

DECLARATION 216-CM-1994

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION REPUDIATION OF NAZISM AND SOLIDARITY WITH THE RELATIVES OF VICTIMS OF THE ARDEATINE CAVES

BACKGROUND

Bariloche has been on the front pages of Argentine and foreign newspapers because of statements made by former SS officer Erich Priebke (currently living in Bariloche) to the United States ABC network. In those statements Priebke justified his past criminal actions.

This issue was the cause of a number of declarations, which originated in Argentina and abroad and gave a wrong image of Bariloche; that of a town that supports the Nazi ideology.

The Argentine House of Representatives [*Cámara de Diputados de la Nación*] approved unanimously a statement that condemns the Nazi ideology, requesting Priebke's speedy extradition and expresses its solidarity with the relatives of the Ardeatine Caves victims.

Victims' relatives Giulia Spizichino and Marcos Giustiniani; together with National Congressman Claudio Mendoza and Sergio Widder, Argentine representative of the Simon Wiesenthal Center; were received on September 12 by the Chairman of Bariloche's the Town Council and Council members Hugo Castañón, Roberto Mariani, Osvaldo Marsella, César Miguel, Rubén Alomo, Ester Acuña, Juan Carlos Pulleiro and Oscar Cannizzaro

GROUNDS

There should be absolutely no doubts about the feelings of the majority of Bariloche's citizens, expressed through its duly elected representatives. It is therefore necessary to explicitly condemn any totalitarian or criminal activity, and specially the Nazi regime and its promoters, and to express solidarity with the relatives of the victims of the Ardeatine Caves massacre.

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Resolution 724-PCM-94, with its modifications, was ratified during the Session of October 13, 1994, Proceedings 603/94. Therefore, as provided in Section 17 of the

Municipal Charter,

THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL OF SAN CARLOS DE BARILOCHE
APPROVE THE FOLLOWING

DECLARATION

Sect. 1: We strongly condemn nazism and all ideologies that consider man as a mere instrument to achieve the goals of a few self-elected individuals. We reaffirm the ideal of the inherent equality of all human beings and the respect for free life as the utmost individual and social value, an ideal that our Jewish-Christian culture shares with other cultures.

Sect. 2: People in the public eye whether they are in Government service or private activities must be an example of the daily practice of moral rules, especially to educate the younger generations. Therefore, we express our strong repudiation against those who, like Erich Priebke, are self-confessed violators of these rules.

Sect. 3: We point out that this community where we live and which we represent has historically condemned any totalitarian ideologies, making it possible to develop the humanitarian principles of equality and freedom. Within this framework, we stress before the world the example of coexistence between different communities shown by San Carlos de Bariloche.

Sect. 4: We express our solidarity and affection for the victims of the aberrant massacre that SS troops committed at the Ardeatine Caves in Rome on March 24, 1944, and we assure them that – irrespective of what the Courts may decide – our ethical condemnation shall never prescribe.

Sect. 5: The Municipal Council of San Carlos de Bariloche would be very pleased to see that the Courts deal as expediently as possible with the request of the Italian Courts to extradite Erich Priebke.

Sect. 6: This Declaration shall be advised to the Municipal Council of the City of Rome through the Italian Embassy in Argentina, and to the visiting relatives of the victims.