

Hamas: Give Us The Money From Qatar Or Else...

by Hugh Fitzgerald



Yossi Cohen

As is well known, the just-retired head of Mossad, Yossi Cohen, made several visits in the past to urge Qatar to send money to Hamas in order to keep the Gazan economy from cratering. He was persuasive; Qatar sent the money, via Israel, in monthly installments to Hamas which, after its leaders skimmed some off the top, as is their practice, and no doubt diverted some of the money to the in-house production of rockets, and expanding the network of terror tunnels, used the rest to keep the Palestinian economy in Gaza at least sputtering along.

Now Qatar has promised \$500 million to help pay for the reconstruction effort in Gaza. Qatar has started to deliver that sum to Israel in installments, for transferral to Hamas in the Gaza Strip. But Israel has not yet turned the most

recent installment over to the Palestinians in Gaza. After its recent war with the terror group, Israel is no longer willing to turn over money from Qatar to Hamas. After all, the Jewish state, though it has faithfully transferred Qatari money to Hamas in the past, now realizes from the recent war that Hamas has not softened; it does not accept the existence of Israel, and scarcely two weeks after the ceasefire was agreed upon, the terror group spoke openly of its intention to prepare for the next round of war. As the deliverer of the monthly money from Qatar to Gaza, Israel faces the same quandary as do donors, including Egypt (which has promised to provide \$500 million in reconstruction aid), and the United States, which wants to help civilians in Gaza, but also wants to be assured none of the money will be given to Hamas.

In the recent war with Israel, Hamas was saved by the bell – Biden’s bell, for it was he who pressured Israel to observe a ceasefire before Israel could finish the job of pulverizing the entire network of tunnels. Though soundly defeated, Hamas claimed “victory.” And less than two weeks after the ceasefire was declared, Hamas announced that it was already preparing for the next war. What’s more, Hamas now threatens that unless the latest monthly installment of Qatari money is turned over by Israel, Hamas will let loose incendiary devices on the border with the Jewish state to set Israeli farmland and forests on fire.

This latest threat by Hamas is discussed here: “Report: Hamas threatens to renew arson attacks if Qatari cash withheld,” by Shahar Klaiman, [Jihad Watch](#).