

Argentinian Senate to Vote on New Intelligence Agency



Buenos Aires, February 2 (RHC-teleSUR) -- The Argentine President Cristina Fernandez sent a bill to the Senate Saturday to create a new Federal Intelligence Agency (AFI) and replace the dissolved Intelligence Service (SI).

Restructuring the Argentinian intelligence services has become the focus of attention after the mysterious death of Federal Attorney Alberto Nisman. The new bill specifies the functions that the AFI would have and it imposes limits on the agency's activities. It also regulates its expenditures and bans the hiring of human rights violators.

However, opposition parties have already announced they will oppose the bill. According to a statement released by the opposition, the bill is an attempt to divert attention from the government's role in Nisman's death and further deepens the politicization of intelligence services.

President Cristina Fernandez has claimed she is being targeted by opposition leaders and media outlets, who claim the government is behind the attorney's death, for political motives. Social movements have also rejected attempts to link the government to the attorney's death.

U.S. Republican lawmaker Marco Rubio, who has a reputation for opposing progressive Latin American governments, has even called on President Barack Obama to investigate Nisman's death, in what was

regarded by the Argentinian government as an intrusion in domestic affairs.

The case continues to unfold as judicial authorities are waiting on video footage from Nisman's apartment building to confirm witness accounts, including that of Diego Lagomarsino, an aide to Nisman who lent his gun to the late attorney and who is now a suspect in the case.

It is thought that Lagomarsino was linked to former intelligence chief Antonio "Jaime" Stiusso. Stiusso, who is believed to have left the country, was removed from his post by President Fernandez a month before Nisman's death.

On Sunday, lawmaker Gustavo Vera announced he was going to sue Stiusso for money laundering and illegal activities during his time in charge of the intelligence services.

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