

United States Senate

May 10, 2016

The Honorable Jacob Lew
Secretary of the Treasury
Department of the Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Ave, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20220

Dear Secretary Lew:

Amid recent news reports that blacklisted foreign terrorist financiers remain active on social media, I write to express grave concern about Qatar's permissive environment for terrorist financing. For over a decade, the Qatari government has displayed leniency and negligence toward individuals who support and finance ISIS, its predecessor Al-Qaeda in Iraq (AQI), and other terrorist groups. If Qatar's permissiveness continues, it will further fuel terrorism both regionally and worldwide. I therefore urge the Administration to press the Qatari government to stop the operations of terrorism supporters and financiers within its territory, and to comply fully with the *Jeddah Communiqué* under which Qatar committed to fight terrorist financing and end the impunity of violators.

To this day, terrorist financiers—including those designated by the United States and the United Nations—continue to enjoy such impunity in Qatar. In a speech on October 23, 2014, then-Undersecretary of the Treasury for Terrorism and Financial Intelligence David S. Cohen cited two specific terrorist financiers, Khalifa Muhammad Turki al-Subaiy and Abd al-Rahman bin 'Umayr al-Nu'aymi, as "residents in Qatar" who "have not been acted against under Qatari law."

- In June 2008, the U.S. Treasury Department listed al-Subaiy as a Special Designated Global Terrorist (SDGT) pursuant to Executive Order 13224 for giving "financial support to, and act[ing] on behalf of, al Qaida senior leadership" as well as providing a "diplomatic and communications conduit between al Qaida and third parties in the Middle East." Moreover, the Treasury Department revealed in September 2014 that al-Subaiy had resumed funding al-Qaeda's core leadership in Pakistan despite assurances from Qatar in 2009 that he was under control. Even worse, on April 25, 2016, the *Wall Street Journal* reported al-Subaiy is raising money via Twitter, Facebook and Instagram "where he communicates with nearly 2,000 followers."
- In December 2013, the U.S. Treasury Department listed al-Nu'aymi as an SDGT for having "provided money and material support and conveyed communications to al-Qa'ida and its affiliates in Syria, Iraq, Somalia and Yemen for more than a decade," including the transfer of "over \$2 million per month to al-Qa'ida in Iraq" and serving as an interlocutor between these Qatari nationals and al-Qa'ida in Iraq leaders".

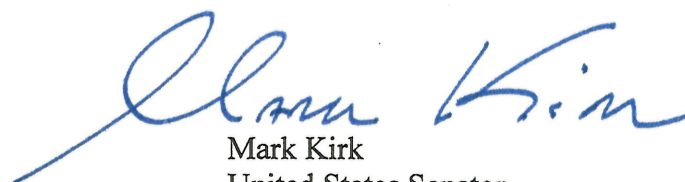
In the 18 months since then-Undersecretary Cohen's October 2014 speech, I am disturbed to see the Qatari Government has apparently taken no significant action against either al-Nu'aymi or al-Subaiy. Indeed, both terrorist financiers reportedly remain at large.

What's worse, Qatar's inaction against al-Subaiy, al-Nu'aymi and other U.S.-listed Special Designated Global Terrorists appears to continue a longstanding trend.

- At the invitation of Qatar's Ministry of Endowment and Islamic Affairs, Kuwaiti-based terrorist financier Hamed Abdullah Al-Ali spoke at the state-controlled Grand Mosque in Doha on March 2, 2012, where he praised jihadists and terrorists fighting in Syria. The Qatari government's invitation to al-Ali is alarming not only because the U.S. Treasury Department listed him as an SDGT in December 2006 for providing "financial support for al Qaida-affiliated groups seeking to commit acts of terrorism in Kuwait, Iraq, and elsewhere" and for issuing "fatwas legitimizing suicide operations," but also because the United Nations added al-Ali to its Consolidated List of terrorist supporters in January 2008, so he should have been subject to a U.N. travel ban that Qatar apparently violated.
- Qatar's leaders also have welcomed and embraced Muthanna Harith al-Dari, whom both the United States and the United Nations imposed sanctions against in March 2010 on charges of funding ISIS's forerunner, al-Qaeda in Iraq. Dhari has also reportedly entered Qatari territory several times, most recently in June 2015, in apparent violation of his U.N. travel ban. According to former U.S. Ambassador to Syria Robert Ford, the organization run by Dhari allied itself with leadership of the U.S.-designated Naqshbandi Army, a force that helped ISIS conquer Western Iraq.

It was encouraging to see Qatar join other countries in signing the *Jeddah Communique* of September 11, 2014, and thereby commit itself "to stand united against the threat posed by all terrorism." Yet, as Qatar's continuing permissiveness towards key financiers of ISIS, AQI and other terrorist groups shows, the Qatari government should do much more to match *Jeddah Communique's* words with deeds. Unless the United States convinces all of our coalition partners, including Qatar, to do all they can to eliminate sources of terrorist financing, our collective efforts will continue to address the symptoms of international terrorism without effectively dealing with one of its root causes. I therefore request you to report on immediate and specific actions to persuade Qatar to crack down decisively on known supporters and financiers of terrorism.

Sincerely,



Mark Kirk
United States Senator

CC: The Honorable John Kerry, Secretary of State
CC: The Honorable Ashton Carter, Secretary of Defense