

Distinguished guests,

As CEO of B'nai B'rith International, the world's oldest Jewish humanitarian, human rights, and advocacy organization, it is a great honor to host this special ceremony, to present our most important distinction: the Presidential Gold Medal.

Founded in 1843 in New York, B'nai B'rith has been a constant presence in world affairs for over 180 years. From mobilizing support for the founding of the State of Israel, to advocating at the United Nations, and providing humanitarian relief to communities in need, it has played a vital role across continents. Today, B'nai B'rith continues to defend human rights, promote tolerance and respect for diversity, combat antisemitism, and build bonds of friendship between the Jewish people and peoples everywhere.

The Presidential Gold Medal has, over the years, been awarded to leaders of extraordinary importance, such as President Harry Truman, President John F. Kennedy, David Ben-Gurion, Golda Meir, Stephen Harper, and other personalities, whose vision and courage helped shape the course of history.

This award carries tremendous significance, as it upholds a tradition grounded in principle, enduring values, and moral clarity. Today we gather to present this medal to President Javier Milei, who now joins that distinguished list.

Mr. President, you have shown a profound and genuine friendship with the Jewish people and the State of Israel. From your earliest days in public life, and now as head of state, you have made that friendship a guiding principle of your leadership.

In an age when moral relativism threatens the very foundations of our civilization, you have affirmed that certain values cannot be compromised: liberty, human dignity, and the right of every nation to live in peace and security.

Since the horrendous events of October 7, events that should have shaken the conscience of every human being on Earth, you have stood firmly with Israel. And perhaps even more importantly, in the days and months that followed, you bravely confronted the growing and shameful attempts to distort the truth and turn the victims into perpetrators, efforts rooted in nothing other than deep-seated antisemitism.

You have been one of the very few leaders with the moral courage to speak with clarity and without hesitation in condemning the dangerous ideology that fueled the October 7 massacre, an ideology that threatens not only Israel and the Jewish people, but the entire world.

Your country has endured the consequences of this murderous ideology, suffering the 1992 bombing of the Israeli Embassy in Buenos Aires and the 1994 bombing of the AMIA Jewish Center. And you had the courage to stand firm against the sponsor of these attacks: the Islamic regime of Iran. Your government played a decisive role in advancing the passage of the historic law authorizing trials in absentia, an indispensable legal tool to pursue justice in the AMIA case and to confront terrorism when perpetrators hide behind rogue states. This crucial step has given renewed hope to the victims' families and set an example for the entire world.

Your defense of Israel in international forums, your solidarity in difficult times, and your recent, personal commitment to move Argentina's embassy to Jerusalem are further proof of your steadfast friendship and your firm moral convictions. You have reminded the world that Latin America, too, can be a beacon of principle, and that defending Israel is inseparable from defending democracy and freedom.

Your leadership honors Argentina and inspires the entire region. You have become a guiding light in Latin America.

For all these reasons, and with deep gratitude for your friendship, it is my privilege, on behalf of B'nai B'rith International, to present the Presidential Gold Medal to you.

Mr. President, with this award we recognize not only your friendship with Israel and the Jewish people, but also your commitment to freedom, justice, and truth. May it serve both as a sign of our appreciation and as encouragement to continue on this path, lighting the future of your country and the region with courage and principle.

Thank you.