

(S. B. 1535)

**(No. 144)**

(Approved August 2, 2006)

### **AN ACT**

To declare May 30<sup>th</sup> of each year as the “Lod Massacre Memorial Day” in remembrance of the events of May 30<sup>th</sup>, 1972, in which Puerto Rican pilgrims died in a terrorist attack at Lod Airport, in Israel, and to provide for the holding of a day of reflection and remembrance.

### **STATEMENT OF MOTIVES**

On May 30, 1972, three members of a terrorist attack cell carried out an operation planned and supported by the General Command of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, thus perpetrating a massacre at Lod Airport in Tel Aviv, Israel, in which twenty-six people died, and another seventy-eight people were injured. Among the deceased, sixteen were Puerto Ricans who were prepared to make a pilgrimage through various holy sites.

The pilgrims from Manatí, Arecibo, Fajardo and other places of the Island were caught in the gunfire of followers of theories that propose the redefinition of revolutionary strife, thus preferring to employ terrorism to intimidate the society in lieu of trying to convince it by political resistance or by fighting the established power face to face. The modest religious Puerto Ricans were victims of this supposedly revolutionary alliance, but actually blinded by the fanaticism that made use of anti-Semitic discourse to justify and extend the magnitude of the terrorist violence unleashed against Jewish and non-Jewish targets worldwide.

Unfortunately, this fact has almost disappeared from the collective memory and even in the schools and universities of Puerto Rico, this fact that had such a great impact in the Puerto Rican history, is ignored or unheard of. It is important to always bear in mind that violence against innocent people is morally loathsome and radically incompatible with the claims of vindication, when there are legitimate ways to make claims by democratic means. It is important to teach our future generations that we should not yield to provocations if there are other alternatives; that we should be supportive towards those who suffer aggressions and persecutions, but never to tolerate actions against innocent people, or the attempt to instill hate for ethnical, religious, or cultural reasons. Those persons who have suffered directly the consequences of fanaticism and intolerance should be our main concern. We know that democracy shall never give them back what they have lost, but we deem it fair that they receive the recognition and attention of our Puerto Rican society as a matter of principles, moral compromise and patriotic duty.

The Legislature of Puerto Rico must consign in the collective memory the memory of those who died in this terrorist act. It is also important to honor its survivors, since none better than they can defend the democratic values of peaceful and mutual respect that those who inflicted this suffering wanted to destroy. We cannot forget this event or its victims, and for this reason, a sincere gesture of remembrance and reflection, shall serve to raise awareness on the matter.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF PUERTO RICO:**

Section 1.- May 30<sup>th</sup> of each year is hereby declared as “Lod Massacre Memorial Day” in the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico in remembrance of

the events of May 30<sup>th</sup>, 1972, in which Puerto Rican pilgrims died in a terrorist attack at Lod Airport, in Israel.

Section 2.- The Governor of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, by proclamation, shall annually exhort the people of Puerto Rico to hold proper activities in remembrance of the “Lod Massacre Memorial Day.” Public and private educational institutions shall be encouraged to inform of the historical event and to stress the need for supportiveness among the Puerto Rican people, and all those who suffer aggressions and persecutions, of not yielding to provocations when there are legitimate ways to make fair claims, and to avoid religious, ethnical and cultural prejudices.

Section3.- The Department of State shall remit a copy of the proclamation issued annually by the Governor to the media for its corresponding disclosure and broadcasting.

Section 4.- In the act of the signing of the first proclamation under this Act, the Department of State shall invite the families of the affected persons, the Consul of Israel for Florida and Puerto Rico, and representatives of the Jewish community in Puerto Rico.

Section 5.- This Act shall take effect immediately after its approval.

## CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify to the Secretary of State that the following Act No. 144 (S.B. 1535) of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Session of the 15<sup>th</sup> Legislature of Puerto Rico:

**AN ACT** to declare May 30<sup>th</sup> of each year as the “Lod Massacre Memorial Day” in remembrance of the events of May 30<sup>th</sup>, 1972, in which Puerto Rican pilgrims died in a terrorist attack at Lod Airport, in Israel, and to provide for the holding of a day of reflection and remembrance,

has been translated from Spanish to English and that the English version is correct.

In San Juan, Puerto Rico, today 22<sup>nd</sup> of January of 2007.

Francisco J. Domenech  
Director