

DECLARATION

The Honourable Senate Argentina, expresses its sincerest condolences to the victims of the crash of Air France 447 on the 1st of June while on route from Rio de Janeiro to Paris, among them Dr. Pablo Dreyfus and his wife.

BACKGROUND

Researcher Pablo Dreyfus, one of the most renowned experts worldwide on firearms control and gun violence, travelled to Paris with his wife Ana Carolina Rodrigues, on Air France flight 447 that disappeared on the 1st of June.

I met this prestigious researcher personally three years ago when we invited him to attend a meeting of the Committee of Public Security of the Latin American Parliament, held in Buenos Aires, in our Congress.

As a result of the meeting, he participated in the working group that was set to develop a draft legislation on arms control for the Latin American Parliament.

Those of us, who participated in this process, all agree how great Pablo was; his work capacity, his thoroughness and his knowledge of the subject, but, above all, his generosity, commitment and bonhomie.

He continued to be involved in this process, which, last December resulted in the Assembly of Latin American Parliament unanimously adopting the Model Legislation on Firearms, Ammunition and Related Materials, drafted by the working group in which he participated.

But apart from this specific contribution, those of us who work against the proliferation of arms and for violence reduction, found in Pablo an international approach to these issues.

This rigorous researcher is a University of Buenos Aires graduate in Political Science and obtained an MSc and a PhD in International Relations at the Institut Universitaire de Hautes Etudes Internationales in Geneva, Switzerland.

He collaborated with the most prestigious publication in the field of arms control, the 'Small Arms Survey'. In 2002 he settled in Brazil and joined the NGO Viva Rio. Dedicated to arms control and fighting gun violence, he worked as coordinator for the arms control project of the Human Security Program of the organization.

In this activity, he had an important influence on the drafting of the Statute of Disarmament, the arms legislation in Brazil and the collection campaign that achieved the surrender and destruction of half a million firearms in the country.

He was also a research associate in the Conflict Analysis Resource Center (CERAC) and the Higher Institute for the Study of Religion (ISER), teacher-researcher of the the Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences (FLACSO-Brazil) and co-

coordinator of the Brazilian Reflection Group on Regional Security of the Friedrich Ebert Foundation (FES).

As a Member of the International Action Network on Small Arms (IANSA), his work reached many countries and he produced endless publications and research on these issues.

In our country he conducted research related to the Arms Exchange Campaign held by the Province of Mendoza and he was also contracted by the Province of Buenos Aires to discuss the issues the district would need to consider in order to implement a similar program.

In this painful moment, his immense contribution to deepening the study of issues related to trafficking and arms proliferation, its impact on the exacerbation of conflicts and organized crime, and to design strategies for the construction of more secure communities, is even more appreciated.

To conclude, summarizing the nature of this humble, compassionate, committed person with a high professional level, I would like to quote the Executive Director of Viva Rio's farewell to Pablo Dreyfus and his wife: *"You have marked our lives forever. Your honesty went beyond reasonable limits. Viva Rio is what it is thanks to you and, undoubtedly, will never be the same again"*

Therefore, I ask my colleagues for their support in approving this draft.