

Has Qatar Deported Hamas Politburo Chief Khaled Meshaal?



Khaled Meshaal, Hamas Politburo chief, Doha 7-23-14 news conference

Source: Reuters

Just before year end, on December 30, 2014, we posted on pronouncements from Qatar about abandoning support for the Muslim Brotherhood and opening up dialogue with Egypt's President El-Sisi. El-Sisi, then Defense Chief ousted President Morsi, a former Muslim Brotherhood leader in a coup on July 2013, [Has Qatar turned Away from Islamist Support in the Middle East?](#) Earlier on December 6, 2014, we [reported](#) that the Qatari Ambassador to the US, [H.E. Mohammed Jaham Al-Kuwari](#) at a presentation before the Pensacola, Florida Tiger Bay Club proclaimed, "We do not support Hamas". He astounded some in the audience. In retrospect, given today's news about Qatar expelling, Hamas Politburo leader, that may have been a scoop. If confirmed, that would end Meshall's three year sojourn in the gas rich Gulf state. However, denials by Senior Hamas leader and the lack of confirmation from Qatar raise questions. *CNN* [Reported](#):

Senior Hamas official Izzat Risheq denied reports Monday that the group's political leader Khaled Meshaal has been expelled from Qatar.

Earlier Monday, sources close to Hamas told CNN that [Meshaal](#) and members of the Muslim Brotherhood were expelled from Qatar, and were most likely on the way to Turkey.

The Qatari government has not commented.

Saudi Arabia has been working to improve relations between Qatar and Egypt.

Israel's reaction to this development was what you might expect as [reported](#) by AP:

The Israeli Foreign Ministry issued a statement saying it "welcomes Qatar's decision to expel the head of the Hamas political bureau, Khaled Meshaal, to Turkey." It said the Qatari decision came after heavy diplomatic pressure from Israel.

"We expect the Turkish government to act responsibly in a similar way," it added.

Hardly, likely. Meshaal traveled to Ankara on December 25, 2014 and met with Islamist AKP President, Recep Tayyip Erdogan. Meshaal then showed up on December 27, 2014 at the annual convention of AKP Party of President Erdogan held at the hometown of AKP Premier Davutoglu in Konya. *Al-Monitor* [reported](#) his reception and remarks:

Turkish Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu appeared on Dec. 27 with Meshaal in Davutoglu hometown, Konya, for the Justice and Development Party's (AKP) annual assembly. Known for being conservative, Konya residents jubilantly [liberate Jerusalem together](#). A strong Turkey is a source of power for all Muslims."

Erdogan has gone out of his way to support Hamas as fellow Brothers. That included the infamous exiled Egyptian Brotherhood preacher, the anti-American and anti-Semitic Yusuf al Qaradawi, head of the US Global terror financing conduit, [Union of Good](#). In our December 6th post we drew attention to an Interpol Red Tag Warrant [issued](#) for the arrest of al-Qaradawi sought for extradition "to serve a sentence" for crimes including "incitement and assistance to commit intentional

murder” in El-Sisi’s Egypt. *Al Monitor* in a December 12, 2014 [report](#) on the Arrest Warrant noted Erdogan saying:

His resentment publicly at the Fifth Religious Council in Ankara Dec. 8, Erdogan said: “Look, a person who came to power through a coup is giving instructions to Interpol. Based on this instruction a step is being taken for the