
Qatar Moving Forward



One Year Since
The Blockade





GCC Crisis Timeline

- 24 May** ● GCO releases statement on QNA hacking and an investigation is launched
- 25 May** ● His Excellency Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, stresses that Qatar is the target of a coordinated media campaign
- 5 June** ● Bahrain, UAE, Saudi Arabia and Egypt announce the cutting of ties with Qatar
- 19 June** ● The citizens of blockading countries are forcibly recalled from Qatar
- 21 June** ● US State Department comments that the US is “mystified” over why the blockading countries have not released details about their grievances towards Qatar
- 23 June** ● The blockading countries issue a list of 13 demands
- 1 July** ● Qatar rejects the demands
- 11 July** ● Qatar and the US sign an MoU on combatting terrorism and its financing
- 17 July** ● The Washington Post publishes an article revealing the involvement of the UAE in QNA hacking
- 21 July** ● His Highness the Amir addresses the nation
- 9 September** ● HH the Amir calls Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman to discuss the dispute



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| 19 September | ● | President Trump arranges the call. Shortly after, Saudi Arabia suspends dialogue with Qatar accusing it of “distorting facts” |
| 5 December | ● | His Highness speaks at the 72nd Session of the UN General Assembly |
| 19 December | ● | His Highness attends the GCC summit in Kuwait |
| 10 January | ● | Qatar Central Bank launches an investigation into attempts to harm the Qatari economy through the manipulation of its currencies, securities and derivatives markets |
| 11 January | ● | Qatar seeks international arbitration to end the blockade following a UN High Commissioner for Human Rights report, which documents violations by the blockading countries |
| 30 January | ● | Qatar informs the UN about an Emirati fighter aircraft violating its airspace
Qatar-US Strategic Dialogue takes place |
| 16 February | ● | HH the Amir speaks at the Munich Security Conference to discuss Qatar’s role in regional security and the unjust actions of the blockading nations |
| 10 April | ● | HH the Amir meets with US President Donald Trump in Washington, DC |



Qatar Moving Forward: One year since the blockade

It is a date that will go down as a dark day in the history of our region, but the beginning of a new dawn for Qatar.

After hacking Qatar's official news website and spreading fake news, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Bahrain, and Egypt launched an illegal and unjustified blockade against Qatar on 5 June 2017.

It was a self-interested move designed to bring our small state to its knees and seize control of our independent foreign policy. It failed on both counts.

One year after the illegal blockade against Qatar began, our country has emerged stronger and more resilient than before. Under the leadership of His Highness the Amir, Qatar has successfully countered the economic impact of the blockade and continues to build on our values as an independent, ambitious and forward-thinking nation, one that is a significant force for good in the world.

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As you know, Qatar has come under an unjust blockade, during which all established values and norms — not only those prevalent among fraternal and friendly countries, but even among enemies — were breached. It was evident from the nature of the steps that were taken, as well as the accompanying behaviour and rhetoric, that their goal was not to reach a solution or settlement.

His Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani,

Amir of the State of Qatar

Speech at the opening of the United Nations 46th Advisory Council Session, 14 November 2017



On 23 May 2017, reports emerged that an “unknown” entity had hacked Qatar News Agency, publishing fake remarks by His Highness the Amir concerning Israel, the Muslim Brotherhood and US foreign policy.

Initially, certain Arabic media outlets carried some of the fake news. To rebut this, the Government Communications Office issued a statement by His Excellency Sheikh Saif Al Thani addressing the issue in the morning of 24 May, working to ensure a balanced media narrative around the events.

Following the unlawful hacking, on 5 June, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Egypt launched an illegal blockade of Qatar on the basis of unfounded allegations of support for terrorism.

It represented a flagrant violation of international law and an attack on Qatar’s sovereignty.

Not long after, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs released a statement expressing its “deep regret” at the situation, particularly at the decision of

these countries to close their borders and airspace over baseless allegations.

The ministry affirmed that it had been the victim of a “campaign of lies” and that there was “no legitimate justification” for the move.

On the morning of 6 June, HE the Foreign Minister spoke with Al Jazeera. He expressed “regrets and surprise over the escalations against Qatar”.

“Qatar News Agency website, which is the government news agency, has been hacked by an unknown entity. A false statement attributed to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al Thani has been published... The competent authorities in the State of Qatar will hold all of those committed accountable.”

His Excellency Sheikh Saif bin Ahmed Al Thani,

Director of the Government Communications Office
Media statement on 24 May 2017

The leadership of His Highness the Amir

Since the beginning of the blockade, His Highness the Amir has led the country's efforts to communicate Qatar's position to the world.

These efforts culminated in HH the Amir's speech at the United National General Assembly in New York, on 20 September 2017.

During his speech, HH the Amir talked about the unjust and illegal nature of the blockade, the negative impact of the blockade for human rights in the region, and how the blockade has made Qatar stronger as a country.

He said: "Allow me, on this occasion and from this podium, to express my pride in my Qatari people, along with the multinational and multicultural residents in Qatar.

"The people have withstood the conditions of siege, and rejected the dictations with resolve and pride, and insisted on the independence of Qatar's sovereign decision, and strengthened its unity and solidarity, and maintained their refined manners and their progress despite the fierceness of the campaign against them and their country."

While in New York, HH the Amir participated in interviews with top-tier media. His speech received widespread, international coverage.

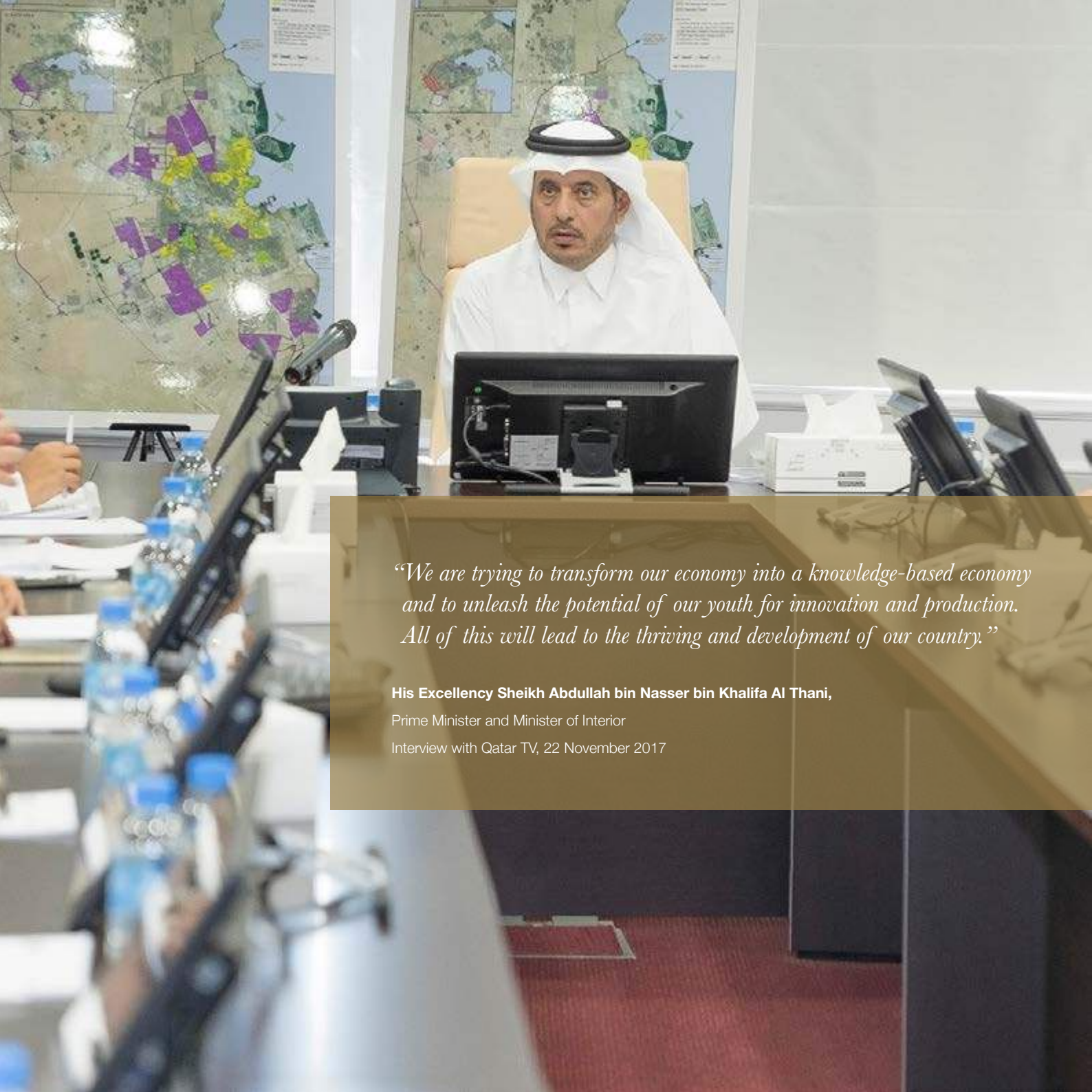




Qatar's resilience under the blockade

Despite the blockading countries cutting off trade in an attempt to harm the economy, Qatar has prospered. Steps to build a diversified and self-sufficient economy are being made every day through establishing new trading routes, developing alliances and accelerating planned reforms in line with the Qatar National Vision 2030 framework.

Over the course of the year, the State of Qatar worked hard to underline Qatar's resilience and develop even deeper relationships with our partners around the world. Thanks to this, Qatar has moved forward, emerging as a more independent and confident country.



“We are trying to transform our economy into a knowledge-based economy and to unleash the potential of our youth for innovation and production. All of this will lead to the thriving and development of our country.”

His Excellency Sheikh Abdullah bin Nasser bin Khalifa Al Thani,
Prime Minister and Minister of Interior
Interview with Qatar TV, 22 November 2017

A diversified economy

The blockade has served to accelerate reforms to make the economy even more open to foreign investment. New laws to make foreign investment easier included:

- The “Own Your Own Factory in 72 Hours” project was launched to fast-track the establishment of more manufacturing companies and factories in Qatar.
- HH the Amir issued Decree Law No 21 of 2017, amending previous laws regarding Investment Free Zones. The Investment Free Zones aim to promote and accelerate the development of economic investment and maximise the benefits to Qatari and foreign investors.

The State of Qatar also adopted a package of investment decisions and incentives that contributed to the development and stimulation of the business environment including:

- Launching a one-stop services for investors, which means facilitating all procedures for foreign investors and providing support in all stages of investment.
- Identifying and facilitating the procedures and conditions of building licenses for business centres.
- Facilitating the conditions, controls and procedures for granting licenses to conduct business.
- Granting concessions to international investors wishing to invest in the State of Qatar. It provided an opportunity for non-Qatari investors to invest a 49% to 100% stake in projects in specific economic fields.



A self-sufficient country

Qatar's push towards greater self-sufficiency also gained momentum as a result of the blockade, with positive change taking place quickly.

- Qatar's foodstuffs and live animal imports increased by 29.8% in the fourth quarter of 2017, in comparison to the same period in 2016, while food and beverages imports during the mentioned period increased by 28.7%.
- More than 500 greenhouses with a total area of 280,000 sqm have been added to the existing capacity of local farms since the siege against Qatar began.
- HE Mohamed bin Abdullah Al Rumaihi, Minister of Municipality and Environment, has said he expects Qatar to be 100% self-sufficient in vegetable production by 2020.
- Baladna Farms announced that Qatar will achieve self-sufficiency in fresh milk and dairy products by summer 2018.

Consolidating Qatar's alliances in the face of illegal blockade

On 9 June, HE the Foreign Minister embarked on a series of diplomatic visits to close strategic partners to consolidate alliances and build support against the blockade.

The trip began in Germany, where HE the Foreign Minister met with his German counterpart, Sigmar Gabriel. Gabriel cited a “dramatic” harshness in relations between countries in the Gulf and called for the lifting the sea and air blockade on Qatar.

The following day, HE the Foreign Minister met with the Russian Foreign Minister, Sergei Lavrov, in Moscow. In an interview with Russia Today, HE the Foreign Minister stressed Moscow's importance in solving the crisis and called the accusations against Doha “groundless and improvised”.

On the morning of Tuesday 13 June, HE the Foreign Minister visited London for a number of ministerial

meetings and interviews. British Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson subsequently urged Gulf States to “ease” their blockade of Qatar, adding that they should “take immediate steps to de-escalate the situation”. Johnson further expressed that he was “concerned by some of the strong actions” Gulf countries have taken “against an important partner”.

Straight after visiting London, HE the Foreign Minister went to Paris for another round of ministerial meetings and interviews. During the subsequent press conference, he branded the measures taken against Qatar by other Gulf countries as “unjust” and “illegal”, adding that “nobody can dictate Qatar's foreign policy and that the country will continue to favour “dialogue based on clear



foundations”. HE the Foreign Minister also met with French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian and French President Emmanuel Macron.

The tour of key foreign allies culminated in former US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson welcoming HE the Foreign Minister to the State Department. Whilst in Washington, HE the Foreign Minister also met with a group of journalists from The Washington Post to express Qatar’s “eagerness for conciliation and dialogue”, and highlight that Qatar’s neighbours are imposing an “illegal blockade” against it.

HE the Foreign Minister further stated that his country was caught in a “baseless conflict” which was posing a “high risk for world order, not just for Qatar”.

Communicating Qatar's narrative to the world's media



In addition to consolidating Qatar's global alliances, senior Qatari officials, in conjunction with the Government Communications Office, worked to counter the false narrative created by the blockading countries by explaining Qatar's position to global media. This activity was vital in helping to increase the world's understanding of Qatar's longstanding commitment and contributions to counterterrorism efforts.

On the afternoon of Tuesday 6 June, HE the Foreign Minister spoke with CNN's Becky Anderson. He highlighted that Qatar is a "progressive and modern country" that believes in diplomacy and promoting peace in the Middle East.

On the morning of Wednesday 7 June, HE the Foreign Minister spoke to James Robbins, the BBC's diplomatic correspondent. During the interview, HE the Foreign

Minister stated that “shocking” measures have been taken against Qatar and that Qatar does not want “escalation” with anyone. He also added that the country wanted to resolve all conflicts with dialogue.

On 22 June, HE the Foreign Minister gave an interview to France 24 during which he stated that the “accusations of terrorism [against Qatar] are false”. He added that he believed the United States and other countries were now coming to the same conclusion.

International media outlets picked up on the statement in The Guardian, in which he said: “Qatar does not support the Nusra Front in Syria ... and it does not support any terrorist organisation”, and in Al Jazeera that Qatar had always “abided by international laws”.

The Director of the Government Communications Office, His Excellency Sheikh Saif bin Ahmed Al Thani, also conducted many high-level interviews in the media, including the LA Times, during which he said: “We’re willing to sit and negotiate. Of course, anything that will affect our sovereignty and independence, we will not consider, even slightly.”

A key message that MOFA’s senior spokespeople sought to convey was the human impact of the blockade.

This resulted in various human rights organisations denouncing the blockading countries.

“The move in early June by Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, and the United Arab Emirates – and their subsequent issuance with Egypt of a list of 13 demands for ending the crisis, which Qatar rejected – isolated the Gulf state and precipitated serious human rights violations of individuals living in Qatar, infringing on their right to free expression, separating families, and interrupting medical care and education”.

Human Rights Watch

2018 World Report



Her Excellency Sheikha Alya bint Ahmed bin Saif Al Thani, Qatar's Permanent Representative to the United Nations

On 19 July, The New York Times published an interview with Qatar's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, HE Sheikha Alya bint Ahmed bin Saif Al Thani. During the conversation, she stated that the revised demands by Arab States are a "response to the heat they have already received" due to their "take-it-or-leave-it approach".

On 4 August, The Economist published a letter from HE Sheikha Alya bint Ahmed bin Saif Al Thani, strongly refuting the Ambassador of the UAE to the UN's claim

that "the action taken by the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain and Egypt against Qatar is not a blockade".

Sheikha Alya wrote how "fresh food, water supplies, and medicine must now be airlifted into Qatar", further highlighting that "parents have been forcibly separated from their young children". She further highlighted the suffering of the citizens of the "blockading countries", who have been "forced to choose between abandoning their jobs and families or facing fines and even prison for disobeying the orders".

She concluded by quoting HE the Foreign Minister, who said: "This is a boycott. It is inhumane. It is illegal."



His Excellency Sheikh Meshal bin Hamad Al Thani, Ambassador of the State of Qatar to the United States

HE the Ambassador conducted interviews with CNN, Al Jazeera, Financial Times, and The Daily Beast.

Talking to CNN on 6 June, he stated that “this act of aggression against Qatar really has no basis” and that “all these stories of Qatar financing terrorism are fabricated”.

His comments featured in Financial Times on 9 June, notably his affirmation that US President Donald Trump will be “crucial” to resolving the current Qatar-GCC diplomatic rift.

On 19 July he was interviewed by Richard Quest on CNN International. He stated that Qatar has “demonstrated its constructive approach” to resolving the Gulf dispute, so it is now “up to the blockading countries” to come to the table and negotiate.

His Excellency Yousef Ali Al Khater, Ambassador of the State of Qatar to the United Kingdom

On Wednesday 5 July, His Excellency the Ambassador wrote an Op-Ed for The Daily Telegraph in which he stated that the current Gulf crisis “can only end if we sit down together and resolve it as brothers”.

Regarding allegations by blockading countries that Qatar supports terrorism, he responded “we do not and we have not”, further asserting that “the issues raised by the Saudis and the Emiratis are just a smokescreen for their real objective: to limit the sovereignty and independence of Qatar”.

His Excellency Sheikh Saoud bin Abdulrahman Al Thani, Ambassador of the State of Qatar to Germany

On 23 July, following His Highness the Amir’s first televised public address on the Qatar-GCC crisis, HE the Ambassador participated in a panel discussion on Al Jazeera’s Inside Story news programme, presented by Kamahl Santamaria.

HE the Ambassador praised the wisdom of HH the Amir’s speech and stated the HH the Amir wanted to thank the people of Qatar for their solidarity and harmony, as well as the Amir of Kuwait for his mediation efforts.

On the blockade, HE the Ambassador noted that ending the blockade is “to the benefit of everybody” and highlighted that it has caused “humanitarian violations”. He added that the only ones benefitting from the crisis are Islamic State and Al Qaeda.





**His Excellency Sheikh Saif bin Ahmed Al Thani,
Director of the Government Communications
Office**

When QNA was hacked, the GCO – with His Excellency as its Director – immediately issued a statement to confirm the hack and to warn the perpetrators that Qatar would hold them accountable.

Throughout the illegal blockade, His Excellency has also been interviewed by media – both on- and off-the-record.

One important interview was with the LA Times, in which

he confirmed Qatar’s stance on terrorism: “Qatar does not fund terrorism whatsoever — no groups, no individuals. Not from afar or from a close distance.”

Another was with Spanish newspaper El Pais, in which he said that the blockading countries’ goal was “to outsource our foreign policy”.

In addition to his role as a media spokesperson, His Excellency has been very active on Twitter during the blockade, commenting on Qatar’s position.



“I can say with confidence that we have been anything but soft on terrorism. As the blockading countries know, Qatar has passed stringent laws and regulations to ban the financing of terrorism by private individuals and so-called charities.”

His Excellency Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani,
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs
Chatham House, 5 July 2017

His Excellency the Foreign Minister continued to successfully underline Qatar’s key arguments through a series of high profile engagements around the world.

In the morning of 5 July, HE the Foreign Minister gave a speech at Chatham House in London in which he accused Saudi Arabia and its allies of aggression and undermining Qatar’s sovereignty. He added that the 13 demands from Qatar’s neighbours are “not a basis for negotiation”, and continued to call for dialogue to resolve the crisis.

After the event at Chatham House, HE the Foreign Minister was interviewed by Christiane Amanpour on CNN where he spoke about the list of demands made by Saudi Arabia and its allies. HE the Foreign Minister stated that demands for Qatar to shut down Al Jazeera are “out of [the] question” and asserted that Qatar is an “active player” in the international forum, using international mechanisms to “bring people together”.



In support of His Highness the Amir, on 12 September, HE the Foreign Minister pressed the UN to take action against the blockade on Qatar, stating that the blockade is violating international law and human rights and attempting to push Qatar into a “state of trusteeship”.

The Foreign Minister declared that Qatar is “willing to talk” if it is based on “principles which are not violating the international law and respect the sovereignty of each country”.

In an interview with Swiss outlet Le Temps, HE the Foreign Minister said that: “We admit to differences on certain subjects regarding international geopolitics. But we should work to find an agreement so that Gulf security is not compromised. [The blockading countries] are not interested in a rational exchange of arguments. They want to make us a vassal state”.

HE the Foreign Minister finished by affirming that Qatar “is a sovereign nation and our rights as a state are the same as those of Saudi Arabia, regardless of the size or strength of the country”.



Her Excellency Lolwah Al Khater, Spokesperson for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs' ability to engage with global media was boosted significantly when Her Excellency Lolwah Al Khater was appointed as official spokesperson. Through developing strong relationships with senior journalists around the world, she proved critical in articulating Qatar's vision and position for global audiences.

On 10 January 2018, Her Excellency announced that Qatar had begun seeking international arbitration in an attempt to end the blockade imposed by three of its Gulf neighbours and Egypt. Her Excellency announced the move on Wednesday, days after a UN investigation said the blockade was negatively impacting the people of the region.

On 1 March, Her Excellency also emphasised that Qatar will never be forced to change its foreign or domestic policies by the blockading nations, even if the blockade continues forever.

On 3 March 2018, at a press conference held in Geneva, Switzerland, on the side-lines of the Human Rights Council, Her Excellency affirmed Qatar's continued commitment to the Kuwaiti mediation efforts to resolve the Gulf crisis, while also expressing her hope for a response from and interaction with the blockading countries, so that serious steps can be made to end the crisis.

وزارة الخارجية
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Ministry of Foreign Affairs



Qatar's global counterterrorism efforts

The State of Qatar has worked tirelessly to develop Qatar's global counterterrorism efforts in partnership with other countries.

Qatar works closely with the international community to defeat terrorism through bilateral defence agreements and global counterterrorism initiatives. These include:

- Investing \$5 billion to significantly expand Al-Udeid Air Base, which is home to the Central Command of US operations, as well as the US military equipment pre-positioning and command facilities at Camp As Sayliyah.
- Acting as a full partner and active participant in the Global Coalition to Defeat ISIS and providing significant support facilitating US military operations in the region through Al-Udeid.
- On 11 July 2017, Qatar became the first country to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the US outlining future efforts it can take to fortify its fight against terrorism.
- Qatar is a founding member of the Global Counter Terrorism Forum, through which it coordinates counter-terrorism initiatives with 29 other member countries, including the US, Turkey, and Saudi Arabia.
- It is also a member of the Financial Action Task Force, which is an intergovernmental body dedicated to combatting terrorism.

Qatar has also adopted comprehensive measures to combat terrorism and prevent terrorism financing. Efforts include:

- Prohibiting individuals and entities from collecting and distributing donations, and limiting the donation collection process exclusively to charitable institutions.
- Collaborating between all relevant law enforcement agencies to implement proactive measures to prevent providing material support towards areas of conflict.
- Establishing direct channels aimed at the exchange of intelligence information with other security agencies domestically and abroad.
- On 20 July 2017, His Highness the Amir further amended anti-terror legislation in Qatar. The decree set rules for defining terrorism, acts of terrorism and the financing of terrorism.
- On 21 March 2018, the Qatari National Counter-Terrorism Committee placed 28 individuals and entities on a terrorism list, including several Qatar's nationals. This list is part of Qatar's ongoing commitment to combat terrorism and terrorism financing.

KEYNOTE SESSION

HE Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al-Thani

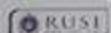
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, The State of Qatar



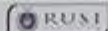
Westminster
Counterterrorism Conference

Thursday, 23 November 2017

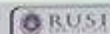
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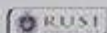
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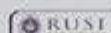
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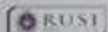
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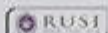
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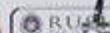
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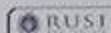
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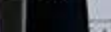
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“The fabrications regarding supporting and financing terrorism levelled against the State of Qatar have failed to convince the international community, especially the major powers and active countries in this field. Paradoxically, our originally good relations with these countries are now better than they were before the crisis. The State of Qatar has a well-known and documented counterterrorism record.”

His Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani,

Amir of the State of Qatar

Speech at the opening of the United Nations 46th Advisory Council Session, 14 November 2017

On 23 November 2017, the Royal United Services Institute hosted the Westminster Counterterrorism Conference, sponsored by the State of Qatar.

In attendance were prominent political and public figures, including:

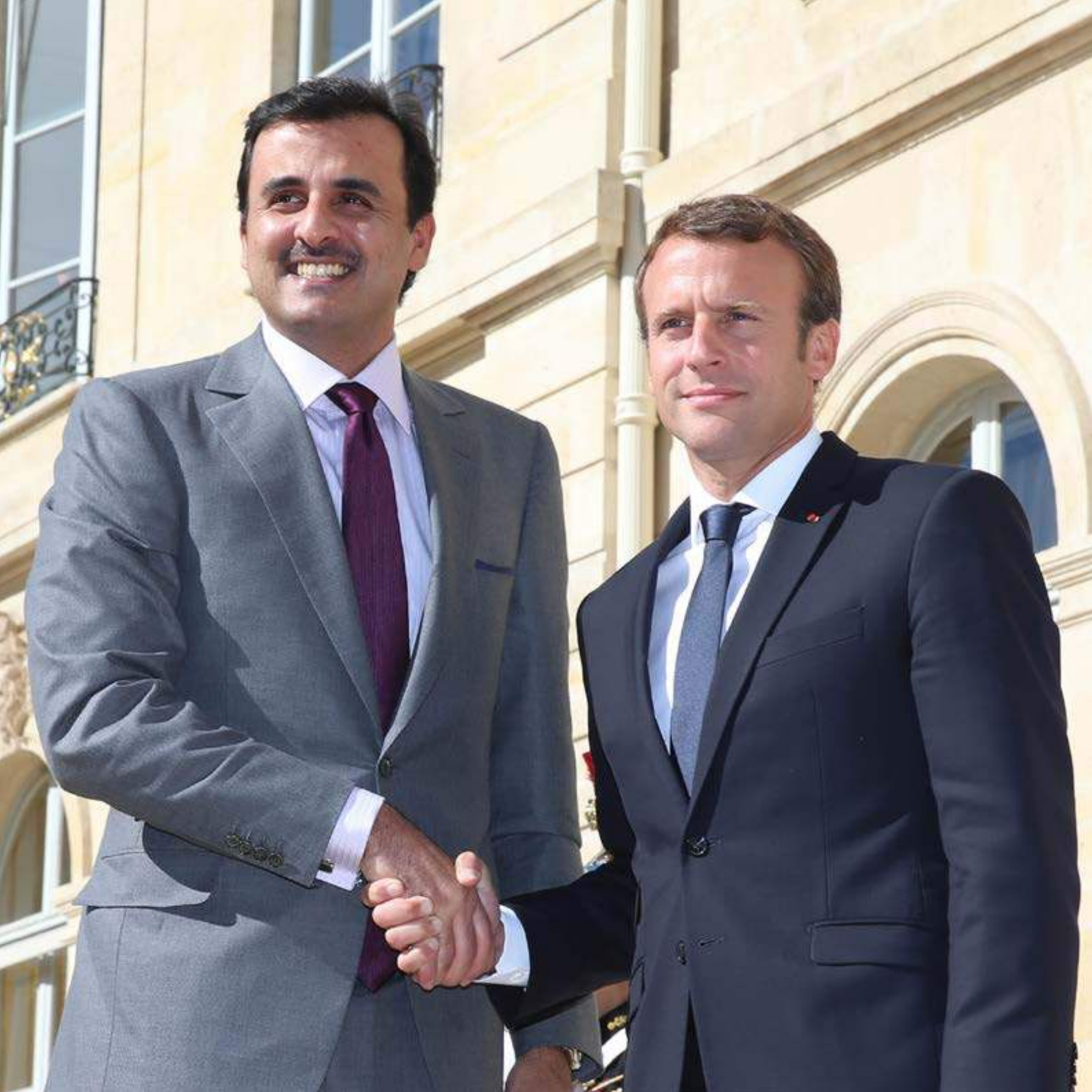
- His Excellency Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs
- UK Minister of State for the Middle East, Alistair Burt
- UK Minister of State for Security, Ben Wallace
- EU Counterterrorism Coordinator, Gilles de Kerchove

The event was a vital forum for examining the terrorist threat posed today, and exploring how the international community is working together in its counterterrorism efforts.

Speaking at the Westminster Counterterrorism Conference, UK Minister of State for the Middle East, Alistair Burt, stated that Qatar is a strong partner for the UK in the fight against terrorism, adding that London is “not interested” in the blockading states’ accusations against Doha amid the ongoing Gulf dispute.

Qatar as a strategic partner

To emphasise Qatar's vision for a more stable and secure globe and burgeoning relationships with global powers, Qatari delegations consisting of high-level government officials visited Washington DC, London and Munich, helping to communicate the value of the long-standing bilateral relationships with each country.



Qatar at the World Economic Forum

On 23 January 2018, the 48th World Economic Forum Annual Meeting began in Davos, Switzerland, themed around ‘Creating a Shared Future in a Fractured World’.

His Excellency Mr Ali Shareef Al Emadi, Minister of Finance, led Qatar’s delegation to the meeting, accompanied by HE the Foreign Minister; His Excellency Sheikh Ahmed bin Jassim Al Thani, Minister of Economy and Commerce; and His Excellency Dr Mohammed bin Saleh Al Sada, Minister of Energy and Industry.

HE the Foreign Minister was particularly active on the side-lines of the event, meeting with UK Secretary of State for International Trade Liam Fox to discuss bilateral relations and ways to boost and develop them.

On 23 January 2018, in an interview with L’Opinion Internationale featured by AFP, HE the Foreign Minister emphasised that, despite the blockade, the situation in

Qatar remains normal, and its leaders remain fully “open to dialogue”. This was followed by his participation in a World Economic Forum panel entitled ‘A Shared Vision for the Arab World’, in which he highlighted Qatar’s commitment to close relations with its Arab neighbours, and condemned false allegations that Qatar seeks to destabilise Egypt.

Finally, on 25 January, in an exclusive interview with Reuters, which led to several original articles, HE the Foreign Minister stated that Qatar’s preparations for the 2022 World Cup are “fully on track”, after the country successfully fixed supply lines “briefly disrupted last year” by the blockade. He also noted that Qatar’s economy was “now growing much faster than anticipated, and the country was “well prepared to withstand the crisis”.

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Qatar-US Strategic Dialogue

In January 2018, a high-level Qatari delegation met with members of the US government, key stakeholders, and media, announcing several new deals and initiatives with the US throughout several high-profile media engagements.

The delegation was led by His Excellency Dr Khalid bin Mohamed Al Attiyah, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Defence Affairs, and His Excellency Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs.

During the Strategic Dialogue, which took place on 30 January, several important defence and security agreements were made, including the signing of a joint declaration outlining cooperation on matters of shared

regional and security interests, a framework to combat human trafficking, and the expansion of Al-Udeid Air Base in Qatar.

HE the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Defence Affairs stated: “Qatar has spared no efforts in increasing the readiness and efficiency of Al Udaid operations by investing billions of dollars in direct infrastructure and maintenance of the strategic air base.”

HE the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs stated that Qatar looks forward to working with the US on regional security. He further stressed that the ongoing blockade “disrupts the joint efforts in providing stability for the region”.



The dialogue received significant attention in both traditional and social media. Coverage in general was highly positive and highlighted the strength of Qatar-US relations, as well as the US' desire to see an end to the Gulf dispute.

Similarly, Qatari officials and ministers reiterated key messages during an event at the US Chamber of commerce. At the event, HE the Foreign Minister further stressed that Qatar and the US have a “well-established business relationship” and that Qatar is “looking forward to seeing that partnership grow”.

HE the Minister of Economy and Commerce underlined that the ongoing illegal blockade has “presented the opportunity for Qatar to make its economy more accessible to the world”.

Munich Security Conference

The Munich Security conference on 16 February 2018 signalled another significant milestone for Qatar in projecting its commitment to security and stability, and vision for how this can be achieved. The conference was attended by a high-level Qatari delegation, led by HH the Amir, who called for a regional security framework modelled on that of the European Union.

The Qatari delegation, consisting of a number of officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, took part in several high-profile media and academic engagements on the side-lines of the event.

“I believe that it is time for wider regional security in the Middle East... We can mirror the efforts of the European Union’s ability to find common ground to rebuild and prosper.”

His Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani,

Amir of the State of Qatar

Munich Security Conference, 16 February 2018



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His Highness the Amir's trip to the US

In April 2018, HH the Amir conducted a visit to the US to consolidate and grow the positive relations between the two nations.

On 10 April, HH the Amir met with US President Donald Trump at the White House, where the two leaders discussed mutual efforts to combat terrorism and the significant economic partnerships between Qatar and the US.

President Trump praised Qatar for its efforts to confront terror financing and thanked Qatar for the strong defence partnerships between the two countries, including Qatar's

hosting of American troops at Al-Udeid Air Base and the sale of American military equipment to Qatar.

During the visit, President Trump said: "[Sheikh] Tamim and I have been working for a number of years now [...] on terrorism. And we're making sure that terrorism funding is stopped in the countries that we are really related to."

HH the Amir said: "We are working together in the face of terrorism and we are looking at ways to develop this relationship."



About the Government Communications Office

The Government Communications Office (GCO) was established in June 2015 to effectively communicate the priorities of the Government of the State of Qatar.

The GCO works with Qatar's ministries and embassies across the world to tell the country's story and showcase its vision for the future.

The GCO falls under the jurisdiction of His Excellency Sheikh Abdullah bin Nasser bin Khalifa Al Thani, Prime Minister and Minister of the Interior. His Excellency

Sheikh Saif bin Ahmed Al Thani is Director of the GCO, and is the first point of contact for those looking to learn more about the State of Qatar.

The GCO is committed to transparent engagement with the international community as Qatar continues its journey of development

To find out the latest news from the GCO, please visit our website www.gco.gov.qa.





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