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**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 5:07 PM  
**To:** Tavlarides, Mark <[mtavlarides@bgrdc.com](mailto:mtavlarides@bgrdc.com)>  
**Subject:** Bahrain Update: Last Week's AJC Program

Good afternoon,

I wanted to share a video of the significant conversation among Bahrain Ambassador to the United States Shaikh Abdulla bin Rashid Al Khalifa; Former Rep. Steve Israel (D-NY); and Jason Isaacson, American Jewish Committee (AJC) Chief Policy and Political Affairs Officer.

The participants discussed U.S. policy toward Iran, negotiation prospects, and ongoing threats to peace. In particular, Ambassador Al Khalifa discussed the failed Iranian arms embargo renewal and Bahrain's role in exposing the tools and tactics of the Iranian regime to destabilize the region.

On Iran, Ambassador Al Khalifa said:

*"If we look at Iran's actions ever since the Arms Embargo, they did not cease their efforts to arm terrorists and sectarian proxies around the region, including in Bahrain, since day one. So, let's not look at the imports of arms but also the export of arms as well. As recent as ten days ago, Bahrain announced the foiling of two attempts to smuggle Iranian explosives by individuals with ties to Hezbollah and, as we look at the United Nations Security Council, I think we are also reminded of another multi-lateral organization that is much closer to the action; that is the Gulf Cooperation Council. Just last week, the Secretary General of the GCC sent a letter on behalf of the member states to the UN Security Council asking for the extension of restrictions set forth in the UN Security Council Resolution 251. Unfortunately, that letter and that standing did not carry water, so it is concerning to us. It is definitely concerning because we not only worry about what arms might fall into the hands of the Iranian regime but also the technology that will enable them to flourish their indigenous manufacturing capabilities as well."*

The Ambassador additionally noted:

- For the first time in a long time, the Lebanese people are saying "enough is enough!" with Hezbollah. Bahrain designated Hezbollah as a terrorist organization in 2013. (50:23) <https://youtu.be/gtf6LdhUhHI?t=1555>
- When asked about the Palestinian Authority's negative reaction to the UAE peace agreement with Israel, the Ambassador said, "The decision that the UAE has adopted, with the agreement, was truly beneficial for the Palestinian people." (52:51) <https://youtu.be/gtf6LdhUhHI?t=3171>
- Bahrain reacted to the COVID-19 pandemic effectively and transparently. They have **one of the lowest death rates** in the world: 0.01%. They have **the highest recovery rate in the world**: 87%. (57:30) <https://youtu.be/gtf6LdhUhHI?t=3450>

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Best,  
Mark

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