

Press

Release



4 December 2007

World Jewish Congress, Latin American Jewish Congress condemn raid on Jewish cultural center in Caracas

NEW YORK – With surprise and concern, the World Jewish Congress (WJC) and its regional branch, the Latin American Jewish Congress (LAJC), were informed of the raid on 'Hebraica' in the capital Caracas. Hebraica is the cultural and social center of the Venezuelan Jewish community, which also houses the Jewish school. The raid was carried out last Sunday, on the eve of the constitutional referendum, under the implausible pretext of a search for weapons.

Naturally nothing irregular was discovered. The action was, in itself, an unjustified act of hostility and intimidation against a peaceful and hard-working community that has always contributed, loyally and constructively, to Venezuela's development and progress. Respect for the minorities that live within a society is a barometer of the quality of that society's institutional framework, and a measure of the fundamental human rights assured to its citizens. The harassment of the Venezuelan Jewish community, through one of its central institutions, is thus unacceptable, devoid of any rational, and incomprehensible.

The WJC and the LAJC strongly condemn this unjustified action in Caracas and extend their solidarity, and the wholehearted support of the Jewish communities around the world, to the Venezuelan Jewish community. The WJC and the LAJC will continue to monitor the situation and any developments relating to the rights and peace of mind of Venezuelan Jews.

Jack Terpins

President
Latin American Jewish Congress

Ronald S. Lauder

President
World Jewish Congress

Matthew Bronfman

Chairman, Governing Board
World Jewish Congress

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The World Jewish Congress is the international organization representing Jewish communities in over 80 countries around the world. The WJC serves as the diplomatic arm of the Jewish people to world governments and international organizations. The Latin American Jewish Congress is the regional branch of the WJC and federates Jewish communities in Latin America.

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