



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Mr. Roskam:

NOV 21 2014

Thank you for your July 31 letter expressing concern about Qatar's relationship with Hamas. We take these concerns seriously and welcome the opportunity to provide you with some additional information. We regret the delay in our response.

Qatar has said it wants to help bring about a cease fire to the ongoing hostilities in Israel and Gaza. The Qatari government has engaged with Hamas to this end. In his discussions with Qatari Foreign Minister al-Attiya, Secretary Kerry has made clear our position on Hamas. We have designated Hamas a Foreign Terrorist Organization and we view it as a destabilizing force in Gaza. We need countries that have leverage over the leaders of Hamas to help put a ceasefire in place. Qatar may be able to play that role as it has done in the past.

To achieve a durable solution to the conflict, the Palestinian Authority must be solvent and its institutions must function effectively. With this in mind, we have urged Qatar to support the Palestinian Authority and its moderate leadership. Since the new Amir came to power in June 2013, Qatar has provided \$150 million to the Palestinian Authority for debt relief, fulfilling a pledge in support of our efforts towards Middle East Peace. There will need to be reconstruction in Gaza once a cease fire is in place. Qatar has pledged financial support that would be directed to the Palestinian people in Gaza. Qatar assured us that its assistance would not go to Hamas. We continue to interact closely with the Government of Qatar and will reinforce that such assistance should not go to Hamas.

We also engage regularly with Qatar on the issue of terrorist finance. In recent years, we have seen some improvements in Qatar's counterterrorist financing efforts, including steps to improve its anti-money laundering/counterterrorist financing (AML/CTF) legal framework.

The Honorable
Peter J. Roskam,
House of Representatives.

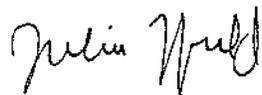
Nevertheless, while Qatar sees the growth of extremist groups like the al-Nusra Front and the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant as direct challenges to its own security and interests in the region, its disruption of terrorist financing by Qatari individuals and charitable associations remains inconsistent. We continue to work closely with the Qatari government on strengthening its AML/CTF regimes. For example, we coordinated participation of Qatari officials who are involved in the design and implementation of Qatar's CTF regime in training by the Treasury and Justice Departments and the FBI to improve Qatar's capacity and coordination to counter the financing of terrorism. We also will not hesitate to act on our own to disrupt terrorist financing networks. For example, in December the Treasury Department designated as a Specially Designated Global Terrorist a Qatar-based financier who provided financial support for al-Qa'ida and its affiliates.

We remain strongly committed to working with Qatar to confront ongoing terrorist financing and advance our shared regional goals. Qatar plays an important role as host of CENTCOM's forward headquarters at Al Udeid Air Base, housing over 8,500 U.S. military personnel, and supporting a range of regional contingencies, including in Afghanistan. We also have a productive relationship with Qatar on key regional issues ranging from Syria to Iran.

More broadly, Qatar has welcomed President Obama's commitment to a solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and shares the view that such a solution would advance security, prosperity, and stability in the Middle East. To demonstrate this commitment, Qatar led an Arab League delegation of foreign ministers to Washington in April 2013, culminating in the Arab League's reaffirmation of its commitment to the 2002 Arab Peace Initiative.

We hope this information is helpful to you. Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can be of further assistance on this or any other matter.

Sincerely,



Julia Frifield
Assistant Secretary
Legislative Affairs