

THE INTERNATIONAL TACTICS OF THE AMIA CASE: THE RELEVANCE OF THE INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE PURSUIT OF JUSTICE

ABSTRACT

The AMIA bombing of 1994 is the most scarring terrorist attack in the history of Argentina. As of today, the attack remains a divisive and highly sensitive topic in Argentinian politics. However, the current political relevance of the case does not derive as much from the attack itself than from the initial manipulation of the criminal investigations. The case today exists as a symbol of impunity fabricated by deliberate collusion between intelligence authorities, the judiciary and a part of the political system. The manipulation in the AMIA investigations was so pervasive that the Argentinian government recognized it before the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights in 2005. However, the case remains unresolved and the victims still await justice.

This article traces how the struggle of the victims evolved to pursue different claims of justice. For this purpose, the article uses the concept of boomerang mechanisms, a well-known conceptualization of human rights politics, to offer a more complex perspective of the fluid interaction between domestic and international activity. The victims relied on the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) to boost the investigations and the implementation of a decree meant to provide reparations. and their allies activated these interactions at contingent moments of the struggle to overcome impasses and

transform their claims for justice. By the iterative action of these fields, the case has developed a set of normative meanings that slowly incorporated forms of reparatory, restorative and transformative justice.

A central aspect of this argument is that these dynamics would not have been possible without the tactical opportunities provided by the IACHR and the tenacious efforts of the victims to create and sustain the existence of a public space to voice their claims for justice. After making a review of this twenty year long struggle, the article concludes with a brief description of the prospective role that the IACHR will play in the subsequent stages of this case.

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rechazó un planteo del exjuez Galeano contra la anulación de su sobreseimiento, *Causa AMIA: Casación*

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