

## **O'Bryant**

### **Qatar: Six Committees**

**Ashley Emile:** Committee on Governance

**Naimah Russ:** Local security

**Kharliya:** Committee on Strategic Security

**Princell Feliz Franco-** Committee of social reconstruction

**Latiqua Gamble:** Committee on Peace, Justice, etc.

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#### Committee on Governance

Syria's conflict has devolved from peaceful protests against the government in 2011 to a violent insurgency that has drawn in numerous other countries. It's partly a civil war of government against people; partly a religious war pitting Assad's minority Alawite sect, aligned with Shiite fighters from Iran and Hezbollah in Lebanon, against Sunni rebel groups; and increasingly a proxy war featuring Russia and Iran against the United States and its allies. Whatever it is, it has so far killed 220,000 people, displaced half of the country's population, and facilitated the rise of ISIS. Before the Syrian conflict Syria was a calm, stable, culturally rich, and very beautiful place to visit. But it was also a thick police state, where you could hardly even whisper a word against the ruling regime.

Syria's bloody and intractable civil war became even more complicated when Russian warplanes started attacking rebel positions in support of the country's embattled government. What began in 2011 as a mostly peaceful uprising against Syrian President Bashar Assad has grown into a multi sided war of attrition in which alliances are constantly shifting and an array of

foreign powers is pursuing diverse and sometimes conflicting objectives. The fighting has killed an estimated 250,000 Syrians, driven millions to flee their homes and country, and given rise to the violent extremist group Islamic State. Syria's civil war has raged for nearly five years, underpinned by a complex pattern of alliances and enmities. The Assad regime and its local opponents are backed to differing degrees and in different configurations by military powers from near and far.

Washington opposes the Syrian regime but has taken very limited steps to ensure its downfall and has recently signalled it may even consider a transitional role for Assad. A US programme provided small numbers of moderate rebels with ammunition and training to fight Isis on the ground but this was paused after a series of embarrassing setbacks. The US continues to head up an international coalition which is bombing targets in Syria belonging to Isis and occasionally the Islamist group Jabhat al-Nusra, as well as supporting Kurdish forces fighting Isis in the north. The Gulf state's Al-Udeid air base is a major operations hub for US forces and Qatar has also bombed Isis targets in Syria as part of the coalition. Doha backs a range of Islamist and moderate rebel fighters, occasionally negotiating on their behalf and had previously agreed to open a training centre for rebels recruited by the US.

Qatar's government will continue to arm the Syrian opposition even if the US decides to back away from the conflict, the Gulf country's foreign minister has said. "We want to have the US with us, for sure, they have been our historic ally," Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdul Rahman al-Thani told *Reuters* in an interview published on Saturday. Qatar and Syria had a friendly relationship in the not-too-distant past, but that relationship has undergone a complete reversal post-2011. Before the civil war, Bashar al-Assad and his wife regularly visited Doha and in 2008

Qatari institutions established a \$5 billion joint holding company for development projects. The Qatari emir even tried to normalize relations between Assad and foreign governments in the years leading up to the conflict. Some commentators believe Qatar saw the cooperation between Syria, Iran, and Hezbollah as politically ascendant and therefore wanted to establish an alliance.

However, after the uprising, Qatar's initial cautious reaction gave way to full, public support for anti-regime forces. Emboldened by its lead role among Arab countries in the NATO intervention in Libya and, according to some, eyeing the possibility of reducing Iran's influence in the region, Qatar decided to support the Syrian opposition. Today an ardent supporter of the Syrian opposition to the Assad regime, Qatar has provided more financial and arms assistance than its international peers. By various estimates, the oil-rich Qatari government has spent between \$1 billion and \$3 billion in Syria as of early 2013. The country even houses the first embassy of those who fight against Assad and claim to lead the new Syrian Arab Republic.

Qatar's support of the opposition might best be understood in light of its new ambition to become a regional mediator and force to be reckoned with. Many political analysts have described Syria as a proxy war in which Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and Iran have battled for influence in the post-Arab Spring Middle East and North Africa. The al-Thani, Qatar's ruling family, have supported the Muslim Brotherhood and associated Islamists in uprisings in Egypt, Tunisia, and Syria. They do so in part because they believe Islamists will win in those revolutions and, grateful for Qatari support, will then forge strong alliances with the country.

Local security

Under the guidance and supervision of the PMA, the LSA provides assistance in preparing security evaluation reports, Minimum Operating Security Standards (MOSS), Minimum Operating Residential Security Standards (MORSS) and contingency plans, and monitors the implementation of security policies and procedures and all matters pertaining to the safety and security of personnel, premises and assets in the country or in the area of assignment. The United Nations does not charge any application, processing, training, interviewing, testing or other fee in connection with the application or recruitment process. Should you receive a solicitation for the payment of a fee, please disregard it. Furthermore, please note that emblems, logos, names and addresses are easily copied and reproduced. Therefore, you are advised to apply particular care when submitting personal information on the web.

The Syrian government's initial violent response to peaceful protests which began in 2011 has led to armed conflict, evolving into a regional proxy war. This conflict has affected Syrian society at all levels, with implications for neighbouring countries. Hundreds of thousands have been killed and injured, millions others displaced within and beyond the country's borders, and large parts of Syria are no longer under full government control. In some of these areas public services barely function and the Syrian state appears to be absent on the ground but for the bombs it drops from the sky. Nascent governance structures have emerged in these areas to restore public services and security from the bottom-up.

Much has been written about the implications for individual security and human rights in Syria under the rule of Bashar Al Assad and his late father Hafez. Systematic human rights abuses under both their governments, including today in areas under government control, are well documented (Batatu 1999; George 2003; HRW 2010, 2012; Lefevre 2013). Less well understood is the security situation in areas not under full government control. Grounded in

fieldwork conducted in Turkey in 2013–2014, interviews conducted in 2015, and secondary sources based on field research, this article sets out to provide a nuanced and alternative understanding of security conditions in Syria, with a particular interest in inhabitants of so-called ‘rebel-held’ areas where alternative governance structures have emerged. In majority-Kurdish areas, the Kurdish Democratic Union Party (PYD) is the most dominant organisation. In other ‘rebel-held’ areas, Local Administrative Councils (LACs) and Revolutionary Councils (RCs) have been formed.

To achieve its objective this article applies the notions of security objectives and security practices, and the ‘security gap’ between them (see Kaldor & Selchow 2015). The security objective refers to what it is that is being secured. Security objectives can be both individual and collective, depending on what is understood to be the objective of security, and on what is defined as the collective – it may be the state, a community, a society (Kaldor & Selchow 2015:8). The objective of security may also be individualistic, securing individual safety and rights, depending on the form of political authority (ibid.). The practices of security are understood as the interplay of security apparatus – which consists of police, military and intelligence institutions – and the strategies and tactics deployed (Kaldor & Selchow 2015:6). They are inherently collective since practices represent expressions of political power and authority, which may be a combination of domestic, national and global institutions. (ibid.). The gap is the mismatch between the practices and objectives which creates varying levels of insecurity depending on the context (Kaldor & Selchow 2015: 7). The security gap can also refer to the inherent gap between collective and individual security, as objectives may be collective or individual, but practices are always collective (ibid.). As a consequence the security apparatus is often more preoccupied with its own security than with the safety of its constituents. There are of

course a range of actors involved in Syria's war, including armed groups, political parties, and nascent governance structures with varying security agendas.

## Committee on Strategic Security

Although Qatar has also viewed Iran as a strategic threat, Doha has been more focused on the Syrian crisis for the purpose of growing its influence throughout the Arab world, viewing the Sunni-majority country as an area for the Persian Gulf emirate to empower the local Muslim Brotherhood and boost the Qatari-backed movement franchises elsewhere. Ideology, pride, and emotions factor into the equation. Syria's importance has grown for Qatar as it seeks to establish itself as a promoter of pan-Arab and pan-Islamic causes.

In an earlier stage of the Syrian crisis, officials in Doha calculated that Qatar could help sway the outcome of the conflict, as the emirate did in Libya in 2011, by using its financial resources to back elements within the armed opposition. It remains to be seen how much longer Qatar will maintain its rigid position against Damascus and how Doha adjusts its strategies for backing Syrian rebels. Qatar will likely shift its focus from regime change in the near-term to at least staying relevant in the raging Syrian civil war, which has left Aleppo and many other areas of the country in rubble and resulted in over 400,000 deaths (Qatar's Diminishing Returns in Syria).

Although eminently wealthy and mineral-rich, Qatar is one of the smallest states in the Middle East, surrounded by much larger powers. To protect Qatar's sovereignty and security, officials in Doha have historically depended upon foreign support for defense. As a key U.S. military ally,

the host of USCENTCOM, and a member of the Gulf Cooperation Council (G.C.C.), Qatar relies largely on its ties with Washington and Riyadh for domestic security. Doha's strategy for international security, however, hinges on embracing a host of states as defense partners, pitting their competing geopolitical interests against one another, and advancing Qatar's national interests in the process.

Despite being a G.C.C. member, Qatar has long considered Saudi Arabia an overbearing neighbor that does not always respect the tiny Gulf Arab state's sovereignty and independence. They have had their differences in the past, and building relations with Turkey is one way for Qatar to keep some of its options open and maintain some room to maneuver beneath the dominant Saudi position. The establishment of the joint Turkish-Qatari military base is not intended to be a substitution for USCENTCOM, rather it factors into Doha's strategy of diversifying the emirate's web of defense partners, while providing more influential countries around the world with higher stakes in a stable and prosperous Qatar (Turkey and Qatar's Burgeoning Strategic Alliance).

### **Committee of social reconstruction**

Qatar is driven by a moral compass, regulating the Arab world to glory therefore stepping into Syrian boundaries, we act as mediators and seek a divine level of peace. We look towards Saudi Arabia and our foreign policies align to protect Sunni rebels while avoiding Iranian retaliation. As a society we live by example, "Qatar's generous welfare system and extensive patronage for Qatari nationals, and its small population, greatly reduce the risk of politically or economically motivated unrest. No call for democratic reform "(Markit). To come from a State exhibiting such evolution of civil society and rightful, coherent governance, it is difficult to

witness the mayhem happen in proximity. Syria evinces such delay and outer disruption in the process societal evolution. With a strategic, wisdomful mind, to advance as a State further beyond border lines, one must consider the States that also inhabit the world, and dedicating ef to exemplify diplomatic aid/advice to better their respective condition advance relations and simultaneously progress in within the borders that connect us all, that of the world. As Syria's neighbors we not only have a moral responsibility to our own citizens but stability for those in other countries, and an investment in the future by securing peace around all outskirts. Our infiltration is essential because the rationale is to better the world through generous support of a moral driven cause, Syria is in critical distortion mode the encompasses a recipe for complete destruction, it needs a stable entity to be the model to follow and be guided by.

As Qatar, we are viewed as a wealthy country, the assumption is then made that such detail is what simplifies our objectives and national quality of life but the course to greatness roots from the care we invest in our people, a certain priorities that we want other countries like Syria to replicate. Life in Qatar differs, habitude is entiable, when exposed to an environment as different in comparison to one's respective surroundings, “Qatar developed extensive social welfare programs, including free health care, education through university, housing grants, and subsidized utilities. Improvements in utility services, road networks, sewage treatment, and water desalination have resulted in a better quality of life.” (Countries and Their Cultures: Qatar). As Qatar we embody values beyond wealth, that of a course in life where our destiny is to guide those less out of tune with the priorities we have. We value our people, our society as a whole to advance/evolve as a whole.

A suffocating social atmosphere is what embodied pre war era in Syria. Scrupulous, copious elements augmented the general sense of horrible conditions and inevitable forthcoming struggle.

Syria had been overcome by an excruciating drought which hurt vegetation and any plausible collection of merchandise, “forced more than a million Syrian farmers to move to overcrowded cities.” (Wendel) This put tremendous pressure on social groups it created a crowded, competitive daily life for all individuals affected by the drought that now affected others with their presence in new territory. The infamous drought had been years in the making as Syrian government back in the 1970s believed an ill conceived agriculture project, which Syria did not have the water base level to support; the economy was left centered and unstable. The shortage forced individuals to tap into underground resources which just assured lasting future struggles when recruiting resources. As farmers found no possible stand up a certain realignment in dynamics and interactions arose. Shortage of employment became evident, tensions blew out of proportion, trust was lost in the regime and patience was lost in each other, the amount of resources don't measure up to the amount of people in need of those resources, frustration grows.

In the sense of popular ideals, the general sense of oppression commenced with the rise of the Assad regime, the family comes from the Alawi, a minority, who consider themselves the “chosen people,”; They are often scrutinized by Orthodox Muslims as heretics. People believe there is subjective acknowledgement of their needs, and very limited sense of representation. This corruption sparked defiance but prior uprising, the general sentiment was resentment and disunity as one considers government people system of understanding. Secularism wise Alawis and Christians are targeted there are various variations of belief that clash as it comes into question if who rule can wipe out other groups, such question is a reflection of Assad Regime representing the religious affiliation which he chose and creating a sense of neglect to other majority groups in Syria; it dabbles in an identity crisis that was shunned without proper compromise. In itself government corruption is violating human rights so peace

of mind that one's home land protects them, but beyond that, the Syrian government has conducted first hand sieges, and cluster munitions. Cluster munitions or explosives devices to unpredictably set off, a great threat for civilians that is highly frowned upon. Such careless regard for mankind or national human correspondence is despicable and a direct attack against one's right to security, safety, life and freedom. Syrians demanded freedom of expression, space and press, removed surveillance, regulated economic competition, civil rights. Syria long lost the sense of a civil society from personal growth as a community, forced to in harsh economic times, to no correlation between the government and the govern. The government allied with a minority, liberation and sense of democracy was not offered, president Bashar-al Assad stated such concept was not going to occur, "Appearing before parliament on March 30, 2011, the president made it clear that any reforms would not come about as a result of popular pressure." (Alvarez-Ossorio). An evident dismissal of rightful correlation between government and citizens, a dismissal of democracy, and and abrupt negation of human rights. This apollo's Qatar and detains tier moral quest to cleanse the region a set ground not just on a foreign policy level, but a social accordance level that segways down the line to political and foreign stability. The social unbalance

A standard for a specified human right recalls a pillar of comprehension of boundaries and assertions, The rule of Law states that individuals have the right of property and the right to battle against corruption. As it comes to Syria, "Private property is weakly protected. The court system is so inefficient and corrupt that outside settlement and arbitration is the norm." ( Rule of Law: Property Rights and Freedom from Corruption). The violations in such a system root in the corruption within government, it unfortunately reflects on minimal if not inconsistent property rights. This negates the social order one is accustomed to in Qatar, as essential life rights.

Qatar must assess Syria on basic social sectors of living to further gap the our role in Syria and justify its necessity. In sectors revolving housing unemployment, lack of resources, territorial tensions, all play a monumental role in housing availability, government corruption fuels this crisis with minimal regulation of the system. Housing is a governmental responsibility, it recalls organizational and systematic awareness, “Rental rates have risen as a result of the growing demand, and they continue to rise amid a general inflation in prices and a decline in value of the Syrian pound.” (Hayat). The issue is the consequences/aftermath of prior irresponsibility by the hands of government regulations or lack of provide rightful rights, equal representation and ambiguous social services. One fault/ bad decision leads to a chain of unwanted strain full realities that manifest in overlooked social life. Such lack of government responsibility translates in the overlooked/threaten educational system provided for children, the issue at hand is the neglect education is receiving and and what is receiving all government perspective, battle maneuver. Such battle maneuver that not only halt educational quality of services but also create an unsafe environment for kids to attend school, such maneuvers involve bombings; cluster munitions, and dangerous street life. Overlooking such conditions would be out of outer ignorance because no child would risk their lives to acquire a baseline education. It's a state of utter despair, Qatar wants to start at the root of the problem, taking down the government having such horrific side effects in practice, leading its people. In terms of Healthcare Syrian Healthcare before the civil war resembled vast improvement in terms of coverage from prior years, a steady but noted improvement. Indefinitely inadequacy was still very relevant, inequality in access and quality was evident, as the war commenced, the inequality prevailed, “deterioration of living conditions which has also significantly eroded the health system.”. (Health care in Syria before and during the crisis) The mayhem in society, pining

various groups against each other in which government would be apart instead an unbiased force setting things right, only worsen aspects of personal common people, the battle was top priority. The death of “25,000 Syrians”, lack of medical resources, lack of staff, a state of panic and, “restricted” access to Healthcare, the conditions caused by the distortion evokes rage, and utter sadness. For a country to have its people resort to such conditions, in modern day, creates indignation. Qatar prides themselves on maintaining clearly priorities that reflect the lives of our people and the people of our people, we align with the rebels as they seek that philosophy in form of government practice and social order.

The territorial differences root from secularism; a high intent to rise in prosperity. A Sunni vs. Shia Divide, Shia also known as a heretic group such as president Bashar-Al Assad represents, Sunni is the major interpretation of Muslim and among the rebel group. The tensions create a state of ownership, ideals become possessors of territories and outsiders must consider such tensions before traveling. The disconnect between government and people lead individuals to take matters into their own hand on a tempered/biased agenda that projects separation.

Change states with the ones who have the courage to step forward and be an anchor to push towards change, Qatar is exactly that force intervening because it is essential to better the world, be generous, support a moral driven cause, Syria is in critical distortion mode the encompasses a recipe for complete destruction, it needs a stable entity to be the model to follow and be guided by.

**Committee on Justice, Peace, and Reconciliation**

The state of Qatar has a history of practices with human violations in crime rates.

Although the concern for crime rates are not that serious as of now, we are concerned that they are increasing massively and that it will affect our state as a whole. The crime rate for Syria has increased over, yet most of it is for only one reason. The amount of rape crimes and domestic violence against Muslim women is massive in Syria and we have a concern for our women who are part of the Muslim religion. In fact, "One recent study, in Syria, found that 25% of the married women surveyed said that they had been beaten by their husbands. Another study found that 21.8% of women have experienced some form of domestic violence; 48% of the women who experienced some form of violence had been beaten". Given this piece of information, I am worried that the safety of our women are at risk and could be very dangerous towards us.

Another fact is when "In December 2009, two western female students were walking on Straight Street in the early morning hours when they were attacked by several Syrian men in a car. The men used a stun gun-like device to disable one of the females and forced the other female into their car. The men drove her to a warehouse where she was sexually assaulted. The prepositioning of a mattress in the warehouse indicates the crime was premeditated and may not have been the only instance of it occurring. They also displayed a handgun during the assault"(Syria). This shows that the protection rate is low if men are able to get into these women's houses and put them in danger. Balancing this out, I have issues that Qatar's women are not well protected and do not have much security. Because Syria's men are harassing and taunting visitors that come in therefore our women will probably have the same thing happen and that is unsafe.

Moreover, the major factor of the crimes and why Syria is the way it is is because of how Syria has just got out of civil war and systematically are struggling. Because of this civil war, their system has faced a lot of destruction and “The war in Syria has plunged 80% of its people into poverty, reduced life expectancy by 20 years, and led to massive economic losses estimated at over \$200 billion since the conflict began in 2010, according to a UN-backed report”. Syrians have lost their jobs and the opportunity to work which infers that majority of Syria’s population has lost their main source of income and it is said that “unemployment surged from 14.9% in 2011 to 57.7% at the end of 2014”. Now becoming a country in poverty means that they are struggling to put food in their house and meet the basic needs.

As a UK-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, “A suicide bombing killed 48 people, among them women and children, Wednesday in northern Syria”. A truck has come into a complex building where Syrians were leaving and dropped a bomb, killing 48 people addition to the 140 people wounded. Isis took responsibility for bombing Syria as an attack and admitted to one of their truck drivers driving into a complex with all of Syria’s military and defense departments were operated with explosives on it. Now “The city is under joint control of the Syria-based Kurdish rebels -- the People's Protection Units, or YPG -- and the Syrian regime”.

In addition, Qatar is deciding to support Syrian as they get back on their feet along with working with the United Nations. As Mohammed concludes, "This support is going to continue, we are not going to stop it. It doesn't mean that if Aleppo falls we will give up on the demands of the Syrian people” giving off the impression that Qatar is willing to aid Syria under any circumstance. Qatar is also “a top backer of rebels fighting Assad, working alongside Saudi Arabia, Turkey and Western nations in a military aid program overseen by the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency that provides moderate groups with arms and training”(Mohammed). From

the state of Qatar, we believe that if Syria continues to work with us then there will be no problem, yet Syria needs to address their problems it will be more extreme and brutal towards Qatar. As CLarke mentions “Qatar and other Gulf states believe the nationalist Sunni rebels are needed to build a stable Syria. But their policy has long been hampered by splits in the opposition and the prominent role jihadists have played in the insurgency.

#### Committee on Cross-Border Issues

The State of Qatar shares a border with Saudi Arabia, and its other closest neighbors are the United Arab Emirates, Iran, and Bahrain. Prior to the conflict Qatar had been competing with Saudi Arabia for influence over the Middle East. For the past few decades, Qatari influence has been prominent in Western powers like the United States and the United Kingdom. These western powers mainly received investments. Qatar has also supported adversaries to Western powers such as Iran and extremists in Syria. Saudi Arabia and Qatar have developed a rivalry for control. On 5 March 2014, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, and Bahrain withdrew their ambassadors from Qatar in protest at what they claimed was Qatar's non-compliance with a November 2013 agreement not to interfere in country's internal affairs. The State of Qatar has since managed to ease those tensions while maintaining its fundamental policies intact. During the Syrian Civil War, Qatar, along with Saudi Arabia, Turkey and western states, vocally and materially supported the rebels with arms and funds against the government. Qatar has been the biggest sponsor of opposition forces during the civil war. Prior to the Syrian conflict, the State of Qatar hired foreign workers mainly from Nepal and India. They work and live in Qatar, but not in the greatest living conditions. Qatar unfortunately has had many claims against its treatment of

foreign workers. As for refugees during the reconstruction process, Qatar is willing to provide economical support and accept a minimal amount of refugees in the country. More importantly, Turkey and Qatar have pledged to educate Syria's next generation. Before the conflict, Qatar only had a conflict with Saudi Arabia that had been recently resolved. Qatar's borders are secured mainly by Qatari military forces, and also guarded by the presence of American and British air forces hosted in the Al Udeid Air Base. Qatar does not face many terrorists attacks, but it is involved in part of the conflict of terrorism. Many foreign governments, such as the United States, condemn Qatar as being a sponsor of terrorism. The claims include that Qatar has funded terrorists organization, and made itself into a sphere of state-sponsored terrorism. The State of Qatar has funded Hamas extremists in Palestine, as well as rebels in Syria. While Qatar supports those groups, it strongly opposes ISIS and has a long-term campaign to oppose them. The Qatari government intends to provide money to fight ISIS.

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