



QATAR IN CUBA

Embassy of the State of Qatar-Havana



ISSUE 3

APRIL / MAY / JUNE 2018

His Highness the Emir Inaugurated Qatar National Library (QNL)

On April 16th, H.H. the Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani officially inaugurated Qatar National Library (QNL) at the grand opening ceremony of its new building in Education City. The event was attended by H.H. the Father Emir, Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, H.H. Sheikha Moza bint Nasser, Chairperson of Qatar Foundation (QF), H.E. the Prime Minister and Minister of Interior of Qatar, and a number of dignitaries, sheikhs, ministers, heads of diplomatic missions, and guests.

During the opening, H.H. the Emir signed the official inauguration certificate, which will be mounted on a plaque, and placed on the shelves QNL's

one-millionth book, a rare 843-year-old manuscript copy of Sahih al-Bukhari. Speaking on the occasion, H. H. Sheikha Moza said: "The inauguration of QNL invokes a great sense of historical pride and belonging to the Arab world, which pioneered writing, transcription, and libraries in Mesopotamia 5,000 years ago [...] The Library was established to be a treasury of written history and a medium for the transfer of knowledge between different cultures."

Over the following weeks, QNL hosted a series of public lectures and exhibitions, including the inaugural Heritage Library exhibition. (More information on <https://www.qnl.qa/en>).



H.H. the Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani receiving the one-millionth book of Qatar National Library at the grand opening ceremony of the library.

QATAR INTERNATIONAL

H.H. Sheikha Moza bint Nasser Has Helped 10-Million Children to Receive Quality Education



H.H. Sheikha Moza bint Nasser, Chairperson of Education Above All (EAA), recently announced that EAAs **Educate A Child** programme has succeeded in its objective of helping 10 million of the most marginalized out of school children to receive quality, primary education.

The announcement came during an EAA event co-organized with UNICEF at the New York Public Library. The event gathered world leaders and high-level figures such as the UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, the

Permanent Representative from Qatar to the UN, Sheikha Alia Ahmed bin Saif Al-Thani, and Executive Director of UNICEF, Henrietta Fore.

H.H. thanked all the partners of EAA who helped provide education to the 10 million children, who were mostly displaced due to conflict, as well as refugees, or were fleeing poverty and natural disasters.

Sheikha Moza expressed that the next five years will see **Educate A Child** work to expand its existing programs and implement new ones.

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After a Year Living Under the Embargo, Qatar Is Winning the Gulf Dispute

It has been a year since the embargo was placed on Qatar by a quartet of its neighbors. The country has coped remarkably well with life as a regional outcast, despite there being little sign that the antagonism towards Doha will subside.

Certainly, there were pressing issues Doha had to deal with straight away, such as the ban on flying through Bahraini, Saudi or Emirati airspace. Still, several areas of the economy have improved. For instance, new trade routes have been established (with Oman, Turkey and Iran) and the banking system has adjusted, in part thanks to a rise in government deposits. Also, the Qatari authorities have relaxed the visa entry rules



to trading partners. Furthermore, Doha has played a canny diplomatic game than its opponents, which is proved by the US government stance that seems now more sympathetic to Qatar. As for the solution to the crisis, H.E. DPM and Foreign Minister has said: "Qatar is seeking to resolve the crisis through diplomatic channels, but we are not ready to give up our sovereignty or undermine our independence".



Qatar rejected Israel's violations of the freedom of worship and aggressions on Islamic sites across the occupied Palestinian territories.

Qatar Strongly Condemned Israeli Settlers Storming of Al Aqsa Mosque

The State of Qatar strongly condemned the storming of more than 1,600 Israeli settlers into Al-Aqsa Mosque as part of what Israelis referred to as "Jerusalem Day".

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs expressed in a statement that this was the largest number of Israeli settlers who have entered the Mosque since the occupation of Jerusalem in 1967. It also stressed the special status

of Al Quds for all Muslims, and considered that the failure of the Israeli authorities as an occupying power in protecting Al Aqsa mosque and Islamic holy sites is a violation of its obligations in accordance with the provisions of both international law and covenants. Likewise, Qatar called on the international community to carry out its moral and legal responsibility to protect the Mosque and religious sanctities in Palestine.

QATAR & CUBA

Second Round of Political Consultations Between Qatar & Cuba

The second round of political consultations between the chancelleries of Qatar and Cuba was held on May 9th, 2018, at the headquarters of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Cuba (MINREX).

The Qatari delegation was headed by the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, H.E. Mr. Sultan bin Saad Al-Muraikhi, who met with the Minister of Foreign Affairs, H.E. Bruno Rodriguez Parrilla and the Cuban First Deputy

Minister of Foreign Affairs, Marcelino Medina González. Both parties exchanged views on the current state of the bilateral relations. H.E. Mr. Rashid Mairza Al-Mulla, Ambassador of the State of Qatar in Cuba; H.E. Mr. Armando Vergara Bueno, General Deputy Director of Bilateral Affairs of MINREX; and H.E. Mr. Héctor Igarza Cabrera, Director of North Africa and the Middle East Department of the same institution, also attended the meetings.



H.E. Mr. Bruno Rodriguez Parrilla; H.E. Mr. Sultan bin Saad Al-Muraikhi; H.E. Mr. Rashid Mairza Al-Mulla; and H.E. Mr. Zayed bin Rashid Al-Nuaimi.



The Director of Public Health Department at the Ministry of Public Health, Sheikh Mohammed bin Hamad Al-Thani, led the Qatari delegation to the Convention "Cuba-Salud 2018".

Qatar in "Cuba-Salud 2018"

The Third International Health Convention, "Cuba-Salud 2018", took place in Havana from April 23rd-27th. With the slogan "Universal Health for Sustainable Development", the conference was attended by a large number of international health organizations – roughly 2,000 representatives from 80 countries, most of whom were ministers and high level officials.

The new Cuban Head of State, H.E. Miguel Diaz-Canel Bermudez, presided the convention, which was opened by the Cuban Vice-president and Minister of Health, H.E. Roberto

Morales Ojeda. A Qatari delegation led by the Director of Public Health Department at the Ministry of Public Health, Sheikh Mohammed bin Hamad Al-Thani, along with Mr. Mohammed Amer Al-Marri, Assistant Executive Director of Business of the Cuban Hospital-Hamad Medical Corporation, participated in the event.

H.E. Morales Ojeda held a courtesy meeting with the Qatari delegation to discuss the bilateral relations (related to the health sector) and the contribution of Cuba to the provision of medical services to the State of Qatar.

Qatar & Cuba Joined their Voices to Foster and Achieve Greater Justice

The 9th International Justice and Law Meeting 2018 took place in Havana from May 23rd to 25th.

The event is worldwide recognized as a prestigious scientific-juridical space, which is proved by the renowned personalities who came to participate, such as presidents and magistrates of Supreme Courts of Justice, specialists, academics and lecturers from at

"The rule of the law becomes a life necessity of today's world.", said the Qatari delegation to the encounter.

least 30 countries. Their aim is to continue fostering debate and the exchange of experiences based on the purpose of conquering greater justice. H.E. President of the Council of State and Ministers, Miguel Diaz-Canel, attended to the opening day.

A delegation from Qatar led by Mr. Rashid Nassir Badr, judge of the Court of Cassation, also participated.



TRADITIONS

Ramadan: Why Is It so Important for Muslims?

Ramadan is the ninth month in the Muslim lunar calendar, a time during which Muslims around the world fast every day, refraining from eating, drinking, smoking and committing immoral acts from sunrise to sunset. Fasting is also seen as a way to learn patience and break bad habits.

Other acts of worship such as praying, reading the **Quran** –which Muslims believe was revealed in

Ramadan– and doing charity are encouraged as well.

During this time of the year, Muslims would wake up early to eat a pre-dawn meal called *suhoor*, and they break their fast with a meal referred to as *iftar*. It is common for mosques to host large iftars, especially for the poor and needy. Nightly prayers called *Tarawih* are also held in mosques after iftar.

The *Eid al-Fitr* celebration marks the end of the holy month, when Muslims celebrate a successful month of fasting and worship.



After a year of blockade: Qatar adheres to dialogue to resolve the Gulf crisis

The most prominent statements by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs calling for resolving the crisis through dialogue

5 June
Qatar's strategic choice is to resolve any crisis through dialogue.
Interview with "Al Jazeera"

9 June
The GCC is the most appropriate framework for resolving differences in the region.
Press conference with the German Foreign Minister

12 June
Qatar is ready for dialogue on bases and standards that respect international law.
A statement to journalists at Qatar's Embassy in London

4 July
Qatar refuses the imposition of guardianship on it from any country, but at the same time, it is fully prepared for dialogue.
Press conference with the German Foreign Minister

5 July
Qatar continues to call for dialogue with the countries of the blockade in a process of negotiations with a clear framework and a set of principles guaranteeing our sovereignty.
Lecture at Chatham House

13 May
Qatar's call for dialogue as a way to resolve the Gulf crisis is not a blank cheque.
Lecture at Qatar University

19 February
It is essential that there be an agreement on the key principles of any dialogue, protected by a clear mechanism for resolving disputes.
Speech before the Shura Council

16 February
Qatar is open to dialogue within a transparent GCC framework.
An article in the German newspaper Handelsblatt

4 November
When others decide they want to resolve the crisis, Qatar will be sitting at the table waiting for them.
World Policy Conference

25 September
Qatar is seeking to resolve the crisis through diplomatic channels, but we are not ready to give up our sovereignty or undermine our independence.
Statements at the French Institute of International Relations

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Edited and Printed by Embassy of the State of Qatar
Havana, 2018

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<https://www.mofa.gov.qa/en#The-World>

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