February 23, 2024

The Honorable Kay Granger  
Chairwoman  
H-307, U.S. Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Ranking Member  
1036 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mario Diaz-Balart  
Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs  
Committee on Appropriations  
HT-2, U.S. Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Barbara Lee  
Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs  
Committee on Appropriations  
1036 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Ken Calvert  
Subcommittee on Defense  
Committee on Appropriations  
H-405, U.S. Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Betty McCollum  
Subcommittee on Defense  
Committee on Appropriations  
1036 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairwoman Granger, Chairman Diaz-Balart, Chairman Calvert, Ranking Member DeLauro, Ranking Member Lee, and Ranking Member McCollum,

As you complete your work to fund the Defense and State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs accounts for the remainder of fiscal year (FY) 2024, we request that you include language in your bills that would prohibit the use of federal funds to carry out the designation of the State of Qatar as a Major Non-NATO Ally (MNNA).

While this limitation of funds would only extend to September 30, it is past time that the United States Congress begins to re-evaluate our relationship with Doha. There is no event that has more hurriedly forced this reckoning than October 7 – a tragedy that the Qatars underwrote. Members of the Israeli government have also since indicated Qatar “is largely responsible for the massacre committed by Hamas of Israeli citizens.”

The Doha regime has for decades funded or otherwise supported terrorist organizations, including Hamas, the Taliban, al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP), ISIS, the Muslim

1 https://www.jns.org/smotrich-qatar-largely-responsible-for-oct-7-massacre/?_se=cGhpbGlwdGVzdGFzQHNhcg8ucHQu%3D
Brotherhood, and the Nusra Front; it continues to allow international terror leaders and financiers to operate within its borders. To this day, Qatar permits Hamas leadership to live in luxury and has ignored numerous entreaties to turn over Hamas leadership to U.S. or Israeli custody. This duplicitous country also once allowed safe harbor to the “mastermind” of the 9/11 terror attacks on our country – Khalid Sheikh Mohammed.

Since at least 2008 (and likely before), Qatar has regularly provided Hamas with hundreds of millions of dollars annually. In July 2016, the Qatari government re-emphasized their support for Hamas by pledging $30 million a month to Gaza’s civil service – in August 2016, Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh declared that Qatari donations would go to support Hamas’ military personnel. In February 2021, just a few months before the Hamas-instigated conflict against Israel, Qatar also provided Hamas with a $360 million grant.

Immediately following the attacks of October 7, 2023, Doha condemned Israel, allowed Hamas leadership to cheer on the rape and murder of women and girls from a 5-star hotel, and offered to assist the Biden Administration in retrieving hostages Hamas took during their brutal assault – all actions consistent with Qatar’s proclivity to play the role of arsonist before taking on the role of firefighter.

The correct answer would have been to tell Doha no, coerce their cooperation with the apprehension of prominent terror leaders, and punish them for their role in facilitating the hostage crisis. This Administration should have gone so far as to threaten to relocate Al-Udeid to the United Arab Emirates – a trustworthy ally that fully supports US counterterrorism efforts.

Joe Biden did not do any of that, and now our nation is in a position where Doha and Hamas have disproportionate leverage in determining the conditions and circumstances over which hostages are freed. Consider Hamas’s latest ‘peace’ proposal – a nonsensical offer that would contribute to the freeing of thousands of Hamas terrorists. Family members of hostages have also been advised (some would say threatened) by Qatar that should the tiny Gulf state have to divert attention to salvage its rapidly deteriorating global reputation, there would be fewer resources to assist their loved ones.

While the current Administration has chosen to empower and legitimize a country that paved the path for October 7 and bears responsibility for the nearly 60 Americans who have died on and since that date, Congress does not need to be culpable in continuing a foreign policy marked by a severe case of cognitive dissonance. We cannot expend untold billions every year to fight terrorism, only to provide support for terrorist sympathizers on the back end and expect a

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2 https://www.counterextremism.com/content/qatar-money-and-terror
5 See footnote 2
different result. There is a timely quote regarding the definition of insanity that may be appropriate here.

For the sake of peace and for the sake of hostages still praying to be free – and for their grieving families – the United States must begin to apply pressure on Doha. That begins by suspending a prestigious designation bestowed upon Qatar in January 2022.

Our “major allies” shouldn’t be terrorist allies.

We thank you for your consideration of our request and for your leadership on this Committee.

Sincerely,

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Andy Ogles  Andy Biggs
Member of Congress  Member of Congress