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## U.S. and Qatar agree to support terrorism

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U.S. and Qatar agree to strengthen illegal armed support to terrorists in Syria

U.S. President Barack Obama met at the White House with the Emir of Qatar, Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani, in the context of a series of meetings with regional leaders to address the rising violence in Syria.

President Barack Obama stressed the need for Washington and Doha to cooperate closely with terrorist groups in Syria, to facilitate the possibility that the present government of Bashar al-Assad will leave power and allow the opposition to take power.

The U.S. president, Barack Obama, and the Emir of Qatar, Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al Thani, met Tuesday in Washington and agreed to extend and strengthen cooperation and financing illegal armed opposition groups operating on Syrian soil, responsible for hundreds of terrorist attacks that have left tens of thousands dead and injured.

Obama hosted the Qatari Emir the White House, as the first of three that will be held with Middle East leaders to address the Syrian conflict. The president will also receive in the coming days King Abdullah II of Jordan and the Prime Minister of Turkey, Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

"We will continue to work in the coming months to try to continue to support the Syrian opposition and closely coordinate our strategies to achieve a peaceful solution to the crisis," Obama said.

He stressed the need for both countries to cooperate closely, in his view, "to end the killings that are happening there," strengthening opposition groups.

For his part, Al Thani said his country hopes to "find a solution to the bloodshed in Syria, which would force the current government to step down and make room for others to take over."

In this regard, the two leaders agreed on several points: the removal of Bashar al-Assad of Syria by unconstitutional means, supporting armed terrorist groups in Syria and installing a system that suits their interests.

Thus, again they respond and confirm their positions to continually and repeatedly denounce Damascus, and their important support and illegal funding by countries such as the United States and Qatar, as well as Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Britain, France and Israel to provide weapons and support to terrorist factions that threaten the Syrian people.

## **Egypt and Palestine**

During the meeting, Obama and Al Thani also discussed the conflict between Israelis and Palestinians, Egypt and the war in Afghanistan.

Regarding Egypt, Obama said both U.S. as Qatar expect democracy in that country is a "success."

"Our two countries have pledged to try to encourage not only progress in this new democracy, but economic progress that translates into well being," he said.

In relation to the peace negotiations between Israelis and Palestinians, they agreed that "peace concerns us all, with a secure Israel alongside a sovereign Palestinian state."

In reference to the war in Afghanistan, Obama thanked Qatar's efforts "to obtain a dialogue" between the Afghan government and the Taliban.

In late March, Afghan President Hamid Karzai met in Doha with the Emir of Qatar, to discuss the possible opening of a Taliban office in that country, to allow initiate dialogue with the insurgents.