

November 13, 2023

From the Collective of United States Jewish Federation Security Directors

Middle East Forum
1650 Market Street, Suite 3600
Philadelphia, PA 19103

To the Editor,

The below signed Security Directors, who operate within the auspices of the Secure Community Network (SCN), unanimously support CEO and President Michael Masters and, unequivocally condemn Gregg Roman and Winfield Myers and the Middle Eastern Forum for their slanted “hit piece” “Exposed: Jewish Security Chief’s Deep Ties to Qatar.” It is precisely this type of skewed rhetoric that cheapens the word of the media and causes general disdain and distrust for this type of partisan “reporting.”

Mr. Masters’ work in Qatar, with the highly respectable Soufan Group, has been above reproach and has served to help bring Qatar and other middle eastern countries closer to the United States and the western world on many different issues, especially on issues related to law, order, and security.

Mr. Masters’ work for, and on behalf of, the Jewish Federations of North America (JFNA) and/or SCN has likewise been nothing short of remarkable. Since Mr. Masters took the helm of SCN in December 2017, he has built a security network comprised of consummate professionals unrivaled in their responsiveness, depth of knowledge and expertise. Through his vision, SCN has become the premier safety and security network for Jewish organization across the country. Mr. Masters hand-selected high ranking law enforcement leaders, who like him prioritize candor, trust, and professionalism. He did this through a tireless work ethic, steadfast leadership, and an unwavering commitment to justice and integrity. A few examples of his accomplishments during his tenure at SCN are below:

- The Security Director network has more than tripled under SCN, from 22 Security Directors to more than 70 nationwide, while also creating an additional eight Regional Director positions. These positions were created carefully and strategically to ensure that all Jewish Federations were provided with adequate access to security guidance and consultation from SCN and its security network.
- SCN also expanded security programs in 33 additional Federations thus blanketing the country in security coverage and expertise, threat mitigation capabilities, training, and consultation support.
- Under Masters’ leadership, SCN cultivated and established an interdependent and seamless working relationship between the FBI and DHS at the executive level. This exclusive relationship was built on the generated trust and mutual respect between the organizations and executives and serves to benefit the entire U.S. Jewish community.

To question Mr. Masters’ work in Qatar, one likewise would have to question and ridicule the work of the U.S. government and its past Presidents. For the last 50 years, including through the

recent administrations of Presidents Biden, Trump, Obama and Bush, the U.S. government has been directing aid, training, and diplomatic relations to Qatar; with President Biden recently designating Qatar as a major non-NATO ally. The United States government routinely and regularly provides support and significant monetary aid to numerous countries who in turn support, either directly or indirectly, Hamas and other terrorist groups, e.g., Turkey, Jordan, Saudi Arabia and dare we say Iran, to name but a few. The U.S. government has recently praised Qatar for its high-level discussions addressing trade and investment, regional security and defense cooperation, **law enforcement and counterterrorism**, human trafficking, and climate initiatives, and has praised Qatar for demonstrating its commitment to combatting terrorism financing through its efforts to support compliance with U.S. and international sanctions.

One would also have to denounce the Israeli government itself, as it has opened meaningful interactions with Qatar as evidenced by the recent initiation of flight activity between the two countries during the recent World Cup and working with Qatar to help free a number of Hamas hostages. Also, Israel, through the Abraham Accords, opened its doors and has made alliances with several of its middle eastern neighbors who directly or indirectly support terrorism. Israel constantly works with many of its neighboring middle eastern countries which support terrorists who are actively engaged in activities antithetical to Israeli's security interests. Israel itself understands what these ignorant authors do not – that to make peace with its enemies it must first engage with them.

Irresponsible and reckless journalism such as that practiced by Gregg Roman and Winfield Myers in this case must be confronted and addressed. Their motives for this type of misdirected, inaccurate, and malicious reporting should be unearthed and highlighted. How they can equivocate certain limited associations fomenting mutual security and law enforcement practices with projected and dishonest support for Hamas terrorism is unfathomable. This sophomoric attempt to besmirch a reputable American with an impeccable record while eschewing any logical connection or contextual realization to the complicated interrelationship of international machinations between nations, states and corporations is likewise completely baffling. Roman and Myers should be ashamed of themselves for their dishonesty and their lack of integrity and their reprehensible judgement in this instance. A retraction of this dishonest reporting would be a reasonable gesture in this matter. If not, these “reporters” should at least place Michael Masters’ work with the Soufan Group in its appropriate context and erase the abjectly dishonest rhetoric and innuendo emanating from this recent article.

Signed on behalf of Community Security Directors across the United States,

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Shawn A. Brokos, Director of Community Security
Jewish Federation Greater Pittsburgh

William Monaghan, Regional Director of Security
Jewish Federation of Southern Jersey

Erin L. Fagan, Community Security
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Ari Friedman, Director of Security
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Robert D. Allen, Director of Community Security
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Jewish Federation of Western CT
UJF of Greater Stamford, New Canaan, and Darien
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Beth LaManna, Regional Security Advisor
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John Colangelo, Community Security Director
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Stephen Flowers, Director of Community-Wide Security,
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Michael G. Goldsmith, Regional Security Advisor
United Jewish Federation of Tidewater

Keith Tiedemann, Director of Security
Associated Jewish Federation of Baltimore

Rob Elston, Director of Security
Youngstown Area Jewish Federation

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Jewish Federation of Broward County

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