

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

August 2, 2013

His Excellency Mohamed Bin Abdulla Al-Rumaihi
Embassy of the State of Qatar
2555 M Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20037

Dear Ambassador Al-Rumaihi:

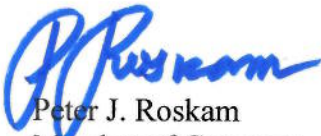
We write to express concern over the expanding diplomatic and economic ties between your government and Hamas, a U.S.-designated Foreign Terrorist Organization (FTO). As you know, longstanding, strategic bilateral relations between the United States and Qatar, including a strong defense pact, are of critical importance to both countries. However, we believe that Qatar's relationship with Hamas empowers, legitimizes, and bolsters an organization committed to violence and hatred.

We are disturbed by reports that Qatar pledged over \$400 million in funds to Hamas in October 2012. The funding was allegedly pledged during a high-profile visit to the Gaza Strip by Qatar's emir, Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani, the first visit by a foreign leader to Gaza since Hamas took power in 2007. In April 2013, Qatar chartered a private airplane to transport Hamas Prime Minister Ismail Haniyeh along with Yehia Sinwar and Rawhi Mushtaha, considered founders of Hamas' military wing, to Doha. Sinwar was serving 23 years of the four life sentences he received for his role in Hamas terrorist activities when he was released as part on an agreement to free Gilad Shalit, the Israeli soldier kidnapped by Hamas in 2006.

We are also concerned about the apparent spike in diplomatic relations between Qatar and Hamas over the past several years. In February 2012, Hamas leader Khaled Meshal relocated from Damascus to Doha due to instability in Syria and Hamas Prime Minister Ismail Haniyeh delivered a Friday sermon at Qatar's Grand Mosque in which he stated "we are now on the door of the battle to liberate Jerusalem." In April 2012, Haniyeh told an audience at a conference in Doha that "we should decide that the resistance and the gun are the only and real course to regain and purge Jerusalem." In March 2012, the Emiri Court of Qatar funded a mass wedding for Palestinian terrorists who were deported to Qatar as part of the Shalit agreement. Failure to condemn such brazen incitement undermines our shared interest of regional stability and prospects for a lasting Israeli-Palestinian peace treaty.

In 2009, then-Senator John Kerry warned that "Qatar can't continue to be an American ally on Monday that sends money to Hamas on Tuesday." In the interest of maintaining strong U.S.-Qatari relations, we urge you to promptly address these serious allegations regarding your relationship with Hamas.

Respectfully,


Peter J. Roskam
Member of Congress


John Barrow
Member of Congress



Brad Sherman
Member of Congress



Patrick Tiberi
Member of Congress



Jeff Duncan
Member of Congress



Kevin Yoder
Member of Congress



Kerry Bentivolio
Member of Congress



Brad Schneider
Member of Congress



Aaron Schock
Member of Congress



Ron DeSantis
Member of Congress



Randy Weber
Member of Congress



Steve Stivers
Member of Congress



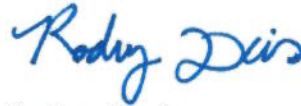
Adam Kinzinger
Member of Congress



Alan Nunnelee
Member of Congress



Bill Johnson
Member of Congress



Rodney Davis
Member of Congress



Doug Lamborn
Member of Congress



Sanford Bishop
Member of Congress



Michele Bachmann
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Steve Pearce
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Lynn Westmoreland
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Trent Franks
Member of Congress



Tim Walberg
Member of Congress



Ben Ray Luján
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