jewish organization AMIA.

Police confirmed that the fatal shot came from the .22-caliber pistol found under Nisman's body inside a locked bathroom at his home in the capital's Puerto Madero neighborhood.

The body was discovered by Nisman's mother, who needed the services of a locksmith to enter the bathroom. No note was discovered. Nisman, who told associates that he feared for his life, had a 10-member security detail.

Fernandez was immediately informed of Nisman's death, aides said. Her Cabinet chief, Jorge Capitanich, expressed the administration's support for the security forces "to guarantee the clarification" of the "painful

event."

Though she has made no public statements about Nisman's death, Fernandez ordered Argentina's intelligence agencies to declassify all materials pertaining to the probe of the car-bomb attack on AMIA. The order applies to all information derived from the wiretaps that Nisman said provided the key evidence against Fernandez and the others, Intelligence Secretary Oscar Parrilli said.

Argentina's federal judiciary is currently in recess, but Judge Ariel Lijo interrupted his vacation to process Nisman's accusation against the president and take steps to secure all evidence that was in the prosecutor's possession.

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