



US-QATAR BILATERAL RELATIONS

2025

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US-QATAR BILATERAL RELATIONS AT-A-GLANCE

Defense: Qatar hosts Al-Udeid Air Base, the largest US military base in the Middle East. Al-Udeid is host to the CENTCOM Forward Headquarters and upwards of 11,000 American troops. It plays a critical role in America's forward deployment in the region.

- ♦ Al-Udeid was built in 1996 at Qatar's expense.
- ♦ Since 2003, Qatar has contributed more than \$8 billion to develop the facilities at Al-Udeid.
- ♦ US forces have operated at Al-Udeid since September 2001.
- ♦ In 2018, Qatar announced it would invest an additional \$1.8 billion to upgrade Al-Udeid.
- ♦ In January 2024, the US and Qatar signed a mutual agreement to extend the US military presence at Al-Udeid for another 10 years, further deepening bilateral defense ties.
- ♦ During heightened regional tensions in May 2024, the US deployed additional fighter jets, armed drones and other aircraft to Qatar, repositioning its forces to further enhance its military capabilities in the region.

Mediation: Qatar plays a key role as a mediator in various regional and global conflicts. The State of Qatar has directly supported American negotiation efforts in Gaza, Iran, Afghanistan, Venezuela, and elsewhere. For example, in a September 2020 communique, the United States thanked Qatar for "its indispensable role in bringing Taliban representatives to the negotiation table and for hosting the signing of the historic US-Taliban Agreement in February [2020] and the start of the Afghanistan Peace Negotiations in September [2020]."

Trade & Investment: : Leading exporter of LNG, and third largest natural gas reserves in the world. Qatar invested \$20B in US energy infrastructure..

- ♦ As of 2022, Qatar's sovereign wealth fund, the Qatar Investment Authority, had invested more than \$30 billion in the United States since 2015, with planned investment exceeding \$45 billion in total. Over half of this concentrated in the real estate and infrastructure sectors.
- ♦ Qatar's investments support American jobs and American infrastructure and deepen the bilateral relationship significantly.

US-QATAR BILATERAL RELATIONS AT-A-GLANCE

Energy: Leading exporter of LNG, home to the largest reserves in the world. Qatar invested \$20B in US energy infrastructure.

- More recently, Qatar Petroleum (now Qatar Energy), owns a 70% stake in the Golden Pass LNG terminal located in Sabine Pass, TX. The multi-billion dollar project supports over 45,000 American jobs.
- Qatar is uniquely positioned to support the United States in energy stability and security around the globe.

Culture & Education: For more than twenty years, six US universities have operated degree-granting campuses in Qatar, Qatar hosted the 2022 FIFA World Cup, and 2021 was celebrated as the US-Qatar Year of Culture.

Counterterrorism: Qatar is a major counterterrorism partner to the US and was the first country in the region to sign an MOU with the US to combat terrorism.

QATAR JOINS UNITED STATES VISA WAIVER PROGRAM

On September 24, 2024, the United States announced that Qatar would join the Visa Waiver Program, effective December 1, 2024. The Visa Waiver Program allows citizens of over 40 countries to travel to the US for up to 90 days without a visa, provided they have an Electronic System for Travel Authorization, an extra vetting before travelers can visit the US

This milestone highlights the strong bilateral ties between our two nations and will further strengthen the robust security and diplomatic connections between Qatar and the United States. Qatar has collaborated with the US for years to meet the rigorous security standards required to join the program. This development will also enhance commerce, tourism, and cultural exchanges.

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said “Qatar’s fulfillment of the stringent security requirements to join the Visa Waiver Program will deepen our strategic partnership and enhance the flow of people and commerce between our two countries.”

Security Requirements

To be admitted into the US Visa Waiver Program (VWP), a country must meet a set of specific requirements related to security, law enforcement, immigration, and travel document standards. The main requirements are:

- **Low Visa Refusal Rate:** The country must have a visa refusal rate below 3% for visitor (B1/B2) visa applications. This is calculated based on US Department of State data.
- **Counterterrorism and Law Enforcement Collaboration:** The country must actively collaborate with the US on counterterrorism efforts and maintain mechanisms to share information about known or suspected terrorists, criminals, and other security threats.
- **Human Trafficking Prevention:** The country must work to prevent and combat human trafficking, implementing relevant policies in line with US standards.
- **Enhanced Security and Law Enforcement Cooperation:** The country must engage in robust information-sharing practices with the US on issues such as terrorism, criminal activity, and travel-related security. It should also have secure travel document issuance and border management practices.
- **Reciprocal Travel Privileges:** The country should offer reciprocal visa-free or simplified travel privileges to US citizens.
- **Border Security and Immigration Controls:** The country should have strong border control measures in place to prevent unlawful immigration and must demonstrate low levels of immigration violations (e.g., overstays).

QATAR JOINS UNITED STATES VISA WAIVER PROGRAM

The admitted country also undergoes, in conjunction with the DHS-led evaluation, an independent intelligence assessment produced by the DHS Office of Intelligence and Analysis on behalf of the Director of National Intelligence a yearly and biennially review process of the program.

Qatar's designation reflects and strengthens the already close relationship between Qatar and the US

- In 2022, the US designated Qatar a “major non-NATO ally,” paving the way for increased security and defense cooperation. Only 17 other countries have been granted that status.
- Al-Udeid Airbase near Doha, Qatar’s capital, is one of the largest American bases abroad, the largest in the Middle East, and hosts nearly 11,000 US troops.
- Qatar played a pivotal role in the Afghan airlift in 2021, providing safe passage to thousands of Americans, foreign nationals, and vulnerable Afghans.
- Qatar is one of the largest Foreign Military Sales customers of the United States, including over \$26 billion in sales of advanced fighter jets and missile defense systems.
- Qatar’s flagship airline, Qatar Airways, serves 12 destinations in the US, linking Americans to Doha and more than 150 other destinations in over 90 countries.
- For nearly three decades, six prominent American universities have operated branch campuses in Qatar’s Education City. Qatar’s investment in higher education fosters regional innovation with technology centers and research facilities.
- More than 850 US companies operate in Qatar through joint ventures, including ExxonMobil’s presence since 1955.
- Qatar is a reliable partner to the US in times of need; it provided over \$10 million during the COVID-19 pandemic, \$100 million after Hurricane Katrina, and \$30 million for the Hurricane Harvey Fund to help US communities.
- The Visa Waiver Program, available only to Qatari citizens, will reinforce the extensive security and diplomatic connections between Qatar and the US
- It also will increase commerce, tourism, and cultural exchanges. Qatar’s billions of dollars in US investments such as in Texas’ Golden Pass LNG and South Carolina’s aerospace industry have created thousands of US jobs.

“Qatar has been an exceptional partner for the United States, and our strategic relationship has only grown stronger over the past few years. This is further evidence of our strategic partnership and our shared commitment to security and stability.”

US Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro Mayorkas and
US Secretary of State Antony Blinken

US-QATAR DEFENSE RELATIONS

The US and Qatar have a robust, strategically significant, defense relationship. The Forward Headquarters of US Central Command (CENTCOM) is located at Al-Udeid Airbase outside of Doha, Qatar's capital. The base is one of the largest American bases abroad (and the largest in the Middle East) and hosts nearly 11,000 US troops. In 2024, the US and Qatar agreed to continue operations at Al Udeid for another 10 years. Qatar has invested billions of dollars in the establishment of this base.

The US and Qatar have a longstanding strategic partnership focused on regional stability and counterterrorism. This partnership has been reinforced through various defense cooperation agreements and joint military exercises. In 1992, the US and Qatar signed a Defense Cooperation Agreement (DCA), which was renewed and expanded in subsequent years. This agreement provides the framework for US military presence and cooperation in Qatar.

Since then, the US and Qatar have signed numerous defense-related agreements:

- Executive agreement regarding the availability and use of Al Udeid Air Base.
- Agreement on security measures for the protection of classified military information.
- Agreement for Initial Exchange and Cooperation on Geospatial Intelligence.
- Agreement on procurement and exchange of services between the MoD and DoD.
- Memorandum of Agreement between the MoD and DoD regarding compatibility and security of communications.
- An executive agreement between the government of the United States of America, represented by the DoD, and the government of the State of Qatar, represented by the QAAF, regarding the use of an area to support the operation of a radar system (AN / TPY-2).
- Memorandum of Understanding between the MoD and the DoD regarding the establishment and operation of a defense language institute project in Doha, Qatar.
- Memorandum of Understanding regarding Qatar's support for the activities of the US DoD at Al Udeid Air Base.
- Memorandum of agreement between the Chief of Staff of the Qatari Armed Forces and the CENTCOM Chief regarding the appointment of Qatari liaison officers at CENTCOM HQ.
- The Operational Arrangements Document (CC-QA-02) between the MoD and the DoD regarding exchange of service provision and administrative support.
- Memorandum of Understanding between the Qatari Armed Forces and the US Central Command regarding the buildings and facilities of the US Central Command located at Al Udeid Air Base.

US-QATAR DEFENSE RELATIONS

Qatar is a significant purchaser of military equipment from the US, including advanced fighter jets, missile defense systems, and other defense technologies. The US has over \$26 billion in active government-to-government cases with Qatar under the Foreign Military Sales (FMS) system making Qatar the second largest FMS partner in the world.

Notable recent FMS sales to Qatar include: Integrated Air & Missile Defense System, including the Patriot long-range missile system, the National Advanced Surface to Air Missile System, and the AN/FPS-132 Early Warning Radar; F-15QA fighter aircraft— the most advanced F-15 in production; and AH-64E Apache attack helicopters. Each of these programs includes facility construction and extended munitions, logistics, and training support.

US equipment sales are vital:

1. American equipment contributes to Qatar's ability to burden share on operations in the region. It allows for better interoperability and cooperation between the US, Qatar and American allies.
2. American equipment purchases support the US economy and jobs. For example, Qatar's purchase of the F-15QA fighter jets allowed Boeing's St. Louis manufacturing plant to continue operations (it was previously due to close, costing the region thousands of jobs). The F-15QA purchase in 2016 was valued at \$21.1 billion and will support over 24,000 US jobs.

The US and Qatar also work closely on counterterrorism operations. In 2017, the two countries signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to enhance cooperation in combating terrorism financing, which has strengthened bilateral efforts to prevent and disrupt terrorist activities.

QATAR'S MAJOR NON-NATO ALLY STATUS

In January 2022, President Joe Biden designated Qatar as a "Major non-NATO Ally." The designation paved the way for increased security and defense cooperation. Only 17 other countries have been granted that status by American presidents. They include Australia, Egypt, Israel, Japan, South Korea, Jordan, New Zealand, Thailand, Kuwait, Morocco, Pakistan, Bahrain, Philippines, Argentina, Afghanistan and Tunisia. President Donald Trump conferred the status on Brazil in 2019.

The designation as major non-NATO ally, or MNNA, serves as "a powerful symbol of the close relationship the United States shares with those countries and demonstrates our deep respect for the friendship for the countries to which it is extended." Nations with the MNNA designation are eligible to, among other things, host US war reserve stockpiles of material inside their countries. Private companies within those nations are also eligible to bid on contracts to maintain, repair or overhaul US military equipment. Those nations can also enter into agreements with the United States for training.

Qatar's history of strong defense relations with the United States and promotion of security and stability in the region contributed directly to achieving this designation. Qatar's commitment to its partnership with the United States – from fighting alongside US troops to liberate Kuwait in 1991, to the Defense Cooperation Agreement now in its third decade, to pre-positioning war reserve materiel in Qatar for a full US armored brigade, to opening our facilities to US forces to operate in the immediate aftermath of 9/11, to hosting the US Central Command Forward Headquarters in Qatar since 2009, to the 2017 US-Qatar agreement to expand counterterrorism cooperation, to acting as the gateway for the massive 2021 Afghan airlift. There are 11,000 US troops in Qatar today, at facilities largely funded by Qatar, including Al Udeid Air Base, the largest US military presence in the Middle East, which the US and Qatar recently agreed to extend for an additional ten years.

QATAR'S ROLE IN INTERNATIONAL CONFLICT MEDIATION

Qatar has established itself as a significant international mediator, leveraging its strategic geopolitical position and diplomatic relations to facilitate dialogue and conflict resolution. Mediation is a core tenet of Qatar's foreign policy and national strategy, reflecting its commitment to regional stability and global peace.

Some examples of Qatar's past mediation efforts include:

- ♦ 2008-2010: Qatar Mediated Between the Yemeni Government and Houthi Rebels
- ♦ 2008: Qatar Brokered the Doha Agreements Between Rival Lebanese Factions
- ♦ 2009: Qatar's Mediation Between Chad and Sudan
- ♦ 2008-2013: Qatar's Leadership Efforts in Peace Talks in Sudan
- ♦ 2010: Qatar Mediated Ceasefire Agreement Between Djibouti and Eritrea
- ♦ 2011: Qatar's Mediation Efforts between Sudan and Eritrea
- ♦ 2015: Qatar Mediated Between the rival Tebu and Tuareg tribes in Libya
- ♦ 2020: Brokered Ceasefire Between Israel and Hamas
- ♦ 2023: Qatar played a crucial role in mediating the release of five American hostages from Iran
- ♦ 2023: Qatar successfully mediated the return of several Ukrainian children who had been taken to Russia amid the ongoing conflict
- ♦ 2023-2024: With its partners in the US and Egypt, Qatar brokered a 2023 ceasefire in Gaza and the release of 100 hostages, and again in 2025, Qatar brokered a renewed ceasefire and additional hostage releases.

AFGHANISTAN

In 2013, in full coordination with the United States Government, the Taliban established a political office in Doha. This office played a significant role in facilitating negotiations between the Taliban and various international stakeholders. The office was set up to provide a formal and neutral venue for peace talks and diplomatic engagement between the Taliban, the Afghan government, and other international actors.

The Doha office has been the venue for several rounds of peace talks, most notably the negotiations between the Taliban and the United States, which culminated in the signing of the Doha Agreement in February 2020. This agreement outlined the conditions for the withdrawal of US troops from Afghanistan and the Taliban's commitments to counterterrorism measures.

Since the US withdrawal from Afghanistan in August 2021, the Doha office has continued to play a role in international diplomacy. It has been involved in

QATAR'S ROLE IN INTERNATIONAL CONFLICT MEDIATION

discussions about humanitarian aid, recognition of the Taliban government, and the future of Afghanistan.

Qatar played a pivotal role in the evacuation of Afghanistan following the Taliban's takeover in August 2021. As the situation in Kabul rapidly deteriorated, Qatar emerged as a critical hub for the evacuation efforts, facilitating the safe passage of thousands of people, including foreign nationals and vulnerable Afghans. This effort was made possible by the largest air corridor, established by Qatar, to facilitate the rapid air evacuation.

Qatar believes that the political future of Afghanistan should be decided by the Afghan people.

Qatar received a formal request from the United Nations Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs regarding the possibility of hosting the second meeting of the Secretary-General with international special envoys for Afghanistan in January 2024, and Qatar welcomed this. Qatar hosted on 18-19 February 2024, the 2nd meeting of Special Envoys on Afghanistan with the participation of the Secretary General of the United Nations Antonio Guterres.

Qatar has previously expressed its concern regarding the suspension of education for girls in secondary schools in Afghanistan, emphasizing the impact of such practices on human rights and development in the country.

Qatar has also continued to play a pivotal role in providing aid to the people of Afghanistan.

On January 21, Qatar succeeded in facilitating the release of Ryan Corbett and another American who were held in Afghanistan, in exchange for the release of an Afghan citizen who was detained in the United States. The success in the exchange of detainees and the release of prisoners extends the achievements of US-Qatar diplomacy.

QATAR'S ROLE IN INTERNATIONAL CONFLICT MEDIATION

ISRAEL-GAZA CONFLICT

On January 15, Israel and Hamas committed to a ceasefire agreement. On Sunday, January 19th, the ceasefire agreement between Israel and Hamas went into effect, halting a conflict that has lasted over a year and facilitating the release of hostages. As you may have seen, some hostages held by Hamas were returned to Israel already. Qatar's mediation role focused from the beginning on three clear goals: release of the hostages and easing of the humanitarian crisis; preventing the conflict from spreading to the broader region; and finding a sustainable path forward for both Israel and Palestine. Qatar is immensely grateful to President Biden and President Trump for their selfless personal engagement, and the remarkable collaboration of their teams, in concluding this agreement.

Diplomatic Priorities from the Start:

1. Immediate stop of the bloodshed, reduce escalation, and spare civilians the consequences of the confrontations.
2. Immediate release of all prisoners, especially civilians.
3. Prevent the expansion of violence
4. Securing humanitarian corridors to pass aid to Gaza, and the necessity of continuing the entry of relief convoys and humanitarian aid.

Qatar as a Mediator & the Hamas Political Office in Doha:

- Since its 2012 establishment (in full coordination with the United States), the office has served to provide an open channel of communication between the United States, International Actors, Israel, and Hamas.
- In that time, Qatar has been working as mediators between Hamas and Israel, de-escalating and averting war on many occasions.
- Qatar has consistently played a neutral role in facilitating negotiations between Israel, Hamas, the United States, and other global actors.
- Qatar and Israel, and particularly the Mossad, have worked closely together over the years to facilitate negotiations and peace talks.
- Qatar has always sought to keep channels of communication open with all parties concerned with the Palestinian issue, and this is the principle followed in the State of Qatar as an integral part of our foreign policy for decades and is applied to all regional and international issues.
 - Qatar was asked, on more than one occasion, by international partners, including the United States, to maintain open channels of communication with the Palestinian side, especially Hamas, to contribute to reaching a permanent and sustainable solution to the Palestinian issue.
- It is because of these lines of communication that we were able to achieve the release of hostages so far and the cease-fire agreement.

EDUCATION

US UNIVERSITIES IN QATAR

- ♦ The Qatar Foundation established Education City in 1995 to create a global academic hub in Doha, and foster regional innovation with technology centers and research facilities.
- ♦ Beginning in 2001, six prominent US universities established degree-granting branch campuses in Qatar:
 - ♦ Weill Cornell Medical College
 - ♦ Texas A&M University
 - ♦ Carnegie Mellon University
 - ♦ Virginia Commonwealth University
 - ♦ Georgetown University
 - ♦ Northwestern University
- ♦ These universities award undergraduate and graduate degrees to students from Qatar, and to others who wish to study there.
- ♦ The Qatar Foundation funds all the operating costs of these campuses.
- ♦ Each US institution operates independently, with complete academic freedom. The home campuses – not Qatar or the Qatar Foundation – maintain complete control over curriculum, admissions, faculty appointments, and educational content.
- ♦ Contrary to a frequently stated claim, Qatar is not the largest foreign donor to US universities, or even among the largest. The US Department of Education database of US university income from foreign sources clearly shows that virtually all payments from Qatar are contract payments, not donations. These contract payments fund the operating costs of the universities in Qatar.
- ♦ Qatar's work with US universities is focused on educating students in Qatar. Qatar does not influence, or seek to influence US universities, or their campuses in the United States.

PROTESTS ON US UNIVERSITY CAMPUSES

- ♦ Qatar Qatar condemns anti-Semitism, and equally condemns all forms of discrimination, prejudice and religious intolerance, including hatred of Muslims and violence against Christian minorities.
- ♦ There is no connection between the Gaza-related protests on US university campuses and Qatar's contracts with the six universities that provide degree programs to students in Qatar.

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- ◆ In a Senate Armed Services Committee hearing on May 2, 2024, a Senator asked the US Director of National Intelligence if there was any evidence that Qatar influenced protests on US university campuses. Director Haines very categorically stated there was no such evidence.

QATAR FOUNDATION INTERNATIONAL GRANTS TO SUPPORT ARABIC LANGUAGE INSTRUCTION

- ◆ Qatar Foundation International (QFI) is a grant-making nonprofit organization that provides financial assistance to K-12 schools in Europe and the US that apply for financial grants to support teaching the Arabic language.
- ◆ US grants in 2024 totaled approximately \$1 million representing about 25 schools.
- ◆ QFI has no role in curriculum or classroom content, and provides no books, literature or other teaching materials.
- ◆ At a May 8, 2024 hearing of a subcommittee of the House Education and Workforce Committee, a Member repeated an inaccurate claim that Qatar Foundation International was responsible for a map in a New York City public school that excluded Israel. The witness, New York City Schools Chancellor David Banks, corrected that claim. The Chancellor explained that the map was not provided by Qatar Foundation International; it was purchased by a teacher with her own funds.

TEXAS A&M INFORMATION— SECURITY OF RESEARCH DATA

- ◆ It Texas A&M University opened its campus in Qatar in 2003 for the purpose of facilitating education and research in chemical, electrical, mechanical and petroleum engineering in a major oil and gas region, while enhancing American educational and cultural diplomacy in the area. As the No. 1 petroleum engineering university in the United States, Texas A&M is one of six American universities in Doha's Education City supporting the education pillar of the US-Qatar bilateral relationship.
- ◆ In January 2024, a misinformation campaign attacked Texas A&M for its presence in Qatar, and alleged falsely that the Doha campus compromised national security research conducted by the university.
- ◆ The President of Texas A&M, General (Ret.) Mark A. Welsh III, responded immediately with a statement rejecting this false allegation.
- ◆ General Welsh said, "The research conducted at this campus focuses on



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energy, water and environment, carbon capture, smart manufacturing, artificial intelligence and machine learning, data science, and data analytics in the energy sector. Contrary to what these articles have implied, no nuclear technology, weapons/defense or national security research is conducted at this campus. Nor does the Qatar campus have any connection to nuclear reactor research done in Texas or the Los Alamos National Lab. The insinuation that we are somehow leaking or compromising national security research data to anyone is both false and irresponsible.”

- ◆ Unfortunately, in response to the misinformation campaign, the Texas A&M Board of Regents voted in February 2024 to close the Qatar campus.

AL JAZEERA COVERAGE

- ◆ Al Jazeera’s programming is independent, and we do not have oversight or control over the channel’s editorial line.
- ◆ We encourage everyone to have open, transparent and direct communication with Al Jazeera to facilitate the expression of different viewpoints.
- ◆ Al Jazeera, including its English and Arabic platforms, provides a regular platform for Israeli officials and pro-Israel commentators to express their views. The Israeli government spokesman and Jason Greenblatt, the former White House envoy to the Middle East, appeared recently.

COMMON MISCONCEPTIONS & DISINFORMATION AGAINST QATAR

AID TO GAZA

Qatar provides assistance to the people of Gaza, not to Hamas. Without exception, all of Qatar's aid to Gaza is fully coordinated with the US government, Israel, and the United Nations. In fact, the aid to Gaza was requested by the Israeli government. All funds are transferred through Israeli banks to Israeli-vetted individuals. The purpose of this aid has always been to maintain civility and stability in Gaza.

PRESSURE ON HAMAS

Many ask why Qatar is unable to "exert pressure" on Hamas to release hostages. Qatar's role revolves around "mediation", whereby it uses its offices to influence and facilitate dialogue and communication between the parties concerned. Qatar actively works to bridge divides by fostering constructive discussions and exploring innovative solutions to address raised concerns.

Qatar has demonstrated its ability to succeed in this regard before, evidenced by its achievement of a humanitarian truce agreement in November 2023, resulting in the release of hundreds of prisoners and hostages.

QATAR & IRAN

Historically, Qatar and Iran have maintained a bilateral relationship out of necessity. The North Field (in Qatar) and South Pars (in Iran) gas field is shared by both countries and is the one of the largest gas field in the world. Qatar's current wealth has been amassed from extracting gas from that very field. By virtue of both countries sharing this natural resource, a stable bilateral relationship is paramount.

Qatar has consistently advocated for dialogue in international relations with Iran as it pertains to their nuclear program and role in global politics.

Many have misconstrued the \$6 billion of Iranian funds currently in Qatar. These funds were moved to Qatar from Korea at the request of the United States. This was done in an effort to allow the United States to have better control over how these funds were to be used by Iran. Qatar is simply holding the money in its banks at this stage and no single dollar has been released. No dollar will be released

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unless directed by the United States. The United States will vet how this money is to be used by Iran (humanitarian causes, aid, etc.). At present, these funds have been frozen indefinitely.

Regarding the nuclear program, several messages were delivered to the Iranian side to persuade them to engage positively towards the proposed drafts submitted by the European Union about the Nuclear Agreement, and those messages were duly coordinated with both the United States and the EU coordinator. Qatar's main priority is to rid the Middle East of nuclear weapons and to avoid a regional nuclear arm race with ominous consequences. In June 2022, Qatar hosted indirect talks between the United States and Iran, under the auspices of the EU as a coordinator. We are committed to providing the environment that will facilitate dialogue between the parties. The revival of the nuclear agreement will strengthen peace and security in the region, and create new prospects for regional cooperation and dialogue with Iran. Qatar believes in the necessity of reaching a just agreement that addresses the concerns of all parties, guaranteeing a nuclear weapon-free region and the right of the Iranian people to use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes.

EDUCATION

Six prominent American universities operate branch campuses in Qatar. They are Cornell University (Weill Cornell Medical College), Texas A&M University, Carnegie Mellon University, Virginia Commonwealth University, Georgetown University and Northwestern University. These excellent institutions are now in their third decade of operation in Qatar, where they award degrees to Qatari women and men, and to other students who wish to study in Qatar.

All these universities operate in Qatar with total independence. Their academic degree programs in Qatar are entirely governed by the administrators of their home campuses. Complete academic freedom is guaranteed by contract with the funding provider, the Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development.

Several mischaracterizations have been made about Qatar's role with these Universities and the American education system:

- ◆ **US University Campuses in Qatar:** US law requires colleges and universities

COMMON MISCONCEPTIONS & DISINFORMATION AGAINST QATAR:

to report twice-yearly to the Department of Education, disclosing income from foreign sources. These reports reveal that Qatar is paying about \$500 million annually to US universities. Virtually all this money is devoted to the operating costs of branch campuses of American universities in Qatar, funding faculty salaries and other costs incurred in Qatar, not in the United States. These payments are not donations, and they are not an example of “foreign influence” in US higher education.

- ◆ **Protests on US University Campuses:** Some have accused Qatar of funding student protests on US university campuses after the 2023 outbreak of violence in Israel and Gaza. This is false. As confirmed by the US Director of National Intelligence in Congressional testimony on May 2, 2024, there is no evidence of any Qatari role in these protests.
- ◆ **K-12 Education in the US:** Qatar Foundation International operates a grant program to provide funds for schools interested in providing Arabic language programs. The total program grant budget in 2024 was about \$1 million, representing 25 grants. These are purely financial grants to support language teaching – QFI provides no books, literature or any teaching materials, and has no input in the curriculum.

TERRORISM & EXTREMISM

The fight against terrorism is a high priority for the State of Qatar, which has made tremendous contributions on regional and international levels. The State of Qatar and The United States continued to increase CT cooperation, building on progress made after the US Secretary of State and Qatari Foreign Minister signed a CT MOU in July 2017.

The two governments declared their fulfillment of the 2017 CT MOU largely complete and committed to set shared counterterrorism priorities for 2020. Qatar continues to work extensively with the US to support counterterrorism efforts in collaboration with the US State Department, the US Department of Treasury, the Department of Justice, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network.

Qatar’s new AML/CFT law, reflects Doha’s continued commitment to combating money laundering and terrorism financing in all its forms, in accordance with the latest international standards adopted by major international Organizations

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including the Financial Task Force (FATF). Qatar is globally recognized for its continuous efforts to combat money laundering and terrorism financing crimes and that the enactment of the new law would undoubtedly strengthen its position in this regard.

The United States and the State of Qatar are working collectively towards the common goal of a stable, secure, and prosperous Middle East. The United States believes that Qatar is an important player in the fight against terrorism, and it is also a military partner of the United States.

The State of Qatar is a vital US partner on a wide range of regional security issues, a member of the Global Coalition to Defeat ISIS and countering the violent extremism, particularly through its support to the Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund, and providing a critical access to Al Udaid Air base supporting US military operations throughout the Middle East.

Qatar is one of the United States' closest military partners in the region. Al-Udeid Air Base is home to the Combined Air Operation Center, which hosts 18 nations and is responsible for all Coalition air operations in the Middle East and Central Asia.

As mentioned in November 2022 US Qatar Strategic Dialogue's joint statement, the U.S and Qatar highlighted their strong security partnership, including in the areas of law enforcement cooperation, aviation and boarder security, countering violent extremism, and combating terrorism and the financing of terrorism. Qatar believes in the importance of continuing to expand information sharing and law enforcement cooperation.

The State of Qatar is committed to provide \$75 million over five years and implementation of efforts to back the work on the UN office of Counter-Terrorism. The strong and lasting relationship between Qatar and the US is key to successfully combating terrorism, countering violent extremism, deterring external aggression.

Qatar is a founding member of the Global Coalition to Counter ISIS and works closely with its international allies to fight terrorism. Qatar is an active in all Defeat-ISIS Coalition working groups, and facilitated US military operations in the region. Qatar hosts roughly 10,000 US service members on two military installations critical to Coalition efforts.