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The Honorable William Grant
Chief of Mission and Chargé d’Affaires
U.S. Embassy in Qatar
22nd February Street
Al Luqta District
P.O. Box 2399
Doha, Qatar

December 3, 2018

Dear Mr. Grant:

I am writing to bring to your attention a worrisome development and to ask for your help.

The Doha International Book Fair, in which the U.S. Embassy is participating again this year, continues to promote egregiously anti-Semitic books in its content. It is my hope that you can use the Embassy’s role as a participant in this event to urge its Qatari governmental organizers to stop promoting such hateful content this year or in future years.

As you may know, the Doha International Book Fair has a record of promoting blatantly anti-Semitic content, which we and other concerned groups have previously noted.¹ In past years, this book fair has also provided a platform to noted anti-Semitic hate preachers, such as Mohamed al-Arefe and Aidh al-Qarni.²

Qatar’s government is responsible for the content at this event. According to the book fair’s website, for example, this year’s fair is held under the patronage of

¹ ADL (Anti-Defamation League), “ADL Calls On Executive Board of UNESCO to Choose a Director General Who Best Exemplifies the Values of the Institution,” October 9, 2017.

(<https://www.adl.org/news/press-releases/adl-calls-on-executive-board-of-unesco-to-choose-a-director-general-who-best>); Simon Wiesenthal Center, “Anti-Semitism at Qatar Book Fair,” December 7, 2016. (<http://www.wiesenthal.com/site/apps/nlnet/content.aspx?c=lsKWLbPJLnF&b=8776547&ct=14967095¬oc=1>); Simon Wiesenthal Center, “Wiesenthal Centre to Qatar Culture Minister: “As a Candidate for UNESCO Director-General, Remove your Auspices from the Doha Book Fair for Anti-Semitic Hatefest,” March 5, 2015.

(<http://www.wiesenthal.com/site/apps/nlnet/content2.aspx?c=lsKWLbPJLnF&b=9240795&ct=14539137>)

² David Andrew Weinberg, “Qatar’s Rulers are Still Surrounding Themselves with Some of the Most Hateful Clerics in the Persian Gulf,” *Business Insider*, July 1, 2015.

(<https://www.businessinsider.com/qatars-rulers-associated-with-hateful-persian-gulf-clerics-2015-7>);

@DavidAWeinberg, *Twitter*, December 14, 2015, accessed December 1, 2018.

(<https://twitter.com/DavidAWeinberg/status/676505324321247232>)

ADL Community Support Center

Anti-Defamation League, 605 Third Avenue, New York, NY 10158-3560 T 212.885.7700 www.adl.org

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Qatar’s Emir Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani and was inaugurated by Qatar’s minister of culture and sport in the company of three other Qatari cabinet members.³

According to the Doha Exhibition and Convention Center, at which the event takes place, “this event is organized by [Qatar’s] Ministry of Culture and Sports.”⁴ I presume you are aware of this fact because you just attended the book fair yourself⁵ and also met with Qatar’s Minister of Culture and Sport at his office last week.⁶

Even a cursory search of the Doha International Book Fair’s online catalog of Arabic books returns a number of disturbing results, which means these books are promoted by the fair online and presumably also available in hardcopy from exhibitors at the event.

Some obviously anti-Semitic sample book titles in the book fair’s online catalog this year include one titled *Lies Spread by the Jews*, another called *Talmud of Secrets: Facts Exposing the Jewish Schemes to Control the World*, and a third entitled *The History of the Al-Aqsa Mosque, the History of the Corruption of the Jews, and the Demise of their Entity*.

Other anti-Semitic titles promoted on the book fair’s website this year include an Arabic version of Ku Klux Klan alumnus David Duke’s anti-Semitic tract exaggerating and slandering Jewish influence in the United States⁷ as well as multiple editions of Henry Ford’s *The International Jew*, which teaches as historical fact the seminal anti-Semitic hoax *The Protocols of the Elders of Zion*.⁸

³ Doha International Book Fair, “Minister of Culture and Sports Opens 29th Doha international Book Fair,” November 30, 2018, accessed December 1, 2018.

(https://29.dohabookfair.qa/en/bookfair_news/minister-of-culture-and-sports-opens-29th-doha-international-book-fair/)

⁴ Doha Exhibition and Convention Center, “The 29th Doha International Book Fair,” accessed December 1, 2018. (http://www.decc.qa/decc_events/the-28th-doha-international-book-fair/)

⁵ @USAmbQatar, *Twitter*, November 30, 2018, accessed December 1, 2018. (<https://twitter.com/USAmbQatar/status/1068536969804828683>)

⁶ @MCSQA, *Twitter*, November 25, 2018, accessed December 1, 2018. (<https://twitter.com/MCSQA/status/1066699147665989632>)

⁷ ADL, “Tracking David Duke,” December 17, 2013. (<https://www.adl.org/news/article/tracking-david-duke>)

⁸ ADL, “Chapter 3: *The International Jew* and the Protocols,” in ADL backgrounder “The International Jew: 1920s Anti-Semitism Revived Online”. (<https://www.adl.org/resources/backgrounders/the-international-jew-1920s-anti-semitism-revived-online#the-international-jew-and-the-protocols>)

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Books promoted by the fair's website this year spread other hateful lies pertaining to Jewish history as well, such as one book called *The Al-Aqsa Mosque and the Purported Temple* and another titled *The Myth of the Nazi Gas Chambers*.

I ask that use your contacts with the book fair's governmental organizers – and with the Qatari government more broadly – to ensure as soon as possible that this sort of hatred is no longer propagated at an event that boasts of the participation of the U.S. Embassy. Thank you for your consideration of our concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jonathan A. Greenblatt".

Jonathan A. Greenblatt
CEO and National Director

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

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