

Qatar

Heads of State

## Qatar Combating Terrorism

### **Past and Current International Action**

In 1998, the Arab League created the Arab Convention on the Suppression of Terrorism with the goal to create new ways to help combat the rise in terrorism. Nineteen years later, terrorism is still on the rise. Our task is to revisit the convention and make adjustments in order to better fit the modern changes to terrorism. The 1998 Arab Convention defines terrorism as an act that advances a criminal agenda “causing fear by harming them, or placing their lives, liberty or security in danger” or seizing or jeopardizing any kind of property or natural resource (“The Arab” 2). Recently, Russia, Turkey and Iran have been meeting attempting to de escalate the situation in Syria. Russian troops have been deployed on the border of several provinces in Syria however little has been successfully changed (Mardasov). In 2006, the United Nations and Security Council’s resolutions were adopted by Qatar (Hamad Al-Thani). However, since the Arab Spring, in 2010, instability has plagued the Middle East. Several countries including Yemen, Syria, Iraq and Libya have fallen into civil wars. Although Qatar has one of the lowest terrorism rates in the Middle East, the Al Udeid U.S. military base alone has suffered several attacks since 2001 (“Qatar: Extremism”). It is clear that the Arab League has not done enough to combat the war on terror.

### **Qatar’s Position**

The state of Qatar “condemns terrorism and violence regardless of its causes and motivations” but also stresses that terrorism cannot be attributed to one specific religion or place.

Furthermore, Qatar also recognizes a difference between acts of terrorism and acts of resistance. Qatar believes the rise of terrorism in the Middle East is credited to the continuation of aspirations of citizens being met with violence. This violence justifies citizens resorting to terrorism and violence as a retaliation ("Qatar Calls"). If we shift the focus from attacking rebels to focusing on educating children to avoid ignorance and radicalism we can combat terrorism (Hamad Al-Thani).

In 2010, the Combating Money Laundering and Terrorist Finance Law passed giving Qatar officials the authority to freeze funds of terrorists groups that are designated by the United Nations Security Council ("Qatar: Extremism"). Furthermore, Qatar's Central Bank has used the Qatar Financial Information Unit to help monitor suspicious accounts to prevent terrorist groups from being funded ("Qatar: Extremism").

The United States and Qatar have been working closely to combat terrorism together creating a plan for our countries over the coming years. This past July, Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman al-Thani, one of Qatar's foreign ministers, met with U.S. Secretary of State, Rex Tillerson, in Doha where they planned to "interrupt and disable terror financing flows and intensify counter terrorism activities globally" (Finn). Finally, in the 2015 Global Terrorism Index, Qatar "scored a 0 out of 10" ("Qatar: Extremism"), indicating that, our different strategies have been successful and should be adopted by other countries.

### **Proposed Solutions**

Qatar suggests that the best way to combat terrorism is through a unified effort to address the root causes of terrorism. By addressing the social, political, and religious roots we can combat terrorism. Improving our education systems is also vital to our efforts. Giving children of

the Arab states the education they deserve they will not be overcome by ignorance and radicalism (Hamad Al-Thani). My country believes this can be achieved by increasing the funding in our education systems in the plans for countries to extend their schooling systems to everyone possible within their borders. While Qatar condemns terrorism of any kind, we believe it is important to not link it to any “particular religion, race, civilization, culture or society” (Hamad Al-Thani). Also, it is important to establish the difference between terrorism and resistance (“Qatar Calls”). Just because citizens are acting out it should not be immediately branded as terrorism if they are simply trying to communicate with the government.

Qatar also believes that before any actions against or declarations of terrorism occur, we suggest an outside opinion by another state that is unbiased as to avoid the violation of citizen’s rights to free speech. States can congregate in small groups or if needed with the entire Arab League and hold a vote on deciding whether what happened was an act of terrorism. This also addresses another major start to terrorism which is because recent generations have grown up in environments where citizen’s aspirations are only met with violence therefore justifying a violent retaliation against the aggressor (“Qatar Calls”). Lastly, it is important to maintain diplomacy when combating terrorism as we must respect international law as well as basic human rights when dealing with terrorists. My country would also like to promote the idea of forgiveness (“Qatar Calls”). Qatar suggests the use of a fair and just trial whenever dealing with a court case related to terrorism with an unbiased jury picked through a system of checks to see how they might have a bias in the case. Background checks can be done on each person’s heritage and beliefs in order to deem if they will be unbiased in the case at hand. If needed, the case, as deemed by the Arab League, can be brought to the Arab Court of Justice.

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### Qatar Conflict Resolution

#### **Past and Current International Action**

On August 2, 1990 the UNSC held a meeting to discuss possible actions regarding the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. The Security Council passed several resolutions condemning Iraq and calling for a withdrawal from the country of Kuwait. The Security Council met several times and kept pushing for the removal of Iraq's troops from Kuwait which never came ("Item Relating" 1-20).

A few months ago, Qatar was wrongly accused of funding and supporting terrorist organizations. Due to these outrageous allegations, several countries including Bahrain, United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia and Egypt cut their diplomatic ties with Qatar ("Qatar-Gulf Crisis"). Additionally, Saudi Arabia placed a travel ban on Qatar's only land border depriving our country of much needed food and supplies ("Turkey and Qatar"). Despite Qatar denying all the allegations, the Saudi Arabia's blockade stands and although the Gulf Cooperation Council and Kuwait have intervened to help, no solution has been found ("Turkey and Qatar"). This lack of progress shows that the Arab League needs serious reforms to its conflict resolution.

#### **Qatar's Position**

Qatar is very proactive and supportive of mediation in conflict resolution and has become a "neutral peacemaker in many of the international and intranational conflicts brewing across the Middle East" (Kamrava 539-556). Qatar is also very supportive of adding mediators to the current conflict with Saudi Arabia and other Arab states concerning the land, air, and sea

embargo (Hamad Al-Thani). Qatar has always supported compromising and working peacefully towards a solution however my country also believes that the involvement of another state must be done correctly to find a solution (Hamad Al-Thani). The reason why Qatar has been such a successful mediator in the past is due to our ability to remain neutral in the conflict which helps both states involved to be willing to work out the problem. Additionally, Qatar has both resources that we can use to host meetings and deep commitments and relationships to state leaders (Kamrava 539-556).

### **Proposed Solutions**

Qatar believes that mediation efforts should be increased internationally and states should be more proactive as well as more willing to partake in mediation efforts that can solve conflicts (Hamad Al-Thani). Qatar suggests taking advantage of systems in place to work on conflicts such as the Gulf Cooperation Foundation (GCC) which can help restore peace in the specific regions (Hamad Al-Thani). Qatar suggests the Arab League adopt Qatar's foreign policies and that countries should attempt to solve conflicts and come to a peaceful resolution at their highest priority ("Qatar Highly"). Qatar has always "pursued all means of reconciliation and adopted civilized and peaceful approaches to resolve conflicts, as established by its active diplomacy for decades" ("Qatar Highly") and suggests other neighboring countries follow suit. Qatar itself is also a great example of their suggestions as recently have helped reduce tensions in several conflicts among Arab countries such as Lebanon, Yemen and Sudan ("Qatar Highly"). We suggest implementing a more invested mediation system in which the Arab League proactively adds a mediator in the attempt to lower tensions before the conflict leads to war. The Arab League needs to suggest a mediator when in doubt and if both states are willing, then there is no

harm in adding a mediator. The mediator needs to be an unbiased state not included in the conflict but it would be optimal if they were invested in the conflict at hand leading to a better discussion and thus a better resolution. My country believes this can be achieved by creating a system in which states are interviewed for the role of mediator. Different states are selected and chosen based on their mediation history and their country's position on the conflict and are selected for mediator. Qatar believes that the main goal should be unity and keeping the Arab League together and should be willing to compromise when finding a solution. However, the mediator should not be flexible on certain issues, no matter the consequence, such as violations to the chartering principles of the Arab League.



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