

QATAR, MONEY, AND TERROR

Doha's Dangerous Policies



(Source: [GECF](#))

Qatar's support for extremists undermines regional and international security

- Provides direct financial and logistical support to internationally designated terrorist groups
- Harbors sanction-designated or wanted individuals including current Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh, former Hamas leader Khaled Meshaal, as well as al-Qaeda financiers and Taliban operatives
- Invests in global financial institutions directly linked to entities that finance and support the Muslim Brotherhood and Hamas

Qatari commitment to counterterrorism efforts must be complete and unequivocal

- Counterterrorism packages of 2004 and 2014 must be fully enforced
- As signatory to the 2014 Jeddah Communiqué—Qatar is obligated to end terror/terror financing

Despite passing counterterrorism legislation and partaking in U.S.-led counterterrorism initiatives, Doha continues to directly fund internationally designated terrorist groups and harbor internationally designated operatives.

CEP's QATAR-HARBORS Campaign seeks to end Qatari government support for terror groups and individuals.

- Specifically, CEP is calling on Qatar to arrest, expel, or otherwise cut off support to sanction-designated or wanted individuals currently domiciled in Qatar
- CEP is also calling on Qatar to halt all support—financial, material, and strategic—to internationally designated terrorist groups including Hamas, the Muslim Brotherhood, the Nusra Front, and the Taliban.

OVERVIEW

Qatar—a long-time U.S. ally and member of the Global Coalition to Counter ISIS—has supported and harbored international terrorist organizations and individuals. The hydrocarbon-rich Gulf country sends direct financial and material support to internationally designated terrorist groups such as Hamas and the Nusra Front,¹ and knowingly permits internationally designated or wanted terrorist leaders and financiers to operate within its borders.²

The Qatari government has lent support to al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP),³ Hamas,⁴ the Muslim Brotherhood,⁵ al-Nusra Front,⁶ and the Taliban⁷—including through direct money loans, ransom payments, and supplies transfers. Qatar is also currently harboring multiple sanction-designated or wanted individuals, including former Hamas leader Khaled Meshaal, current Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh, and several al-Qaeda financiers.⁸

¹ “Qatar says gives \$30 million to pay Gaza public sector workers,” Reuters, July 22, 2016, <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-palestinians-gaza-qatar-idUSKCN1021AQ>; Dov Lieber, “Haniyeh seeks to pay Hamas ‘military personnel’ with Qatar’s money,” Times of Israel, August 2, 2016, <http://www.timesofisrael.com/haniyeh-seeks-to-pay-hamas-military-personnel-with-qatars-money/>; Miriam Karouny, “Insight - Syria's Nusra Front may leave Qaeda to form new entity,” Reuters, March 4, 2015, <http://uk.reuters.com/article/uk-mideast-crisis-nusra-insight-idUKKBN0M00G620150304>.

² Peter Kovessy, “Qatar FM: Hamas leader to remain in Doha as ‘dear guest’,” Doha News, January 13, 2015, <https://dohanews.co/qatar-fm-hamas-leader-remain-doha-dear-guest/>; Shabina S. Khatri, “Egypt demands extradition of Sheikh Yusuf Al Qaradawi from Qatar,” Doha News, February 5, 2014, <https://dohanews.co/egypt-demands-extradition-of-sheikh-yusuf-al-qaradawi-from-qatar/>; “Report on the Inquiry into: The Department of Defense’s May 2014 Transfer to Qatar of five law-of-war detainees in connection with the recovery of a captive U.S. soldier,” Committee on Armed Services, December 9, 2015, https://armedservices.house.gov/sites/republicans.armedservices.house.gov/files/wysiwyg_uploaded/Report%20on%20the%20Inquiry%20into%20the%20Taliban%20Five%20Transfer_0.pdf; “Treasury Designates Al-Qa’ida Supporters in Qatar and Yemen,” U.S. Department of the Treasury, December 19, 2013, <http://www.treasury.gov/press-center/press-releases/Pages/jl2249.aspx>; “Treasury Designates Twelve Foreign Terrorist Fighter Facilitators,” U.S. Department of the Treasury, September 24, 2014, <http://www.treasury.gov/press-center/press-releases/Pages/jl2651.aspx>; Andrew Gilligan, “Minister’s family ties to terror,” Telegraph (London), November 1, 2014, <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/middleeast/qatar/11203140/Ministers-family-ties-to-terror.html>; “Treasury Designates Financial Supporters of Al-Qaida and Al-Nusrah Front,” U.S. Department of the Treasury, August 5, 2015, <http://www.treasury.gov/press-center/press-releases/Pages/jl0143.aspx>.

³ David Andrew Weinberg, “Terrorist Financing: Kidnapping, Antiquities Trafficking, and Private Donations,” Foundation for Defense of Democracies, November 17, 2015, 8, <http://docs.house.gov/meetings/FA/FA18/20151117/104202/HHRG-114-FA18-Wstate-WeinbergD-20151117.pdf>.

⁴ “Qatar says gives \$30 million to pay Gaza public sector workers,” Reuters, July 22, 2016, <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-palestinians-gaza-qatar-idUSKCN1021AQ>; Dov Lieber, “Haniyeh seeks to pay Hamas ‘military personnel’ with Qatar’s money,” Times of Israel, August 2, 2016, <http://www.timesofisrael.com/haniyeh-seeks-to-pay-hamas-military-personnel-with-qatars-money/>.

⁵ “Egypt returns \$2 billion to Qatar in sign of growing tensions,” Reuters, September 19, 2013, <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-egypt-qatar-deposits-idUSBRE98I0N020130919>.

⁶ Miriam Karouny, “Insight - Syria's Nusra Front may leave Qaeda to form new entity,” Reuters, March 4, 2015, <http://uk.reuters.com/article/uk-mideast-crisis-nusra-insight-idUKKBN0M00G620150304>; “Syrian Nusra Front announces split from al-Qaeda,” BBC news, July 29, 2016, <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-36916606>; Erika Solomon, “Outside Help Behind Rebel Advances in Aleppo,” *Financial Times*, August 8, 2016, <https://webcache.googleusercontent.com/search?q=cache:1pPIF1b05uUJ:https://www.ft.com/content/da076830-5d77-11e6-a72a-bd4bf1198c63+&cd=1&hl=en&ct=clnk&gl=us>.

⁷ “Q&A: Afghan Taliban open Doha office,” BBC News, June 20, 2013, <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-22957827>; Associated Press, “Taliban reaffirms authority of its Qatar ‘political office,’” Dawn, January 25, 2016, <http://www.dawn.com/news/1235165>.

⁸ Peter Kovessy, “Qatar FM: Hamas leader to remain in Doha as ‘dear guest’,” Doha News, January 13, 2015, <https://dohanews.co/qatar-fm-hamas-leader-remain-doha-dear-guest/>; Shabina S. Khatri, “Egypt demands extradition of Sheikh Yusuf Al Qaradawi from Qatar,” Doha News, February 5, 2014, <https://dohanews.co/egypt-demands-extradition-of-sheikh-yusuf-al-qaradawi-from-qatar/>; “Report on the Inquiry into: The Department of Defense’s May 2014 Transfer to Qatar of five law-of-war detainees in connection with the recovery of a captive U.S. soldier,” Committee on Armed Services, December 9, 2015, https://armedservices.house.gov/sites/republicans.armedservices.house.gov/files/wysiwyg_uploaded/Report%20on%20the%20Inquiry%20into%20the%20Taliban%20Five%20Transfer_0.pdf; “Treasury Designates Al-Qa’ida Supporters in Qatar and Yemen,” U.S. Department of the Treasury, December 19, 2013, <http://www.treasury.gov/press-center/press-releases/Pages/jl2249.aspx>; “Treasury Designates Twelve Foreign Terrorist Fighter Facilitators,” U.S. Department of the Treasury, September 24, 2014, <http://www.treasury.gov/press-center/press-releases/Pages/jl2651.aspx>; Andrew Gilligan, “Minister’s family ties to terror,” Telegraph (London), November 1, 2014,

Although these individuals have been publicly sanctioned by the United States or United Nations, or are the subject of INTERPOL arrest warrants, they are able to live with impunity—and in some cases, in luxury—within Qatar.

DIRECT GOVERNMENT FUNDING AND SUPPORT

The Qatari government has paid ransom demands, shipped supplies, and funneled billions of dollars of funding to internationally designated extremist groups throughout the Middle East and North Africa.⁹ These groups include al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP), Hamas, the Muslim Brotherhood, al-Nusra Front, and the Taliban.¹⁰

Violent Extremist Groups

AL-QAEDA IN THE ARABIAN PENSINULA (AQAP)

Based in Yemen and Saudi Arabia, AQAP is known for its English-language magazine *Inspire*, as well as its involvement in both the 2009 Christmas Day bomb plot and the 2010 Times Square bomb plot. The group claimed responsibility for the massacre at the Paris offices of *Charlie Hebdo* in 2015. It has seized and controls territory across Yemen's southern provinces, where it seeks to implement sharia (Islamic law).



Designated by: Australia, Canada, Israel, United Kingdom, United Nations, United States

Qatari Support:

- In 2010, an arm of the Qatari government donated funds to help rebuild a Yemeni mosque for Sheikh `Abd al-Wahhab Muhammad `Abd al-Rahman al-Humayqani, an AQAP financier later designated by the U.S. Treasury. Qatari officials also reportedly attended the opening of the mosque.¹¹

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/middleeast/qatar/11203140/Ministers-family-ties-to-terror.html>; “Treasury Designates Financial Supporters of Al-Qaida and Al-Nusra Front,” U.S. Department of the Treasury, August 5, 2015, <http://www.treasury.gov/press-center/press-releases/Pages/jl0143.aspx>.

⁹ David Andrew Weinberg, “Terrorist Financing: Kidnapping, Antiquities Trafficking, and Private Donations,” Foundation for Defense of Democracies, November 17, 2015, 8, 9-14, <http://docs.house.gov/meetings/FA/FA18/20151117/104202/HHRG-114-FA18-Wstate-WeinbergD-20151117.pdf>; “Egypt returns \$2 billion to Qatar in sign of growing tensions,” Reuters, September 19, 2013, <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-egypt-qatar-deposits-idUSBRE98I0N020130919>; Mick Krever, “Qatar's Emir: We don't fund terrorists,” CNN, September 25, 2014, <http://www.cnn.com/2014/09/25/world/meast/qatar-emir/>; Yusuf Kanly, “Is Turkish foreign policy successful?,” Hurriyet Daily News, October 21, 2013, <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/is-turkish-foreign-policy-successful.aspx?pageID=449&nID=56527&NewsCatID=425>; Miriam Karouny, “Insight - Syria's Nusra Front may leave Qaeda to form new entity,” Reuters, March 4, 2015, <http://uk.reuters.com/article/uk-mideast-crisis-nusra-insight-idUKKBN0M00G620150304>.

¹⁰ David Andrew Weinberg, “Terrorist Financing: Kidnapping, Antiquities Trafficking, and Private Donations,” Foundation for Defense of Democracies, November 17, 2015, 8, 9-14, <http://docs.house.gov/meetings/FA/FA18/20151117/104202/HHRG-114-FA18-Wstate-WeinbergD-20151117.pdf>; “Egypt returns \$2 billion to Qatar in sign of growing tensions,” Reuters, September 19, 2013, <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-egypt-qatar-deposits-idUSBRE98I0N020130919>; Mick Krever, “Qatar's Emir: We don't fund terrorists,” CNN, September 25, 2014, <http://www.cnn.com/2014/09/25/world/meast/qatar-emir/>; Yusuf Kanly, “Is Turkish foreign policy successful?,” Hurriyet Daily News, October 21, 2013, <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/is-turkish-foreign-policy-successful.aspx?pageID=449&nID=56527&NewsCatID=425>; Miriam Karouny, “Insight - Syria's Nusra Front may leave Qaeda to form new entity,” Reuters, March 4, 2015, <http://uk.reuters.com/article/uk-mideast-crisis-nusra-insight-idUKKBN0M00G620150304>.

¹¹ David D. Kirkpatrick, “Qatar’s Support of Islamists Alienates Allies Near and Far,” *New York Times*, September 7, 2014, https://www.nytimes.com/2014/09/08/world/middleeast/qatars-support-of-extremists-alienates-allies-near-and-far.html?_r=0.

COUNTER EXTREMISM PROJECT

- In 2012 and 2013, Qatar reportedly sent millions of dollars of ransom payments to AQAP. Those payments were believed to have directly enabled AQAP to rebuild its network and seize territory in southern Yemen.¹²

HAMAS

The ruling terror party of the Gaza Strip, Hamas openly seeks the destruction of Israel. The group uses suicide bombings, rocket and mortar attacks, shootings, and kidnappings in pursuit of its stated objectives.



Designated by: Australia, Canada, Egypt, EU, Israel, Japan, Jordan, New Zealand, United Kingdom, United States

Qatari Support:

- The emir of Qatar became the first head of state to visit Gaza after Hamas's 2007 coup.¹³
- Qatar's financial support of Hamas dates back to at least 2008, when Doha reportedly pledged \$250 million to Hamas one year after the terror group violently seized control of the Gaza Strip.¹⁴
- In 2012, Qatar's then-emir Sheik Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani pledged more than \$400 million to Hamas to fund the construction of housing complexes and roads.¹⁵
- In July 2016, the Qatari government announced that it would give \$30 million to Hamas in order to help pay the salaries of Gazan public sector workers. The following month, Hamas's deputy leader Ismail Haniyeh said that Qatar's donations would also go toward paying Hamas's "military personnel."¹⁶
- Qatar continues to host Khaled Meshaal, who served as Hamas's leader from 2004 until May 2017. In 2015, Qatar's Foreign Minister Khalid bin Mohammed Al Attiyah referred to Meshaal—then the leader of Hamas—as a "dear guest of Qatar."¹⁷
- In early May 2017, Hamas announced updates to its charter at a press conference at the Sheraton Hotel in Doha.¹⁸

¹² David Andrew Weinberg, "Terrorist Financing: Kidnapping, Antiquities Trafficking, and Private Donations," Foundation for Defense of Democracies, November 17, 2015, 8, <http://docs.house.gov/meetings/FA/FA18/20151117/104202/HHRG-114-FA18-Wstate-WeinbergD-20151117.pdf>.

¹³ "Emir of Qatar Become First Head of State to Visit Gaza since Hamas Took Control," Huffington Post UK, October 23, 2012, http://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/2012/10/23/emir-of-qatar-historic-visit-to-hamas-gaza_n_2004960.html.

¹⁴ Adnan Abu Amer, "Hamas Ties to Qatar Have Cost," Al Monitor, April 22, 2013, <http://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2013/04/hamas-qatar-relationship-independence.html>.

¹⁵ Jodi Rudoren, "Qatar's Emir Visits Gaza, Pledging \$400 million to Hamas," *New York Times*, October 23, 2012, <http://www.nytimes.com/2012/10/24/world/middleeast/pledging-400-million-qatari-emir-makes-historic-visit-to-gaza-strip.html>.

¹⁶ "Qatar says gives \$30 million to pay Gaza public sector workers," Reuters, July 22, 2016, <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-palestinians-gaza-qatar-idUSKCN1021AQ>; Dov Lieber, "Haniyeh seeks to pay Hamas 'military personnel' with Qatar's money," Times of Israel, August 2, 2016, <http://www.timesofisrael.com/haniyeh-seeks-to-pay-hamas-military-personnel-with-qatars-money/>.

¹⁷ Peter Kovessy, "Qatar FM: Hamas leader to remain in Doha as 'dear guest'," Doha News, January 13, 2015, <https://dohanews.co/qatar-fm-hamas-leader-remain-doha-dear-guest/>.

¹⁸ "Hamas presents new charter accepting a Palestine based on 1967 borders," *Guardian* (London), May 1, 2017, <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/may/01/hamas-new-charter-palestine-israel-1967-borders>.

COUNTER EXTREMISM PROJECT

- Since January 2020, Qatar has hosted Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh, who maintains an office in Doha. As Hamas launched a massive surprise attack on Israel on October 7, 2023, Haniyeh and other Hamas officials watched events unfold from Haniyeh’s office in Doha.¹⁹
- In February 2021, Hamas thanked Qatar for its support of the Palestinian people after Qatar issued a financial grant of \$360 million for Gaza residents.²⁰
- After Hamas’s widescale surprise attack on Israel on October 7, 2023, which killed over 800 Israelis in the first three days, the Qatari foreign ministry placed full blame on Israel. Haniyeh and other Hamas officials watched the attack unfold from Haniyeh’s office in Doha.²¹
- During the October 2023 attack, Hamas kidnapped at least 100 Israelis, including children. The Qatari government subsequently offered to negotiate a prisoner exchange between Hamas and Israel for Palestinians held in Israeli prisons.²²

“We support all Palestinian people. We believe Hamas is a very important part of the Palestinian people.”

—Emir Tamim Al Thani, September 2014

MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD

The Muslim Brotherhood—founded in Egypt in 1928—is a transnational Islamist organization with branches worldwide. In the 1950s, Brotherhood theologian Sayyid Qutb legitimized the use of violent jihad—and the killing of secular Muslims—in order to implement sharia. Analysts argue that the Brotherhood’s ideology has spawned groups such as al-Qaeda and ISIS.

Designated by: Bahrain, Egypt, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Syria, United Arab Emirates

Qatari Support:



¹⁹ Ahmed Fouad, “Egypt may find Gaza more appealing without Haniyeh,” Al-Monitor, February 25, 2020, <https://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2020/02/egypt-ban-hamas-haniyeh-return-gaza-iran-qatar.html>; Matt Drake, “How Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh watched attack on Israel on TV from his office in Qatar as he celebrated with other officials,” *Daily Mail* (London), October 8, 2023, <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-12608271/How-Hamas-leader-Ismail-Haniyeh-watched-attack-Israel-TV-office-Qatar-celebrated-officials.html>.

²⁰ “Hamas in Gaza Strip Thanks HH the Amir for Qatar's Generous Support to Palestinian People,” Qatari Ministry of Foreign Affairs, February 2, 2023, <https://www.mofa.gov.qa/en/all-mofa-news/details/1442/06/20/hamas-in-gaza-strip-thanks-hh-the-amir-for-qatar's-generous-support-to-palestinian-people>.

²¹ “Qatar Expresses Concern over the Developments in Gaza Strip and Calls for De-escalation,” Qatari Ministry of Foreign Affairs, October 7, 2023, <https://www.mofa.gov.qa/en/statements/qatar-expresses-concern-over-the-developments-in-gaza-strip-and-calls-for-de-escalation>; Matt Drake, “How Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh watched attack on Israel on TV from his office in Qatar as he celebrated with other officials,” *Daily Mail* (London), October 8, 2023, <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-12608271/How-Hamas-leader-Ismail-Haniyeh-watched-attack-Israel-TV-office-Qatar-celebrated-officials.html>.

²² “Qatar leading talks to swap Hamas-held hostages for Palestinians in Israeli jails,” Reuters, October 9, 2023, <https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/qatar-leading-talks-swap-hamas-held-hostages-palestinians-israeli-jails-2023-10-09/>.

- The Qatari government lent or gave the Muslim Brotherhood a total of \$7.5 billion during Mohammed Morsi's tenure as President of Egypt, between June 2012 and July 2013.²³
- During this time, Qatar's then-Prime Minister Sheikh Hamad bin Jassim bin Jaber Al Thani personally transferred as much as \$850,000 to the Brotherhood.²⁴
- The Qatar-owned media outlet Al Jazeera has provided the Brotherhood with overwhelmingly positive press attention, particularly during the Arab Spring and Morsi's rise and fall from power. In July 2013, 22 Egyptian-based Al Jazeera employees quit due to what they perceived as the company's biased, pro-Brotherhood agenda.²⁵
- Brotherhood ideologue Yusuf al-Qaradawi lived freely in Qatar until his death in September 2022. His funeral in Doha attracted Qatari officials as well as leaders of Hamas, who praised Qaradawi for inspiring jihad. While residing in Qatar, Qaradawi preached extremist messaging and banned by the United States, United Kingdom, and France, and was previously the subject of an INTERPOL warrant for his arrest.²⁶

AI-NUSRA FRONT (HAYAT TAHRIR AL-SHAM)



Al-Nusra Front (Hayat Tahrir al-Sham) is a territory-controlling jihadist insurgent group operating in Syria. Long known as al-Qaeda's Syrian affiliate, the group claimed to have formally renounced ties to its mother group in July 2016. Al-Nusra Front has carried out military campaigns, kidnappings, suicide bombings, and assassinations, and is reported to receive the highest number of foreign fighters in Syria after ISIS. It currently operates under an Islamist umbrella organization known as Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham (Assembly for the Liberation of Sham).

Designated by: Australia, Canada, France, New Zealand, EU, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United Nations, United States

Qatari Support:

²³ "Egypt returns \$2 billion to Qatar in sign of growing tensions," Reuters, September 19, 2013, <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-egypt-qatar-deposits-idUSBRE9810N020130919>.

²⁴ Paul Alster, "Secret document appears to show Qatar payoffs to key Morsi cronies," Fox News, July 9, 2013, <http://www.foxnews.com/world/2013/07/09/secret-document-appears-to-show-qatar-payoffs-to-key-morsi-cronies.html>.

²⁵ Paul Farhi, "Al Jazeera faces criticism in Egypt over its coverage of Muslim Brotherhood," *Washington Post*, January 5, 2014, https://www.washingtonpost.com/lifestyle/style/al-jazeera-faces-criticism-in-egypt-over-its-coverage-of-muslim-brotherhood/2014/01/05/04a397f4-74b3-11e3-9389-09ef9944065e_story.html?utm_term=.cb8df6a9c7a5; Jessica Chasmar, "'We aired lies': Al-Jazeera staff quit over biased Egypt coverage," *Washington Times*, July 9, 2013, <http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2013/jul/9/we-aired-lies-al-jazeera-staff-quit-over-biased-eg/>.

²⁶ "Egypt's Request for Qatar's Extradition of Sheikh Yusuf Al- Qaradawi," Center for Security Policy, May 27, 2015, <http://www.centerforsecuritypolicy.org/2015/05/27/egypts-request-for-qatars-extradition-of-sheikh-yusuf-al-qaradawi/>; Paul Alster, "White House support of Muslim Brotherhood leaves some in Middle East puzzled," Fox News, January 16, 2015, <http://www.foxnews.com/world/2015/01/16/white-house-support-muslim-brotherhood-leaves-some-in-middle-east-puzzled/>; Vikram Dodd, "Controversial Muslim cleric banned from Britain," *Guardian* (London), February 7, 2008, <http://www.theguardian.com/uk/2008/feb/07/religion.politics>; "France bars entry to four Islamic scholars," Al Jazeera, March 29, 2012, <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/europe/2012/03/201232920819671322.html>; "ALQARADAWI, YOUSUF," Interpol, <http://www.interpol.int/notice/search/wanted/2014-58772>; "Egyptian cleric Yousef al-Qaradawi removed from Interpol 'wanted' list," Middle East Eye, December 13, 2018, <https://www.middleeasteye.net/news/egyptian-cleric-yousef-al-qaradawi-removed-interpol-wanted-list>; "Yusuf al-Qaradawi: Hamas and Qatar officials attend funeral of Islamic cleric in Doha," Middle East Eye, September 27, 2022, <https://www.middleeasteye.net/news/qatar-qaradawi-hamas-attend-funeral-egypt-cleric-doha>.

COUNTER EXTREMISM PROJECT

- In 2015, Qatari government officials began meeting with al-Nusra Front leaders—including leader Abu Muhammad al-Golani—to hint that the group might receive Qatari support if it cut ties with al-Qaeda, according to Nusra and Qatari sources cited by Reuters. Al-Nusra Front did exactly that in July 2016. Less than two weeks later, the *Financial Times* quoted Syrian activists and rebels who alleged that Qatar had been sending weapons, supplies, and money to al-Nusra Front “for weeks.” The United States retained the designated status of al-Nusra Front and reaffirmed that the group “remains al-Qa’ida’s affiliate in Syria.”²⁷
- Qatar has allowed al-Nusra Front commanders to fundraise inside the country, according to U.S. and Arab government officials.²⁸
- The Qatari government has reportedly negotiated hostage ransom transactions between al-Nusra Front and various governments.²⁹
- Since at least 2013, Doha itself has reportedly made several ransom payments to al-Nusra Front. In one instance in October 2013, Doha paid more than \$100 million to the terror group, according to Lebanese and Turkish sources.³⁰
- The Qatari government has funneled guns and money to Ahrar al-Sham, a Nusra Front ally that operates alongside the group under the umbrella coalition for Islamist Syrian rebels, Hayat Tahrir al-Sham.³¹

“[Qatar is] promising Nusra more support, i.e. money, supplies etc., once they let go of the Qaeda ties.” –
Unnamed Qatari government official, March 2015

²⁷ Miriam Karouny, “Insight - Syria’s Nusra Front may leave Qaeda to form new entity,” Reuters, March 4, 2015, <http://uk.reuters.com/article/uk-mideast-crisis-nusra-insight-idUKKBNOM00G620150304>; “Syrian Nusra Front announces split from al-Qaeda,” BBC news, July 29, 2016, <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-36916606>; Erika Solomon, “Outside Help Behind Rebel Advances in Aleppo,” *Financial Times*, August 8, 2016, <https://webcache.googleusercontent.com/search?q=cache:1pPIfIb05uUJ:https://www.ft.com/content/da076830-5d77-11e6-a72a-bd4bf1198c63+&cd=1&hl=en&ct=clnk&gl=us>.

²⁸ Jay Solomon and Nour Malas, “Qatar’s Ties to Militants Strain Alliance,” *Wall Street Journal*, February 23, 2015, <http://www.wsj.com/articles/qatars-ties-to-militants-strain-alliance-1424748601?a1=y>; “State Department Amendments to the Terrorist Designation of al-Nusra Front,” U.S. Department of State, November 10, 2016, <https://webcache.googleusercontent.com/search?q=cache:YTPe7JGmVmIJ:https://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2016/11/264230.htm+&cd=1&hl=en&t=clnk&gl=us>; “Daily Press Briefing - July 28, 2016,” U.S. Department of State, July 28, 2016, <https://webcache.googleusercontent.com/search?q=cache:YaUY3sNCxKEJ:https://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/dpb/2016/07/260631.htm+&cd=1&hl=en&ct=clnk&gl=us>.

²⁹ David Andrew Weinberg, “Terrorist Financing: Kidnapping, Antiquities Trafficking, and Private Donations,” Foundation for Defense of Democracies, November 17, 2015, 9-14, <http://docs.house.gov/meetings/FA/FA18/20151117/104202/HHRG-114-FA18-Wstate-WeinbergD-20151117.pdf>; Nour Samaha, “Lebanese army and al-Nusra Front conduct prisoner swap,” Al Jazeera, December 2, 2015, <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2015/12/lebanese-hostages-released-prisoner-swap-151201072408599.html>.

³⁰ David Andrew Weinberg, “Terrorist Financing: Kidnapping, Antiquities Trafficking, and Private Donations,” Foundation for Defense of Democracies, November 17, 2015, 9-14, <http://docs.house.gov/meetings/FA/FA18/20151117/104202/HHRG-114-FA18-Wstate-WeinbergD-20151117.pdf>; Yusuf Kanly, “Is Turkish foreign policy successful?,” *Hurriyet Daily News*, October 21, 2013, <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/is-turkish-foreign-policy-successful.aspx?pageID=449&nID=56527&NewsCatID=425>.

³¹ David Blair and Richard Spencer, “How Qatar is funding the rise of Islamist extremists,” *Telegraph* (London), September 20, 2014, <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/middleeast/qatar/11110931/How-Qatar-is-funding-the-rise-of-Islamist-extremists.html>; Ben Hubbard, “In Syria, Potential Ally’s Islamist Ties Challenge U.S.,” *New York Times*, August 25, 2015, <https://www.nytimes.com/2015/08/26/world/middleeast/ahrar-al-sham-rebel-force-in-syrias-gray-zone-poses-challenge-to-us.html>.

TALIBAN

The Taliban is an Afghanistan- and Pakistan-based jihadist insurgent group that has carried out numerous deadly terrorist attacks in the region, including the shooting of Malala Yousafzai in Pakistan’s Swat Valley in October 2012, the December 2015 assault on Kandahar Air Field, which left 50 dead, and the December 2014 massacre at the army-run school in Peshawar that killed 148 people, 132 of whom were schoolchildren.



Designated by: Canada, EU, France, Kazakhstan, New Zealand, Russia, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United Nations, United States

Qatari Support:

- Doha hosts the Taliban’s “political office,” which the group opened in June 2013. The Taliban has referred to the office as the only entity where Taliban negotiations are authorized to take place.³²
- In May 2014, Qatar received five Taliban operatives who had been transferred from Guantanamo Bay. Three of the five operatives were—and still are—under U.N. sanctions and several are believed to have reengaged in terrorist activities since arriving in Qatar, according to the U.S. Committee on Armed Services. Qatar reportedly subsidizes housing and provisions of these U.N.-sanctioned militants in one of Doha’s most exclusive neighborhoods.³³
- Since the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan in August 2021, Qatar has repeatedly called on the international community to open relations with Afghanistan’s Taliban government. Following a June 2022 meeting between Mohammed bin Ahmed al-Misnad, the Qatari emir’s national security adviser, and the Taliban’s Sirajuddin Haqqani, Misnad declared Qatar and the Taliban have strong ideological ties. In May 2022, Qatari Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman al-Thani said maintaining the West’s boycott of the Taliban government would only stoke extremism.³⁴

Financial Institutions

³² “Q&A: Afghan Taliban open Doha office,” BBC News, June 20, 2013, <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-22957827>; Associated Press, “Taliban reaffirms authority of its Qatar ‘political office,’” Dawn, January 25, 2016, <http://www.dawn.com/news/1235165>.

³³ “Report on the Inquiry into: The Department of Defense’s May 2014 Transfer to Qatar of five law-of-war detainees in connection with the recovery of a captive U.S. soldier,” Committee on Armed Services, December 9, 2015, https://armedservices.house.gov/sites/republicans.armedservices.house.gov/files/wysiwyg_uploaded/Report%20on%20the%20Inquiry%20into%20the%20Taliban%20Five%20Transfer_0.pdf; Sami Yousafzai, “Taliban Leaders Are Living in Luxury in Qatar,” *Newsweek*, March 24, 2015, <http://www.newsweek.com/2015/04/03/taliban-leaders-are-living-luxury-qatar-316122.html>.

³⁴ “Qatar Says It Shares Strong Ideological Bonds With Taliban,” Iran International, June 11, 2022, <https://www.iranintl.com/en/202206113998>; Andrew England and Benjamin Parkin, “Qatar urges west to engage with Taliban to stem crisis in Afghanistan,” *Financial Times*, May 29, 2022, <https://www.ft.com/content/0a9f41c3-b3ab-4c2d-81a2-c7b40169683d>.

Al Rayan Bank

Al Rayan Bank (Masraf Al Rayan) is a Qatar-based banking network that seeks to be the world's largest sharia-based banking system.³⁵ A U.S. lawsuit filed in June 2020 alleged Qatar provided funding to Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ) and Hamas through three Qatari financial institutions, the Qatar Charity, Masraf Al Rayan, and Qatar National Bank. All three institutions have links to members of the Qatari royal family. The plaintiffs are friends and family members of 10 U.S.

citizens who died in terror attacks in the West Bank carried out by PIJ and Hamas between 2014 and 2016. The lawsuit alleges Qatar Charity worked with Masraf Al Rayan bank and Qatar National Bank to forward Hamas and PIJ millions of dollars. It further accuses the Qatari government of coopting "several institutions that it dominates and controls to funnel coveted U.S. dollars (the chosen currency of Middle East terrorist networks) to Hamas and PIJ under the false guise of charitable donations."³⁶



Based in Birmingham, England, the British subsidiary of Al Rayan Bank is reportedly the largest and oldest Islamic bank in the United Kingdom. Al Rayan claims it does not support any extremist entities, but the approximately 85,000 customers of Al Rayan's U.K. network include a number of British Islamist organizations that are accused of promoting extremism and supporting groups such as the Muslim Brotherhood and Hamas.³⁷ For example, Al Rayan's clients include London's Finsbury Park Mosque, which previously employed extremist imam Abu Hamza al-Masri, who is serving two life sentences in the United States for supporting terrorism. The mosque was subsequently taken over by the Brotherhood-linked Muslim Association of Britain. HSBC closed the mosque's accounts in 2014, calling the mosque outside of the bank's "risk appetite."³⁸ Al Rayan's clients also include the U.S.-sanctioned charity InterPal, which the U.S. government accuses of providing financial support to Hamas.³⁹

Designated by: Not determined.

Qatari Support:

³⁵ "Vision, Mission and Values," Masraf Al Rayan, accessed August 25, 2020, <https://www.alrayan.com/english/marprofile/vision-mission-and-values>.

³⁶ Ray Hanania, "Lawsuit names Qatar's royal family in killings of 10 Americans in Israel," Arab News, June 11, 2020, <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1688051/middle-east>; Adam Kredo, "Lawsuit Alleges Qatar Secretly Financed Terror Attacks that Killed Americans," *Washington Free Beacon*, June 10, 2020, <https://freebeacon.com/national-security/lawsuit-alleges-qatar-secretly-financed-terror-attacks-that-killed-americans/>.

³⁷ Andrew Norfolk, "Al Rayan Bank: Clients include 'terror' group and Abu Hamza's former mosque," *The Times* (London), August 5, 2019, <https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/al-rayan-bank-clients-include-terror-group-and-abu-hamzas-former-mosque-zfq0xk3bd?region=global>; "About Us," Al Rayan Bank, accessed August 25, 2020, <https://www.alrayanbank.co.uk/useful-info-tools/about-us/>.

³⁸ Andrew Norfolk, "Al Rayan Bank: Clients include 'terror' group and Abu Hamza's former mosque," *The Times* (London), August 5, 2019, <https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/al-rayan-bank-clients-include-terror-group-and-abu-hamzas-former-mosque-zfq0xk3bd?region=global>; Haroon Siddique, "HSBC shuts accounts of Muslim organisations, including Finsbury Park mosque," *Guardian* (London), July 30, 2014, <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/jul/30/hsbc-shuts-accounts-muslim-organisations-finsbury-park-mosque>.

³⁹ "U.S. Designates Five Charities Funding Hamas and Six Senior Hamas Leaders as Terrorist Entities," U.S. Department of the Treasury, August 22, 2003, <https://www.treasury.gov/press-center/press-releases/Pages/js672.aspx>.

- Qatari bank Masraf Al Rayan has a 70 percent stake in the United Kingdom’s Al Rayan, while Qatar’s sovereign wealth fund controls the remaining 30 percent. Masraf Al Rayan is the second largest bank in Qatar.⁴⁰

Doha Bank

Founded in 1979, Doha Bank is one of the largest financial institutions in Qatar. The bank has multiple global branches, including in Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, India, Japan, China, Canada, Germany, and the United Kingdom.⁴¹ In August 2019, eight Syrian refugees filed a lawsuit in the United Kingdom alleging Doha Bank channeled funds to al-Nusra Front. According to the complaint, Qatari brothers Moutaz and Ramez al-Khayyat used accounts at the bank to direct funding to al-Nusra Front during the Syrian civil war. The plaintiffs alleged they were subjected to “severe physical and psychiatric injuries” and displacement by al-Nusra Front.⁴² According to the lawsuit, the Khayyat brothers allegedly transferred large amounts of money via the bank to accounts in Turkey and Lebanon, where the cash was withdrawn and taken across the Syrian border for delivery to al-Nusra fighters, allowing al-Nusra “to cause loss and damage to the claimants.”⁴³ Doha Bank has denied the allegations.⁴⁴ Plaintiffs also alleged Doha Bank maintained an account from which money was transferred to Fadel al-Saleem, a sharia judge for ISIS in Syria.⁴⁵ The plaintiffs live in Europe but outside of the United Kingdom. They filed the lawsuit in London because the bank maintains an office there. In November 2020, four of the plaintiffs withdrew their complaints, alleging intimidation from members of the Qatari government.⁴⁶ In June 2021, a second group of Syrian refugees filed a lawsuit in the United Kingdom alleging a conspiracy by a group of Qatari officials and businessmen, two banks, and multiple charities conspired with the Qatari government, in coordination with the Muslim Brotherhood, to launder money for al-Nusra Front in Syria. The complaint charged Doha Bank and Qatar National Bank with facilitating



⁴⁰ “The Times view on Al Rayan bank: Finance for Fundamentalism,” *The Times* (London), August 5, 2019, <https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/the-times-view-on-al-ryan-bank-finance-for-fundamentalism-zkp999r97?region=global>; Nicky Woolf, “Abu Hamza Sentenced to Life in Prison on US Terrorism Conviction,” *Guardian* (London), January 9, 2015, <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/jan/09/abu-hamza-sentenced-life-impersonment-terrorism-conviction>.

⁴¹ “About Us,” Doha Bank, accessed January 4, 2020, <https://qa.dohabank.com/about-us/>.

⁴² Andrew Norfolk, “Qatari bank accused of funding jihadis,” *Times* (London), August 7, 2019, <https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/news/qatari-bank-accused-of-funding-jihadis-v3kbrmmqv>.

⁴³ Andrew Norfolk, “Qatari bank accused of funding jihadis,” *Times* (London), August 7, 2019, <https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/news/qatari-bank-accused-of-funding-jihadis-v3kbrmmqv>.

⁴⁴ Andrew Norfolk, “Qatari bank accused of funding jihadis,” *Times* (London), August 7, 2019, <https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/news/qatari-bank-accused-of-funding-jihadis-v3kbrmmqv>.

⁴⁵ Emma Yeomans and Andrew Norfolk, “Doha Bank kept funds for Isis judge, court told,” *Times* (London), March 3, 2022, <https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/doha-bank-kept-funds-for-isis-judge-court-told-6brgchcdg>.

⁴⁶ Owen Bowcott, “Qatari officials intimidated claimants in terror case, high court told,” *Guardian* (London), November 11, 2020, <https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2020/nov/11/high-court-hears-claims-qatar-officials-intimidated-terror-case-witnesses>; Ryan Fahey, “Syrian refugees withdraw legal claim for damages against Qatari bank they say funded terror group’s torturers ‘after harassment campaign by Qatar ruling family’s agents,’” *Daily Mail* (London), November 11, 2020, <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-8939277/Syrian-refugees-withdraw-claim-against-Qatari-bank-say-funded-Al-Nusras-torturers.html>.

the transfer of funds raised through significantly overpriced construction contracts, the purchase of property at inflated prices, and overpayments to Syrian migrant workers. The claim alleges Qatar National Bank and Doha Bank knew or should have known they were being used to fund terrorism. Both banks denied the charges.⁴⁷ After Britain’s High Court ruled the case would breach the rule of sovereign immunity, the plaintiffs turned to the European Court of Human Rights in August 2023 to overturn the British ruling.⁴⁸

Designated by: Not determined.

Qatari Support:

- Doha Bank’s largest shareholder is the Qatar Investment Authority.⁴⁹
- Four members of the ruling al-Thani family are on Doha Bank’s board of directors.⁵⁰

Qatar National Bank

Qatar National Bank (a.k.a. QNB Group) is the largest banking network in Qatar.⁵¹ As of June 2020, the bank had \$267 billion in assets and claimed to be the largest bank in the Middle East and Africa region.⁵² The bank has branches throughout the Middle East, Asia, Africa, and Europe.⁵³ A U.S. lawsuit filed in June 2020 alleged Qatar provided funding to Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ) and Hamas through three Qatari financial institutions, the Qatar Charity, Masraf Al Rayan, and Qatar National Bank. All three institutions have links to members of the Qatari royal family. The plaintiffs are friends and family members of 10 U.S. citizens who died in terror attacks in the West Bank carried out by PIJ and Hamas between 2014 and 2016. The lawsuit alleges Qatar Charity worked with Masraf Al Rayan and Qatar National Bank to forward Hamas and PIJ millions of dollars.⁵⁴ In June 2021, a



⁴⁷ Andrew Norfolk, “Qatar ‘funnelled millions of dollars to Nusra Front terrorists in Syria,’” *Times* (London), June 4, 2021, <https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/qatar-funnelled-millions-of-dollars-to-nusra-front-terrorists-in-syria-x5rnbsr3l>.

⁴⁸ Sean O’Neill, “Qatar terror case will go to ECHR,” *Times* (London), August 2, 2023, <https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/qatar-terror-case-will-go-to-echr-ji6zz6337>.

⁴⁹ Ryan Fahey, “Syrian refugees withdraw legal claim for damages against Qatari bank they say funded terror group’s torturers ‘after harassment campaign by Qatar ruling family’s agents,’” *Daily Mail* (London), November 11, 2020, <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-8939277/Syrian-refugees-withdraw-claim-against-Qatari-bank-say-funded-AI-Nusras-torturers.html>.

⁵⁰ Ryan Fahey, “Syrian refugees withdraw legal claim for damages against Qatari bank they say funded terror group’s torturers ‘after harassment campaign by Qatar ruling family’s agents,’” *Daily Mail* (London), November 11, 2020, <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-8939277/Syrian-refugees-withdraw-claim-against-Qatari-bank-say-funded-AI-Nusras-torturers.html>; “Doha Bank Board of Directors,” Doha Bank, accessed January 4, 2021, <https://qa.dohabank.com/about-us/board-of-directors/>.

⁵¹ “Qatar National Bank – Qatar,” Arabian Business Network, accessed August 25, 2020, <https://www.arabianbusiness.com/companies/qatar-national-bank-qatar-66872.html>.

⁵² “Our Profile,” Qatar National Bank, accessed August 25, 2020, <https://www.qnb.com/sites/qnb/qnbglobal/page/en/enqnbprofile.html>.

⁵³ “QNB International Network,” Qatar National Bank, accessed August 25, 2020, <https://www.qnb.com/sites/qnb/qnbglobal/page/en/enqnbglobalnetwork.html>.

⁵⁴ Ray Hanania, “Lawsuit names Qatar’s royal family in killings of 10 Americans in Israel,” Arab News, June 11, 2020, <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1688051/middle-east>; Adam Kreda, “Lawsuit Alleges Qatar Secretly Financed Terror Attacks that

group of Syrian refugees filed a lawsuit in the United Kingdom alleging a conspiracy by a group of Qatari officials and businessmen, two banks, and multiple charities conspired with the Qatari government, in coordination with the Muslim Brotherhood, to launder money for al-Nusra Front in Syria. The complaint charged Doha Bank and Qatar National Bank with facilitating the transfer of funds raised through significantly overpriced construction contracts, the purchase of property at inflated prices, and overpayments to Syrian migrant workers. The claim alleges Qatar National Bank and Doha Bank knew or should have known they were being used to fund terrorism. Both banks denied the charges.⁵⁵

Designated by: Not determined.

Qatari Support:

- Qatar National Bank’s board of directors includes multiple members of the Qatari royal family.⁵⁶
- The Qatar Investment Authority owns a 50 percent stake in Qatar National Bank.⁵⁷

Charities

Sheikh Eid Bin Mohammad Al Thani Charitable Foundation, a.k.a. Eid Charity

The Sheikh Eid Bin Mohammad Al Thani Charitable Foundation, a.k.a. Eid Charity or Eid Foundation, is a Qatar-based charity focused on humanitarian aid and development assistance, primarily in war-torn countries.⁵⁸ The charity is also subject to allegations that it has supported terrorism.⁵⁹ The

Eid Charity is a member of the Union of Good, which is designated as a terrorist organization by the United States and Canada for providing financial support to Hamas.⁶⁰ Israel designated the Eid Charity as an unlawful organization in June 2008 because of its association with the Union of Good.⁶¹ The Union of Good was led by



Killed Americans,” *Washington Free Beacon*, June 10, 2020, <https://freebeacon.com/national-security/lawsuit-alleges-qatar-secretly-financed-terror-attacks-that-killed-americans/>.

⁵⁵ Andrew Norfolk, “Qatar ‘funnelled millions of dollars to Nusra Front terrorists in Syria,’” *Times* (London), June 4, 2021, <https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/qatar-funnelled-millions-of-dollars-to-nusra-front-terrorists-in-syria-x5rnbsr3l>.

⁵⁶ “Board of Directors,” Qatar National Bank, accessed August 25, 2020, <https://www.qnb.com/sites/qnb/qnbglobal/page/en/enbod.html>.

⁵⁷ “Qatar National Bank – Qatar,” Arabian Business Network, accessed August 25, 2020, <https://www.arabianbusiness.com/companies/qatar-national-bank-qatar-66872.html>.

⁵⁸ “Who We Are,” Eid Charity, accessed August 24, 2020, <https://www.eidcharity.net/en/index.php?page=article&id=2337>.

⁵⁹ “What are Qatar's most active charities to support, finance terrorism around the world?,” *Egypt Today*, August 22, 2020, <https://www.egypttoday.com/Article/1/91120/What-are-Qatar-s-most-active-charities-to-support-finance>.

⁶⁰ Stewart Bell and Rumina Daya, “Audit of B.C. mosque charity alleges personal spending, ‘relationship’ with Qatar group accused of supporting terror,” *Global News*, September 27, 2017, <https://globalnews.ca/news/3762864/bc-mosque-qatar-terror-relationship/>.

⁶¹ “APPENDIX G International Relief Fund for the Afflicted and Needy (Canada) Links to Hamas,” *Blumbersg*, April 11, 2011, https://www.canadiancharitylaw.ca/uploads/Appendix_G_AFL_IRFAN.pdf.

COUNTER EXTREMISM PROJECT

Qatar-based Muslim Brotherhood ideologue Yusuf al-Qaradawi.⁶² The Eid Charity is also suspected of working with individuals in Somalia linked to al-Shabaab.⁶³ U.S.-designated Abd al-Rahman bin 'Umayr al-Nu'aymi is one of the co-founders of the Eid Charity.⁶⁴ In Yemen, the Eid Charity has partnered with the Al Ihsan Charitable Foundation led by Abdullah Mohammed al-Yazidi, who was arrested in Yemen in 2016 for supporting al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP).⁶⁵ In August 2020, Fox News reported a private security contractor in Qatar had compiled a dossier alleging the Eid Charity passed payments to Lebanese terror group Hezbollah.⁶⁶ The foundation has denied knowingly providing support to terrorists designated by the United Nations or Qatar.⁶⁷

Designated by: Bahrain, Egypt, Israel, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates

Qatari Support:

- The foundation is named for a member of Qatar's ruling family and maintains government support⁶⁸
- Internationally designated co-founder Abd al-Rahman bin 'Umayr al-Nu'aymi previously served as a government adviser on charitable giving⁶⁹

Sheikh Thani Bin Abdullah Foundation for Humanitarian Services, a.k.a. RAF Foundation

The RAF Foundation is a Qatar-based charity that purports to provide international emergency relief and developmental aid. The foundation has coordinated support for war-torn Syria, including by funding shelter for



⁶² Sudarsan Raghavan and Joby Warrick, "How a 91-year-old imam came to symbolize the feud between Qatar and its neighbors," *Washington Post*, June 27, 2017, https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/middle_east/how-a-91-year-old-imam-came-to-symbolize-feud-between-qatar-and-its-neighbors/2017/06/26/601d41b4-5157-11e7-91eb-9611861a988f_story.html.

⁶³ Aykan Erdemir and Varsha Koduvayur, "Brothers in Arms," Foundation for Defense of Democracies, December 11, 2019, <https://www.fdd.org/analysis/2019/12/11/brothers-in-arms/>.

⁶⁴ Robert Mendick, "Al-Qaeda terror financier worked for Qatari government," *Telegraph* (London), October 12, 2014, <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/11156327/Al-Qaeda-terror-financier-worked-for-Qatari-government.html>; Gemma Mullin, "Revealed: How Al Qaeda paymasters are 'living freely' in Qatar despite Gulf state's claim that it doesn't support terrorists," *Daily Mail* (London), November 15, 2014, <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2836320/How-Al-Qaeda-paymasters-living-freely-Qatar-despite-Gulf-state-s-claim-doesn-t-support-terrorists.html>.

⁶⁵ "The nine individuals added to the Qatar-backed terror list," *Al Arabiya*, July 25, 2017, <https://english.alarabiya.net/en/features/2017/07/25/The-nine-individuals-added-to-the-Qatar-backed-terror-list>; "Treasury Designates Key Facilitators and Front Company Providing Support to Al-Qa'ida in the Arabian Peninsula," U.S. Department of the Treasury, December 7, 2016, <https://www.treasury.gov/press-center/press-releases/Pages/jl0673.aspx>.

⁶⁶ Benjamin Weinthal and Jonathan Spyer, "Qatar's alleged finance of Hezbollah terrorist movement puts US troops at risk, dossier claims," *Fox News*, August 5, 2020, <https://www.foxnews.com/world/qatars-finance-of-hezbollah-terrorist-movement-puts-us-troops-at-risk-dossier-claims>.

⁶⁷ "Statement of Mr. Ali Al-Suwaidi on Terrorism," Eid Charity, September 27, 2016, <https://www.eidcharity.net/en/index.php?page=article&id=2263#>.

⁶⁸ Joby Warrick and Tik Root, "Islamic charity officials gave millions to al-Qaeda, U.S. says," *Washington Post*, December 22, 2013, https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/islamic-charity-officials-gave-millions-to-al-qaeda-us-says/2013/12/22/e0c53ad6-69b8-11e3-a0b9-249bbb34602c_story.html.

⁶⁹ "Qatari ties to terror further revealed by Swiss report," *Arab Weekly*, January 14, 2018, <https://theArabweekly.com/qatari-ties-terror-further-revealed-swiss-report>.

homeless orphans.⁷⁰ The charity is also subject to allegations that it has supported international terrorism.⁷¹ The foundation includes among its membership internationally sanctioned individuals. The internationally designated terror financier Abd al-Rahman bin 'Umayr al-Nu'aymi was one of the foundation's founders.⁷² Other members include Mohammed Jassim al-Sulaiti, an associate of al-Qaeda financier Khalifa Muhammad Turki al-Subaiy. Sulaiti himself is accused of funneling financial transfers to al-Nusra Front (Hayat Tahrir al-Sham) in Syria. The charity is also accused of funding militant groups in Syria, including al-Nusra Front.⁷³ The RAF Foundation is also suspected of working with individuals in Somalia linked to al-Shabaab⁷⁴ and supporting deposed Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir.⁷⁵ The Qatari government has denied providing support to violent extremists in Syria.⁷⁶

Designated by: Bahrain, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates

Qatari Support:

- The RAF Foundation's board of directors is comprised of members of the Qatari royal family.⁷⁷

Qatar Charity

The Qatar Charity is the country's largest non-governmental organization with operations in 30 countries around the world and relationships with various U.N. agencies.⁷⁸ The Qatar Charity is a member of the U.S.-sanctioned Union of Good charity network, which is accused of providing financial support to Hamas. Israel designated the Qatar Charity as an unlawful organization in June 2008 because of its association with the Union of Good.⁷⁹ A U.S. lawsuit filed in



⁷⁰ RAF Foundation, homepage, accessed August 26, 2020, <http://www.raf-thani.com/>; "RAF mobilises QR12m in two hours for Syria," *Peninsula* (Doha), February 9, 2015, <https://web.archive.org/web/20150825120059/http://thepeninsulaqatar.com/news/qatar/320917/raf-mobilises-qr12m-in-two-hours-for-syria>.

⁷¹ "What are Qatar's most active charities to support, finance terrorism around the world?," *Egypt Today*, August 22, 2020, <https://www.egypttoday.com/Article/1/91120/What-are-Qatar-s-most-active-charities-to-support-finance>.

⁷² "Qatar's Concept of 'Humanitarian Services,'" *European Eye on Radicalization*, February 27, 2020, <https://eeradicalization.com/qatars-concept-of-humanitarian-services/>.

⁷³ "Qatar continues to funnel money to extremist groups through its charities," *Middle East Online*, February 26, 2020, <https://middle-east-online.com/en/qatar-continues-funnel-money-extremist-groups-through-its-charities>; "On the terror list: Mohammed Jassim al-Sulaiti, an al-Qaeda associate," *Al Arabiya*, June 12, 2017, <https://english.alarabiya.net/en/News/gulf/2017/06/12/Who-is-Mohammed-Jassim-al-Sulaiti->.

⁷⁴ Aykan Erdemir and Varsha Koduvayur, "Brothers in Arms," *Foundation for Defense of Democracies*, December 11, 2019, <https://www.fdd.org/analysis/2019/12/11/brothers-in-arms/>.

⁷⁵ "Qatar's Concept of 'Humanitarian Services,'" *European Eye on Radicalization*, February 27, 2020, <https://eeradicalization.com/qatars-concept-of-humanitarian-services/>.

⁷⁶ "Qatar continues to funnel money to extremist groups through its charities," *Middle East Online*, February 26, 2020, <https://middle-east-online.com/en/qatar-continues-funnel-money-extremist-groups-through-its-charities>.

⁷⁷ "RAF Board of Directors," *RAF Foundation*, accessed August 26, 2020, <http://www.raf-thani.com/AboutUsEn>.

⁷⁸ "UN: We are not bound by Saudi Arabia's 'terror list,'" *Al Jazeera*, June 9, 2017, <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2017/06/bound-saudi-arabia-terror-list-170609184543168.html>; "About Qatar Charity," *Qatar Charity*, accessed August 26, 2020, <https://www.qcharity.org/en/qa/about>.

⁷⁹ "APPENDIX G International Relief Fund for the Afflicted and Needy (Canada) Links to Hamas," *Blumbersg*, April 11, 2011, https://www.canadiancharitylaw.ca/uploads/Appendix_G_AFL_IRFAN.pdf.

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Designated by: Bahrain, Egypt, Israel, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates

Qatari Support:

- The chairman of Qatar Charity’s board of directors is Sheikh Hamad Nasser J. Al-Thani, a member of the Qatari royal family and former government minister of state of Qatar⁸³

HARBORING TERRORIST LEADERS AND FINANCIERS

Leaders

⁸⁰ Ray Hanania, “Lawsuit names Qatar’s royal family in killings of 10 Americans in Israel,” Arab News, June 11, 2020, <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1688051/middle-east>; Adam Kredo, “Lawsuit Alleges Qatar Secretly Financed Terror Attacks that Killed Americans,” *Washington Free Beacon*, June 10, 2020, <https://freebeacon.com/national-security/lawsuit-alleges-qatar-secretly-financed-terror-attacks-that-killed-americans/x>

⁸¹ Aykan Erdemir and Varsha Koduvayur, “Brothers in Arms,” Foundation for Defense of Democracies, December 11, 2019, <https://www.fdd.org/analysis/2019/12/11/brothers-in-arms/>.

⁸² “The nine individuals added to the Qatar-backed terror list,” Al Arabiya, July 25, 2017, <https://english.alarabiya.net/en/features/2017/07/25/The-nine-individuals-added-to-the-Qatar-backed-terror-list>; “Treasury Designates Key Facilitators and Front Company Providing Support to Al-Qa’ida in the Arabian Peninsula,” U.S. Department of the Treasury, December 7, 2016, <https://www.treasury.gov/press-center/press-releases/Pages/jl0673.aspx>.

⁸³ “Board of directors,” Qatar Charity, accessed August 26, 2020, <https://www.qcharity.org/en/qa/qatar-charity-offices/board-of-directors>.

Qatar harbors internationally designated and banned terrorist leaders, including former Hamas leader Khaled Meshaal,⁸⁴ Muslim Brotherhood ideologue Yusuf al-Qaradawi,⁸⁵ and three U.N.-sanctioned Taliban operatives.⁸⁶ Many of these individuals are reported to live in extravagance in Doha’s most exclusive neighborhoods.⁸⁷



KHALED MESHAAL: FORMER LEADER OF HAMAS

Designated by: United States

- Led Hamas from 2004 to May 2017. Meshaal oversaw Hamas’s transition from a guerilla terrorist organization into a terrorist/political hybrid.
- Has held press conferences at internationally owned businesses in Qatar, including the Four Seasons hotel in Doha.⁸⁸
- Meshaal resides “in the most luxurious hotel in the most beautiful district [in Qatar],” according to an Egyptian television host.⁸⁹
- Reported to own four towers and a commercial center on a seven-acre plot in

Qatar, developed by a domestic real estate agency.⁹⁰

“Meshaal is a dear guest of Qatar [who] is living [here] among his relatives.” – Foreign Minister Dr. Khalid bin Mohammed Al Attiyah, January 2015

⁸⁴ Peter Kovessy, “Qatar FM: Hamas leader to remain in Doha as ‘dear guest,’” Doha News, January 13, 2015, <https://dohanews.co/qatar-fm-hamas-leader-remain-doha-dear-guest/>.

⁸⁵ Alessandra Gennarelli, “Egypt’s Request for Qatar’s Extradition of Sheikh Yusuf Al- Qaradawi,” Center for Security Policy, May 27, 2015, <http://www.centerforsecuritypolicy.org/2015/05/27/egypts-request-for-qatars-extradition-of-sheikh-yusuf-al-qaradawi/>.

⁸⁶ “Report on the Inquiry into: The Department of Defense’s May 2014 Transfer to Qatar of five law-of-war detainees in connection with the recovery of a captive U.S. soldier,” Committee on Armed Services, December 9, 2015, https://armedservices.house.gov/sites/republicans.armedservices.house.gov/files/wysiwyg_uploaded/Report%20on%20the%20Inquiry%20into%20the%20Taliban%20Five%20Transfer_0.pdf.

⁸⁷ Globes, “The Corruption at the Head of Hamas,” *Jerusalem Post*, July 20, 2014, <http://www.jpost.com/Business/Business-Features/The-corruption-at-the-head-of-Hamas-363550>; Sami Yousafzai, “Taliban Leaders Are Living in Luxury in Qatar,” *Newsweek*, March 24, 2015, <http://www.newsweek.com/2015/04/03/taliban-leaders-are-living-luxury-qatar-316122.html>.

⁸⁸ فلسطين -الرشق عزت, Twitter post, September 7, 2015, 7:33 a.m., https://twitter.com/izzat_risheq/status/640895789334573056; Ilan Ben Zion, “Turkey PM, Hamas chief meet as Ankara inks defense deal with Qatar,” *Times of Israel* April 29, 2016, <http://www.timesofisrael.com/turkish-pm-hamas-chief-meet-in-qatar-as-ankara-inks-defense-deal/>.

⁸⁹ Globes, “The Corruption at the Head of Hamas,” *Jerusalem Post*, July 20, 2014, <http://www.jpost.com/Business/Business-Features/The-corruption-at-the-head-of-Hamas-363550>.

⁹⁰ Globes, “The Corruption at the Head of Hamas,” *Jerusalem Post*, July 20, 2014, <http://www.jpost.com/Business/Business-Features/The-corruption-at-the-head-of-Hamas-363550>.



ISMAIL HANIYEH: LEADER OF HAMAS

Designated by: United States

- Served as Hamas’s prime minister in the Gaza Strip from 2007 to 2014. Haniyeh became Hamas’s deputy leader in 2014 and then assumed the group’s leadership in 2017 after Khaled Meshaal stepped down from the role.⁹¹
- Supports Hamas’s “armed resistance” and refusal to compromise with Israel.⁹²
- Resided in Qatar since January 2020 after leaving the Gaza Strip for a series of international meetings. Haniyeh chose to relocate to Doha to maintain freedom of movement for international travel.⁹³



IZZAT AL-RISHQ: HAMAS POLITICAL BUREAU MEMBER

Designated by: None.

- Founding member of Hamas’s Political Bureau who remains a high-level operative and international representative of the group.⁹⁴
- Previously served as the head Hamas’s media department and 2006 electoral committee.⁹⁵
- Arrested in Jordan in 1996 for his involvement with Hamas and expelled him to Qatar in 1999. Rishq moved to Syria in 2001 but returned to Qatar in 2012 after the outbreak of Syria’s civil war.⁹⁶
- Participated in Hamas meetings with the Qatari leadership.⁹⁷

HUSSAM BADRAN: HAMAS SENIOR POLITICAL OFFICER AND SPOKESMAN

⁹¹ “Ismail Haniyeh elected new political head of Hamas,” Times of Israel, May 6, 2017, http://www.timesofisrael.com/ismail-haniyeh-elected-new-head-of-hamas/?utm_source=The+Times+of+Israel+Daily+Edition&utm_campaign=0dd24464cd-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2017_05_05&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_adb46cec92-0dd24464cd-55118405; Jodi Rudoren and Isabel Kershner, “Israel Warns Against Embracing Newly Reconciled Palestinian Government,” *New York Times*, June 1, 2014, <http://www.nytimes.com/2014/06/02/world/middleeast/israel-warns-against-embracing-newly-reconciled-palestinian-government.html>.

⁹² “Haniyeh: No Compromise, Only Armed Resistance,” *Jerusalem Post*, February 13, 2012, <http://www.jpost.com/Middle-East/Haniyeh-No-compromise-only-armed-resistance>.

⁹³ Ahmed Fouad, “Egypt may find Gaza more appealing without Haniyeh,” Al-Monitor, February 25, 2020, <https://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2020/02/egypt-ban-hamas-haniyeh-return-gaza-iran-qatar.html>.

⁹⁴ Izzat al Rishq, European Council on Foreign Relations, accessed January 27, 2022, https://ecfr.eu/special/mapping_palestinian_politics/izzat_al_risheq/.

⁹⁵ Izzat al Rishq, European Council on Foreign Relations, accessed January 27, 2022, https://ecfr.eu/special/mapping_palestinian_politics/izzat_al_risheq/.

⁹⁶ Izzat al Rishq, European Council on Foreign Relations, accessed January 27, 2022, https://ecfr.eu/special/mapping_palestinian_politics/izzat_al_risheq/.

⁹⁷ “Senior Hamas delegation meets with Qatar emir,” Middle East Monitor, December 17, 2019, <https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20191217-senior-hamas-delegation-meets-with-qatar-emir/>.



- Previously served as a Hamas military commander in the West Bank, allegedly overseeing multiple suicide bombings.⁹⁸
- Sentenced to almost 18 years in prison in 2004 in Israel.⁹⁹
- Released on October 18, 2011, as part of prisoner swap between Israel and Hamas for captive Israeli soldier Gilad Shalit. He was deported to Syria and then expelled to Qatar.¹⁰⁰
- Named in a 2020 U.S. civil lawsuit accusing Qatar of financing Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ).¹⁰¹

Financiers

According to then-Under Secretary for Terrorism and Financial Intelligence David Cohen, Qatar is a “permissive terrorist financing environment” that enables “private fundraising networks” to operate within its borders.¹⁰² Below are some of the designated or wanted members of those networks, all of whom are al-Qaeda financiers:

ABD AL-RAHMAN BIN ‘UMAYR AL-NU’AYMI

Designated by: European Union, Turkey, United Kingdom, United Nations, United States

- Has transferred millions of dollars to al-Qaeda affiliates in Iraq, Syria, Somalia, and Yemen.¹⁰³
- At one point, provided \$2 million per month to ISIS’s forerunner, al-Qaeda in Iraq.¹⁰⁴



⁹⁸ “Murderers’ Row: Who are the terrorists being freed in the Shalit deal?,” Jewish Telegraph Agency, October 18, 2011, <https://www.jta.org/2011/10/18/israel/murderers-row-who-are-the-terrorists-being-freed-in-the-shalit-deal>.

⁹⁹ Uri Friedman, “The most notorious names in the Shalit prison swap,” *Foreign Policy*, October 20, 2011, <https://foreignpolicy.com/2011/10/20/the-most-notorious-names-in-the-shalit-prison-swap/>.

¹⁰⁰ “Israel releases 550 Palestinian prisoners,” France 24, December 18, 2011, <https://www.france24.com/en/20111218-israel-frees-550-palestinian-prisoners-swap-deal-gilad-shalit-release>; Uri Friedman, “The most notorious names in the Shalit prison swap,” *Foreign Policy*, October 20, 2011, <https://foreignpolicy.com/2011/10/20/the-most-notorious-names-in-the-shalit-prison-swap/>; “Husam Badran – Member of Hamas Political Bureau,” Hamas, accessed April 5, 2022, <https://hamas.ps/en/leader/181/Husam-Badran>.

¹⁰¹ Ray Hanania, “Lawsuit names Qatar’s royal family in killings of 10 Americans in Israel,” Arab News, June 12, 2020, <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1688051/middle-east>.

¹⁰² “Remarks of Under Secretary for Terrorism and Financial Intelligence David Cohen before the Center for a New American Security on ‘Confronting New Threats in Terrorist Financing,’” U.S. Department of the Treasury, March 4, 2014, <https://www.treasury.gov/press-center/press-releases/Pages/jl2308.aspx>.

¹⁰³ “Treasury Designates Al-Qa’ida Supporters in Qatar and Yemen,” U.S. Department of the Treasury, December 19, 2013, <http://www.treasury.gov/press-center/press-releases/Pages/jl2249.aspx>; “QDi.334’Abd al-Rahman bin ‘Umayr al-Nu’aymi,” United Nations Security Council, https://www.un.org/sc/suborg/en/sanctions/1267/qa_sanctions_list/summaries/individual/abd-al-rahman-bin-'umayr-al-nu'aymi; Eli Lake, “Terrorists for Human Rights,” *Daily Beast*, December 20, 2013, <http://www.thedailybeast.com/articles/2013/12/20/terrorists-for-human-rights.html>; David Andrew Weinberg, “Qatar and Terror Finance Part 1: Negligence,” *Foundation for Defense of Democracies*, December 2014, 7-8, https://www.defenddemocracy.org/content/uploads/publications/Qatar_Part_1.pdf.

¹⁰⁴ “Treasury Designates Al-Qa’ida Supporters in Qatar and Yemen,” U.S. Department of the Treasury, December 19, 2013, <http://www.treasury.gov/press-center/press-releases/Pages/jl2249.aspx>.

- Close associate of Qatar’s ruling Al Thani family. Holds prominent positions in several government-backed organizations.¹⁰⁵

KHALIFA MUHAMMAD TURKI AL-SUBAIY

Designated by: Bahrain, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, United Nations, United States

- Has funneled hundreds of thousands of dollars to al-Qaeda senior leaders in South Asia, including 9/11 mastermind Khalid Sheikh Mohammed.¹⁰⁶
- Arrested and jailed in Qatar in March 2008. Designated by the U.S. that July. Released by Qatari authorities two months after the U.S. designation with no further charges.¹⁰⁷



ABD AL-AZIZ BIN KHALIFA AL-ATTIYAH

Wanted by: Lebanon

- Has funneled money to al-Qaeda and Nusra Front operatives in Lebanon.¹⁰⁸
- Has solicited donations for the Nusra Front over social media.¹⁰⁹
- Has voiced support for Osama bin Laden and ISIS on Twitter.¹¹⁰
- In November 2014, a Lebanese court found Attiyah guilty in absentia for providing financial support to terrorist organizations. The Qatari government has dismissed those charges as politically motivated.¹¹¹



SALIM HASAN KHALIFA RASHID AL-KUWARI

¹⁰⁵ Eli Lake, “Terrorists for Human Rights,” Daily Beast, December 20, 2013, <http://www.thedailybeast.com/articles/2013/12/20/terrorists-for-human-rights.html>; David Andrew Weinberg, “Qatar and Terror Finance Part 1: Negligence,” Foundation for Defense of Democracies, December 2014, 7-8, https://www.defenddemocracy.org/content/uploads/publications/Qatar_Part_I.pdf.

¹⁰⁶ “Treasury Designates Twelve Foreign Terrorist Fighter Facilitators,” U.S. Department of the Treasury, September 24, 2014, <http://www.treasury.gov/press-center/press-releases/Pages/jl2651.aspx>; “QDi.253 KHALIFA MUHAMMAD TURKI AL-SUBAIY,” U.N. Security Council, last updated February 19, 2015, https://www.un.org/sc/suborg/en/sanctions/1267/qa_sanctions_list/summaries/individual/khalifa-muhammad-turki-al-subaiy.

¹⁰⁷ David Andrew Weinberg, “Qatar and Terror Finance Part 1: Negligence,” Foundation for Defense of Democracies, December 2014, 16, https://www.defenddemocracy.org/content/uploads/publications/Qatar_Part_I.pdf.

¹⁰⁸ Andrew Gilligan, “Minister’s family ties to terror,” Telegraph (London), November 1, 2014, <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/middleeast/qatar/11203140/Ministers-family-ties-to-terror.html>; Jay Solomon and Nour Malas, “Qatar’s Ties to Militants Strain Alliance,” Wall Street Journal, February 23, 2015, <http://www.wsj.com/articles/qatars-ties-to-militants-strain-alliance-1424748601>.

¹⁰⁹ Andrew Gilligan, “Minister’s family ties to terror,” Telegraph (London), November 1, 2014, <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/middleeast/qatar/11203140/Ministers-family-ties-to-terror.html>; Jay Solomon and Nour Malas, “Qatar’s Ties to Militants Strain Alliance,” Wall Street Journal, February 23, 2015, <http://www.wsj.com/articles/qatars-ties-to-militants-strain-alliance-1424748601>.

¹¹⁰ Andrew Gilligan, “Minister’s family ties to terror,” Telegraph (London), November 1, 2014, <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/middleeast/qatar/11203140/Ministers-family-ties-to-terror.html>; Jay Solomon and Nour Malas, “Qatar’s Ties to Militants Strain Alliance,” Wall Street Journal, February 23, 2015, <http://www.wsj.com/articles/qatars-ties-to-militants-strain-alliance-1424748601>.

¹¹¹ Andrew Gilligan, “Minister’s family ties to terror,” Telegraph (London), November 1, 2014, <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/middleeast/qatar/11203140/Ministers-family-ties-to-terror.html>; Jay Solomon and Nour Malas, “Qatar’s Ties to Militants Strain Alliance,” Wall Street Journal, February 23, 2015, <http://www.wsj.com/articles/qatars-ties-to-militants-strain-alliance-1424748601>.

Designated by: United States

- Channeled hundreds of thousands of dollars to al-Qaeda through an Iran-based network.¹¹²
- Facilitated the travel of extremist recruits abroad and secured the release of al-Qaeda detainees in Iran.¹¹³
- Reportedly employed by Qatar’s Ministry of Interior even after his 2011 designation.¹¹⁴

ABDALLAH GHANIM MAFUZ MUSLIM AL-KHAWAR

Designated by: United States

- Aided Kuwari in channeling hundreds of thousands of dollars to al-Qaeda through an Iran-based network.¹¹⁵
- Facilitated travel for militants to Afghanistan for jihad.¹¹⁶
- Detained by Qatar in early 2011. Designated by the U.S. that July. Released by Qatari authorities three months after the U.S. designation—with no further charges.¹¹⁷

ABD AL-LATIF BIN ABDLLAHA SALIH MUHAMMAD AL-KAWARI

Designated by: United States, United Nations

- Transferred funds to al-Qaeda. Responsible for providing Qatari-based financiers with proof that their funds were delivered to the terror group.¹¹⁸

SA’D BIN SA’D MUHAMMAD SHARIYAN AL KA’BI

Designated by: European Union, Hong Kong, Pakistan, United Kingdom, United Nations, United States

- Solicited donations for the Nusra Front over social media.¹¹⁹
- Facilitated a Nusra Front hostage exchange.¹²⁰

¹¹² “Treasury Targets Key Al-Qa’ida Funding and Support Network Using Iran as a Critical Transit Point,” U.S. Department of the Treasury, July 28, 2011, <https://www.treasury.gov/press-center/press-releases/Pages/tg1261.aspx>.

¹¹³ “Treasury Targets Key Al-Qa’ida Funding and Support Network Using Iran as a Critical Transit Point,” U.S. Department of the Treasury, July 28, 2011, <https://www.treasury.gov/press-center/press-releases/Pages/tg1261.aspx>.

¹¹⁴ “Treasury Targets Key Al-Qa’ida Funding and Support Network Using Iran as a Critical Transit Point,” U.S. Department of the Treasury, July 28, 2011, <https://www.treasury.gov/press-center/press-releases/Pages/tg1261.aspx>.

¹¹⁵ “Treasury Targets Key Al-Qa’ida Funding and Support Network Using Iran as a Critical Transit Point,” U.S. Department of the Treasury, July 28, 2011, <http://www.treasury.gov/press-center/press-releases/Pages/tg1261.aspx>.

¹¹⁶ “Treasury Targets Key Al-Qa’ida Funding and Support Network Using Iran as a Critical Transit Point,” U.S. Department of the Treasury, July 28, 2011, <http://www.treasury.gov/press-center/press-releases/Pages/tg1261.aspx>.

¹¹⁷ David Andrew Weinberg, “Qatar and Terror Finance Part 1: Negligence,” Foundation for Defense of Democracies, December 2014, 17-18, https://www.defenddemocracy.org/content/uploads/publications/Qatar_Part_1.pdf.

¹¹⁸ “Treasury Designates Financial Supporters of Al-Qaida and Al-Nusrah Front,” U.S. Department of the Treasury, August 5, 2015, <http://www.treasury.gov/press-center/press-releases/Pages/jl0143.aspx>.

¹¹⁹ “Treasury Designates Financial Supporters of Al-Qaida and Al-Nusrah Front,” U.S. Department of the Treasury, August 5, 2015, <http://www.treasury.gov/press-center/press-releases/Pages/jl0143.aspx>.

¹²⁰ “Treasury Designates Financial Supporters of Al-Qaida and Al-Nusrah Front,” U.S. Department of the Treasury, August 5, 2015, <http://www.treasury.gov/press-center/press-releases/Pages/jl0143.aspx>.

SNAPSHOT OF QATARI COUNTERTERRORISM LEGISLATION AND INITIATIVES

Qatar has passed various counterterrorism laws since 2004. Today, Qatari authorities have available a wide range of legal tools in the fight against terrorism, both domestic and international. Below are the pillars of Qatari counterterrorism law:

Law on Combating Terrorism (2004)

- Permits the state to prosecute individuals involved in terror-related activities, including providing training, weaponry, financing, material support, and associating with groups.¹²¹

Qatar Authority for Charitable Activities, or QACA (2004)

- The QACA screens financial transactions made by Qatari charitable organizations in order to detect and thwart terrorism financing.¹²²

Qatar Financial Information Unit, or QFIU (2004)

- Housed in the Qatar Central Bank, the QFIU requires Qatari financial institutions to report suspicious financial transactions. The FIU is tasked with preparing this information for presentation to law enforcement.¹²³

Combating Money Laundering and Terrorist Finance Law (2010)

- Outlines penalties for money laundering and terrorism financing, which includes imprisonment and fines.¹²⁴
- Requires Qatar's Public Prosecutor to freeze the funds of individuals designated by the U.N. Security Council.¹²⁵

Jeddah Communique (2014)

- Qatar signed onto this U.S.-led initiative alongside several other Gulf States, pledging joint action in defeating terrorism and terrorist financing. Specifically, the Communique calls on signatories to "[end] impunity and [bring terrorist] perpetrators to justice."¹²⁶

Qatar has adopted numerous pieces of counterterrorism legislation, but the government refuses to fully enforce it. As Doha partakes in U.S.-led counterterrorism initiatives, the government simultaneously delivers funds and supplies to internationally designated terrorist organizations and harbors internationally designated operatives. As former Under Secretary for Terrorism and Financial Intelligence David Cohen has said, there are extremist operatives in Qatar "that have not been acted against under Qatari law."¹²⁷ In May 2016, Senator Mark Kirk (R-IL) wrote in a letter to Secretary of the Treasury that "the Qatari government should do much more to match

¹²¹ "Law No (3) of 2004 on Combating Terrorism," [http://www.qfcra.com/en-us/legislation/Laws/Law%20No%20\(3\)%20of%202004%20on%20Combating%20Terrorism.pdf](http://www.qfcra.com/en-us/legislation/Laws/Law%20No%20(3)%20of%202004%20on%20Combating%20Terrorism.pdf).

¹²² Christopher M. Blanchard, "Qatar: Background and U.S. Relations," Congressional Research Service, June 6, 2012, 13, <http://www.au.af.mil/au/awc/awcgate/crs/rl31718.pdf>; "Qatar's Regulatory Authority for Charitable Activities," World Humanitarian Forum, <http://worldhumanitarianforum.com/qatars-regulatory-authority-for-charitable-activities/>.

¹²³ "Chapter 2. Country Reports: Middle East and North Africa Overview," U.S. Department of State, <https://www.state.gov/j/ct/rls/crt/2015/257517.htm>; Financial Information Unit Website, accessed January 31, 2017, <http://www.qfiu.gov.qa/>.

¹²⁴ "Law No. (4) of Year 201 on Combating Money Laundering and Terrorism Financing," [http://www.qfcra.com/en-us/legislation/Laws/Anti-Money%20Laundering%20Law%20No.%20\(4\)%20of%202010.pdf](http://www.qfcra.com/en-us/legislation/Laws/Anti-Money%20Laundering%20Law%20No.%20(4)%20of%202010.pdf).

¹²⁵ "Chapter 2. Country Reports: Middle East and North Africa Overview," U.S. Department of State, <https://www.state.gov/j/ct/rls/crt/2015/257517.htm>.

¹²⁶ "Jeddah Communique," U.S. Department of State, September 11, 2014, <https://2009-2017.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2014/09/231496.htm>.

¹²⁷ Jamie Dettmer, "U.S. Ally Qatar Shelters Jihadi Moneybags," Daily Beast, December 10, 2014, <http://www.thedailybeast.com/articles/2014/12/10/rich-little-qatar-big-ugly-ties-to-terror.html>.

COUNTER EXTREMISM PROJECT

Jeddah Communique's words with deeds."¹²⁸ As former Secretary of State John Kerry has said, Qatar "can't continue to be an American ally on Monday that sends money to Hamas on Tuesday."¹²⁹

POLICY PRESCRIPTIONS

In order to combat terrorism and terrorist financing, Qatar will need to fully enforce its own counterterrorism policies. Qatar would also do well to bolster its existing counterterrorism framework, including by designing, maintaining, and publicizing its own terrorist-designation system. The United States should recognize that pressuring Qatar to adopt this political will—and make any strides to its existing framework—is paramount to a strong and effective counterterrorism strategy.

"[In America] they look at some movements as terrorist movements. In our part of the region, we don't." –Emir Tamim Al Thani, September 2014

Specifically, the United States must incentivize Doha to:

- Arrest or expel all wanted and internationally designated individuals inside its borders, including the people outlined by CEP's QATAR-HARBORS campaign
- Expel or arrest all members of the Hamas and Taliban delegations currently domiciled inside Qatar
- Halt all direct support—financial, material, and strategic—to internationally designated terrorist organizations
- Sever all ties with and stakes in financial institutions that associate with or support extremist entities
- Monitor, investigate, and penalize charities and financial institutions accused of providing support to extremist groups
- Submit designated entities to the ramifications outlined in Qatar's existing counterterrorism legislation
- End ransom payments to terrorist organizations abroad

¹²⁸ Letter from Mark Kirk, United States Senate, May 10, 2016, <http://freebeacon.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/20160510-Kirk-Letter-to-SECTREAS-Lew-on-Qatar-Terrorist-Financing.pdf>.

¹²⁹ "Restoring Leadership in the Middle East: A Regional Approach to Peace," Brookings Institute, March 4, 2009, https://www.brookings.edu/wp-content/uploads/2012/04/20090304_kerry.pdf; Christopher M. Blanchard, "Qatar: Background and U. S. Relations," Congressional Research Service, May 16, 2011, 4.