

From: Brooks, Roshelle (OLA) [(b) (6)]
Sent: Friday, June 28, 2019 5:17:10 PM
To: DOJExecSec (JMD)
CC: McKay, Shirley A (OLA); Johnson, Joanne E. (OLA); Rubens, William B. (OLA); (b)(6) per NSD (NSD); (b)(6) per NSD (NSD)
Subject: Pls expedite log FW: Letter from Congressman Brad Sherman

Good evening,

Pls expedite the log of this incoming and assign to NSD for appropriate handling. **Pls forward the service # to me pls, for tracking.** Thank you!

Best,
Roshelle

From: Rubens, William B. (OLA) <(b) (6)>
Sent: Friday, June 28, 2019 5:08 PM
To: Herbert, Jenelle R. (OLA) <(b) (6)>; Brooks, Roshelle (OLA) <(b) (6)>
Cc: McKay, Shirley A (OLA) <(b) (6)>
Subject: FW: Letter from Congressman Brad Sherman

Please log and assign to NSD and to me. Thanks.

From: Van Grack, Brandon (NSD) <(b) (6)>
Sent: Friday, June 21, 2019 5:35 PM
To: Bratt, Jay (NSD) <(b) (6)>; Hickey, Adam (NSD) <(b) (6)>; Rubens, William B. (OLA) <(b) (6)>
Subject: Fwd: Letter from Congressman Brad Sherman

Will, I just received the following directly from Congress. Please let me know the appropriate way to respond and place the letter through proper DOJ channels.

Thank you!
Brandon

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Keck, Zachary" <(b) (6)>
Date: June 21, 2019 at 5:03:13 PM EDT
To: "(b)(6) Brandon Van Grack" <(b)(6) Brandon Van Grack>
Subject: Letter from Congressman Brad Sherman

Mr. Van Grack,

My name is Zachary Keck and I work for Congressman Brad Sherman. Congressman Sherman has written a letter to you, which I attached. When we called DoJ's Congressional liaisons to ask where to send the letter they gave this email address, which appears to be your email rather than a staff member. So, I hope this is indeed the

appropriate channel to send the letter.

Best,

Zach

Zachary Keck

Professional Staff Member

House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee On Asia, the Pacific and Nonproliferation

2181 Rayburn House Building

Washington, DC 20515

Office: (202) 225-5911

Cell: (b) (6)

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 21, 2019

Mr. Brandon L. Van Grack
Chief, Foreign Agents Registration Act (FARA) Unit
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Mr. Van Grack:

I am writing to ask you to investigate whether Al Jazeera should register as a foreign agent under the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938, as amended, 22 U.S.C. §§ 611—621 (1995). On March 6, 2019, a Department of Justice (DoJ) official announced the Department would be stepping up its prosecution of cases under FARA, and that you would be overseeing the investigations. In addition, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019 (NDAA) requires “certain U.S.-based foreign media outlets to submit reports every 6 months to the [Federal Communications] Commission regarding the outlets' relations to their foreign principals.”

As you may know, in the past some in Congress have called for DoJ to investigate whether Al Jazeera should register under FARA. I write to provide you with additional information that may inform a decision to investigate.

On August 17, 2017, DoJ required U.S. companies supporting the Russian state-owned media outlets, RT and Radio Sputnik, to disclose information under FARA.¹ In requiring those companies to register, DoJ cited U.S. intelligence officials' finding that the two outlets were “the backbone of the Russian government's propaganda apparatus.”² More specifically, DoJ's letter to RT quoted an official from its parent company as saying that content from RT America and other foreign bureaus “only becomes [RT] content after the corresponding editorial work is performed on it here, in the Russian office.”³

¹ See e.g. “Lawmakers seek ‘foreign agent’ status for Al Jazeera,” *Bloomberg News*, March 9, 2018, available at <https://minnlawyer.com/2018/03/09/lawmakers-seek-foreign-agent-status-for-al-jazeera/>; and [https://www.cruz.senate.gov/files/documents/Letters/20180306LettertoDOlonAlJazeeraFARA\(Gortheimer-Cruz\).pdf](https://www.cruz.senate.gov/files/documents/Letters/20180306LettertoDOlonAlJazeeraFARA(Gortheimer-Cruz).pdf); both retrieved April 6, 2019.

² Emphasis added. See Heather H. Hunt, Chief, FARA Registration Unit, National Security Division, U.S. Department of Justice, letter to RTTV America, Inc., August 17, 2017, available at <https://www.politico.com/f/?id=00000160-79a9-d762-a374-7dfbebc30001>, retrieved April 6, 2019.

³ Emphasis added. See Heather H. Hunt, Chief, FARA Registration Unit, National Security Division, U.S. Department of Justice, letter to RTTV America, Inc., August 17, 2017, available at <https://www.politico.com/f/?id=00000160-79a9-d762-a374-7dfbebc30001>, retrieved April 6, 2019.

Al Jazeera appears to meet both of these conditions. In 2009, a leaked confidential cable from the U.S. ambassador to Doha named Al Jazeera “an informal tool of [the Government of Qatar’s] foreign policy;” “an instrument of Qatari influence;” “an expression, however uncoordinated, of the nation’s foreign policy;” and “a bargaining tool to repair relationships with other countries, particularly those soured by Al Jazeera’s broadcasts, including the United States.”⁴

New evidence also indicates that Al Jazeera’s American content is dictated by Doha, just as RT America’s is determined in Moscow. On August 20, 2018, the Screen Actors Guild filed a National Labor Relations Board (“NLRB”) complaint against Al Jazeera International (USA), LLC, regarding an attempt to unionize the network’s American workforce, some portion of which is included under the entity Al Jazeera English (AJE).⁵ While the complaint is a labor law matter unrelated to FARA, the NLRB’s decision determined that all Al Jazeera employees in the United States are supervised by a single individual at the parent company’s HQ in Doha. The decision states:

“All news department employees have common supervision regardless of location. Salah Negm, AJE’s Director of News, is located at the Employer’s headquarters in Doha, Qatar, and has ultimate decision-making authority regarding the stories the news department covers, and how it covers those stories. Typically, Negm communicates his directions to either Owen Watson, AJE news Executive Producer located in Washington, D.C., or to producers and correspondents located in the Employer’s Washington, D.C. office or one of its bureaus. Watson reports directly to Negm and is responsible for directly supervising the news department employees to accomplish Negm’s directives.”⁶

Mr. Negm’s biography page on the Al Jazeera Media Network website states that he is “Director of News for the the (*sic.*) English channel.”⁷ The Al Jazeera Media Network is the overarching Doha-based Qatari entity, which in turn is controlled by the Al Thani family, the ruling family of Qatar. In fact, the Chairman of the Board of the Al Jazeera Media Network is Sheik Hamid bin Thamer bin Mohammed Al Thani, a member of the ruling family. Al Thani’s company

⁴ See e.g. Guy Adams, “US believes Al Jazeera is ‘propaganda tool of Qatar,’” *Independent (UK)*, December 6, 2010, available at <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/politics/us-believes-al-jazeera-is-propaganda-tool-of-qatar-2152329.html>, retrieved April 6, 2019.

⁵ United States of America before the National Labor Relations Board, Region 5, Al Jazeera International (USA), LLC, Employer, and Screen Actors Guild – American Federation of Television and Radio Artists (SAG-AFTRA), Petitioner, Case 05-RC-225958, September 28, 2018, p. 3, available at <https://www.nlr.gov/case/05-RC-225958>, retrieved April 6, 2019.

⁶ United States of America before the National Labor Relations Board, Region 5, Al Jazeera International (USA), LLC, Employer, and Screen Actors Guild – American Federation of Television and Radio Artists (SAG-AFTRA), Petitioner, Case 05-RC-225958, September 28, 2018, p. 4, available at <https://www.nlr.gov/case/05-RC-225958>, retrieved April 6, 2019.

⁷ ALJAZEERA MEDIA NETWORK, “Management profile / Salah Negm,” available at <https://network.aljazeera.com/about-us/management-profiles/salah-negm>, retrieved April 6, 2019.

biography says, "his purview encompasses all of the channels under the Al Jazeera umbrella."⁸ Sheikh Hamad's biography further states that "leaders of the country decided to abolish" Qatar's Ministry of Information and Culture in the late 1980s and early 1990s, and replace it with Al Jazeera in order to reach a wider audience.

Thus, Al Jazeera's own testimony before the NLRB and its website indicates that the editorial decisions for the English channel come straight from Doha, and that all channels are overseen by the royal family in Qatar. Furthermore, by its own admission the Qatari royal family uses Al Jazeera to perform the functions previously done by the Ministry of Information and Culture.

Based on this new information, I respectfully request that you consider investigating Al Jazeera at the earliest possible moment, and that you provide my office with the maximum possible information under the law and applicable regulations about such investigation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brad Sherman", written in a cursive style.

Brad Sherman
Member of Congress

⁸ ALJAZEERA MEDIA NETWORK, "Chairman of Board of Directors: Sheikh Hamad bin Thamer Al Thani," available at <https://network.aljazeera.com/about-us/leadership>, retrieved April 6, 2019.



U.S. Department of Justice

Office of Legislative Affairs

Office of the Assistant Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20530

SEP 30 2019

The Honorable Brad Sherman
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Sherman:

This responds to your letter dated June 21, 2019, requesting that the Department of Justice (Department) investigate whether Al Jazeera should register as a foreign agent under the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938, as amended, 22 U.S.C. § 611 *et seq.* ("FARA" or "the Act"). The Department appreciates your interest in FARA, and we assure you that FARA is an active, integral part of the Department's overall strategy to address threats to U.S. national security. In 2018 alone, the Department brought five criminal cases involving violations of FARA; and the number of new registrants and new foreign principals has almost doubled since 2015. In addition, earlier this year, the Department successfully utilized its civil enforcement authority for the first time since 1991 to obtain a court order that required the registration of a U.S. agent of a Russian state-owned media enterprise.

As you know, the Department has a policy of neither confirming nor denying whether it is investigating an individual or entity, and thus I can neither confirm nor deny if the Department is investigating whether Al Jazeera should register as a foreign agent under FARA. Nevertheless, the Department appreciates the information that you provided in your letter. In addition, we would be happy to brief you or your staff concerning the Department's administration and enforcement of FARA.

We hope this information is helpful. Please do not hesitate to contact this office if we may provide additional assistance regarding this or any other matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Stephen E. Boyd".

Stephen E. Boyd
Assistant Attorney General

From: DOJ Correspondence (SMO) [Ex_DOJCorrespondence@jmd.usdoj.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, June 19, 2019 9:36:20 AM
To: DOJExecSec (JMD)
CC: Tolson, Kimberly G (JMD); (b)(6) per NSD (NSD); (b)(6) per NSD (NSD)
Subject: FW: 2019-06-18 CEG et al to DOJ (Al Jazeera FARA) - TIME SENSITIVE

Pls log & per OLA (Rubens) assigned to NSD to draft resp for OLA sig. Pls expedite assignment. **Response is requested by 7/2/2019.**

From: Rubens, William B. (OLA) <(b)(6)>
Sent: Wednesday, June 19, 2019 9:15 AM
To: DOJ Correspondence (SMO) <Ex_DOJCorrespondence@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Cc: Lasseter, David F. (OLA) <(b)(6)>
Subject: FW: 2019-06-18 CEG et al to DOJ (Al Jazeera FARA)

Good Morning,

Please log and assign to NSD and me. Thanks

From: Flynn-Brown, Joshua (Finance) <(b)(6)>
Sent: Tuesday, June 18, 2019 6:01 PM
To: Lasseter, David F. (OLA) <(b)(6)>; Rubens, William B. (OLA) <(b)(6)>
Cc: CEG <(b)(6)>; Ragsdale, DeLisa (Finance) <(b)(6)>; McCollum, Kyle (Judiciary-Rep) <(b)(6)>; Linczer, Edward (Cotton) <(b)(6)>; Bergin, Don (Cornyn) <(b)(6)>; Helmers, Jessica (Young) <(b)(6)>; Roberts, Samantha (Rubio) <(b)(6)>; 'Morris, Brad' <(b)(6)>; 'Walecki, Jack' <(b)(6)>; 'Matar, Sara' <(b)(6)>; Ceren, Omri (Cruz) <(b)(6)>; Stone, Judd (Judiciary-Rep) <(b)(6)>; Leahy, Samantha (Cruz) <(b)(6)>; Noonan, John (Cotton) <(b)(6)>
Subject: 2019-06-18 CEG et al to DOJ (Al Jazeera FARA)

David and Will,

Please see the attached letter. Please confirm receipt and send all formal follow-up correspondence to the email addresses copied on this email. Thank you.

Very Respectfully,

Joshua Flynn-Brown
Deputy Chief Investigative Counsel
Chairman Charles E. Grassley
U.S. Senate Committee on Finance
(b)(6)

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

June 18, 2019

VIA ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION

The Honorable William Barr
Attorney General
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D.C. 20220

Dear Attorney General Barr:

For several years, in both the Obama and Trump administrations, Congress has conducted oversight of the Justice Department's lax and selective enforcement of the Foreign Agents Registration Act (FARA).¹ FARA is an important statute that was designed not to prohibit activity but rather to require individuals to register with the DOJ if they are acting as an agent of a foreign government or enterprise to influence U.S. policy or public opinion. This helps ensure transparency and accountability in the public policy arena. In that sense, FARA is a content-neutral regulatory scheme that would not require any entity or individual to refrain from certain types of speech.

FARA continues to be very relevant. For example, news articles have reported activities in which Al Jazeera Media Network (Al Jazeera) is engaged that raise legitimate questions about whether it should register as a foreign agent. Al Jazeera is a global organization spanning dozens of countries, including the United States, and reaches hundreds of millions of people worldwide. In 2016, its off-shoot, Al Jazeera America, closed. However, Al Jazeera expanded its digital presence via Al Jazeera Plus (AJ+), its online news channel which is headquartered in the United States. As of May 2019, AJ+ had 11.1 million cumulative followers and subscribers on Facebook.² In that same month, AJ+ was the fortieth ranked "overall creator" of content cross-platform.³ By comparison, in May 2019 the Washington Post had 6.3 million cumulative followers and subscribers on Facebook and was the one-hundredth ranked "overall creator" of

¹ The FARA requires individuals to register with the Department of Justice (DOJ) if they act, even through an intermediary, "as an agent, representative, employee, or servant" or "in any other capacity" at the behest of a foreign principal, including a foreign political party, government, or corporation, for purposes of engagement with a United States official to influence U.S. policy or the public. The registration applies to anyone who attempts to influence a U.S. government official on behalf of a foreign principal in an effort to "formulat[e], adopt[,], or chang[e] the domestic or foreign policies of the United States." Likewise, an individual whose activities are subject to registration under FARA and who sends informational material "for or in the interest of [a] foreign principal" with the intent or belief that such material will be circulated among at least two persons must transmit the material to the Attorney General no later than 48 hours after actual transmission. Notably, an ongoing failure to register with the DOJ is a continuing offense. 22 U.S.C. § 611 – Definitions: The term "foreign principal" includes - (1) a government of a foreign country and a foreign political party; (2) a person outside of the United States, unless it is established that such person is an individual and a citizen of and domiciled within the United States, or that such person is not an individual and is organized under or created by the laws of the United States or of any State or other place subject to the jurisdiction of the United States and has its principal place of business within the United States; and (3) a partnership, association, corporation, organization, or other combination of persons organized under the laws of or having its principal place of business in a foreign country.

² Tubular Labs, *AJ+*, <https://tubularlabs.com/creator/Iwh57miuVY/AJ+> (last visited June 14, 2019).

³ *Id.*

content cross-platform.⁴ Clearly, Al Jazeera has established and is building a significant reach within the United States.⁵

Al Jazeera was founded by Qatari charter in 1996.⁶ It is a state-owned enterprise, and the Qatari government has provided the majority of its funding.⁷ Al Jazeera's videos on YouTube are stamped with the disclaimer, "Al Jazeera is funded in whole or in part by the Qatari government." Thus, Al Jazeera is not only a foreign principal but it is also owned by a foreign principal – the government of Qatar. Several members of the ruling family of Qatar have held senior positions at Al Jazeera: Sheikh Hamad bin Thamer Al-Thani, a member of the ruling family of Qatar, is the Chairman of Al Jazeera;⁸ Sheikh Abdulrahman bin Hamad bin Jassim bin Hamad Al-Thani is the CEO of Qatar Media Corporation and a Board Member of Al Jazeera;⁹ Sheikh Ahmed bin Jassim Al-Thani served as the Director General of Al Jazeera from 2011 until June 2013.¹⁰ Given that members of the ruling family are in charge of managing the media network, it is more likely than not that the government can and will assert editorial control over media content.

There is evidence that this is the case. The network frequently features content promoting the apparent policy priorities of its owner. For example, the Qatari government reportedly supports the Muslim Brotherhood, and Al Jazeera has reportedly featured that organization in a moderate light and described it as one that can "foster regional stability."¹¹ In addition, Qatar has not only allowed U.S. State Department-designated terrorist organizations such as Hamas to operate within the country but also has regularly hosted Hamas supporters and its leaders on Al Jazeera.¹² News articles have reported that Al Jazeera "conducted a months-long spy operation on a slew of American pro-Israel officials" for a documentary on alleged Jewish influence on the U.S. Government.¹³ Multiple videos on AJ+ appear to support anti-Israeli and anti-American positions. Qatar's officials have said that government-controlled media is a form of "soft power."¹⁴ As such, one can reasonably infer that Al Jazeera is a messaging tool for the Qatari government, and, on its behalf, has engaged in inherently political activities and sought to influence public opinion in the United States.

Mohamed Fahmy, a former Al Jazeera English Egypt bureau chief who was jailed due to his affiliation with the network and ultimately pardoned by Egyptian authorities, has spoken out

⁴ Tubular Labs, *Washington Post*, <https://tubularlabs.com/creator/pJrnOWDIB4/Washington-Post> (last visited June 14, 2019).

⁵ According to an estimate by Amazon, during a 30 day period in May and June 2019, [aljazeera.com](https://www.alexa.com/siteinfo/aljazeera.com) had over 2.5 million unique visitors, 33.4% of whom were from the United States. Available at <https://www.alexa.com/siteinfo/aljazeera.com> (last visited June 18, 2019). See also, Nick Vivarelli, "New Al Jazeera Digital Division Chief on How Facebook, Google, Control News (Exclusive)" *Variety* (July 1, 2016), available at <https://variety.com/2016/digital/global/new-al-jazeera-digital-division-chief-on-how-facebook-google-control-news-exclusive-1201806421/> (last accessed June 18, 2019).

⁶ Christopher M. Blanchard, *Qatar: Background and U.S. Relations*, CRS at 19 (June 6, 2012).

⁷ *Id.*

⁸ Al Jazeera Media Network, *Sheikh Hamad bin Thamer Al Thani: Chairman of Board of Directors*, <https://network.aljazeera.com/about-us/management-profiles/sheikh-hamad-bin-thamer-al-thani>.

⁹ Doha Film Institute, *Doha Film Institute Announces Board of Trustees* (Nov. 29, 2016), <http://www.dohafilminstitute.com/press/doha-film-institute-announces-board-of-trustees>.

¹⁰ The Business Year, *Optimal & Prime* (2015), <https://www.thebusinessyear.com/qatar-2015/optimal-prime/interview>.

¹¹ Kenneth Katzman, *Qatar: Governance, Security, and U.S. Policy*, CRS at 11 (March 1, 2018).

¹² *Id.* at 16.

¹³ Adam Kredo, *Qatar-Backed Spy Operation on U.S. Jews Put Al Jazeera in Congressional Crosshairs*, *Washington Free Beacon* (February 13, 2018).

¹⁴ Ministry of Foreign Affairs, *Al Diplomacy*, Issue 37 at 37 (December 2017), available at <https://en.calameo.com/read/0051217641e12ed91c1e0>.

about the close relationship between Al Jazeera and the Qatari regime. According to Fahmy, “The more the network coordinated and takes directions from the [Qatar] government, the more it becomes a mouthpiece for Qatari intelligence.”¹⁵ Regarding Al Jazeera English, Fahmy has noted that contrary to his expectations before he was hired, the network “coordinated and took directives from Qatar’s government. This reflected on even us the English reporters and we had some of the best...”¹⁶

When the available evidence is taken as a whole, it appears that Al Jazeera’s broadcasts, including AJ+, mirror the policies and preferences of the Qatari government, which, together with the state funding and other indicia of agency, demonstrate that Al Jazeera and its media subsidiaries act as alter egos of the Qatari government in ensuring dissemination of the government’s viewpoints.

In addition to Al Jazeera seemingly operating as an agent of the Qatari government, its potential obligation to register under FARA may be triggered by two other provisions in the statute. First, because it produces and distributes content and secures access within the United States, it has arguably “engage[d] directly or indirectly in the ... dissemination of ... broadcasts,” and therefore may have served as a “publicity agent.”¹⁷ Second, because its programming concerned “conditions” of a foreign government or “foreign country,” including but not limited to Qatar, Al Jazeera may have served as an “information-service employee” by “furnishing, disseminating, or publishing” its programs.¹⁸

Similarly, on November 13, 2017, DOJ’s National Security Division announced that it required T&R Productions, LLC to register under FARA as an agent for ANO TV-Novosti, the “Russian government entity responsible for the worldwide broadcasts of the RT Network” and on December 11, 2017, RTTV America registered as well.¹⁹ Reportedly, DOJ has required the same of Xinhua News Agency and China Global Television Network.²⁰ In a press release regarding RT, DOJ said the following:

Americans have a right to know who is acting in the United States to influence the U.S. government or public on behalf of foreign principals. The Department of Justice is committed to enforcing FARA and expects compliance with the law by all entities engaged in specified activities on behalf of any foreign principal, regardless of its nationality.²¹

Further, that same press release said:

¹⁵ Frantzman, Seth J. “A Weapon against Its Neighbors’: Former Al Jazeera Bureau Chief Speaks out against Network.” The Jerusalem Post (Aug. 24, 2017), <http://www.jpost.com/Middle-East/A-weapon-against-its-neighbors-former-Al-Jazeera-bureau-chief-speaks-out-against-network-503206>.

¹⁶ *Id.*

¹⁷ 22 U.S.C. § 611(h).

¹⁸ 22 U.S.C. § 611(i).

¹⁹ Department of Justice Press Release, *Production Company Registers Under the Foreign Agent Registration Act as Agent for the Russian Government Entity Responsible for Broadcasting RT* (November 13, 2017).

²⁰ Kate O’Keeffe and Aruna Viswanatha, *Justice Department Has Ordered Key Chinese State Media Firms to Register as Foreign Agents*, Wall Street Journal (Sept. 18, 2018).

²¹ Department of Justice Press Release, *Production Company Registers Under the Foreign Agent Registration Act as Agent for the Russian Government Entity Responsible for Broadcasting RT* (November 13, 2017).

Congress passed FARA in 1938, intending to ensure that the American public and our lawmakers know the source of information that is provided at the behest of a foreign principal, where that information may be intended to influence U.S. public opinion, policy and laws.²²

Those statements apply equally to Al Jazeera, which is controlled by a foreign government, receives financial support therefrom, and engages in activity to influence the U.S. Government and public on behalf of foreign principals.

In sum, Al Jazeera, to include AJ+, may be obligated to register under FARA because: (1) through its production and distribution of programming in the United States it seeks to “influence...any section of the public within the United States with reference to formulating, adopting, or changing the domestic or foreign policies of the United States, or with reference to the political or public interests, policies, or relations” of Qatar, for or in the interests of Qatar, and is therefore most likely engaged in “political activities”;²³ and (2) it has acted as an agent for the Qatari government and Al Jazeera Media Network in producing and distributing the content constituting those political activities.²⁴

The American public deserves to know when foreign entities are operating in and attempting to influence U.S. public policy and public opinion. DOJ must explain to Congress and the American people why Al Jazeera and its employees have not been required to register.

Accordingly, please answer the following no later than July 2, 2019:

1. What actions has the DOJ taken to assess whether Al Jazeera or its employees should register under FARA for work on behalf of the Qatari government?
2. Has the DOJ sent a letter of inquiry or letter of determination to Al Jazeera, any of its affiliated entities, or any of its employees? If so, please provide a copy. If not, why not?
3. Under 28 C.F.R. § 5.2, any present or prospective agent of a foreign entity may request an advisory opinion from the Justice Department regarding the need to register. Has Al Jazeera or any of its entities or employees ever requested an opinion in relation to work done on behalf of Qatar? If so, please provide a copy of the request and opinion.
4. Please explain why the DOJ has not required Al Jazeera or its employees to register under FARA.
5. Please provide all prosecutorial memoranda, correspondence between DOJ and Al Jazeera, and all reports and summaries of interviews relating to Al Jazeera and its obligations to register under FARA.

²² *Id.*

²³ 22 U.S.C. § 611(o)

²⁴ Notably, although FARA does provide an exception for “bona fide news or journalistic activities,” 22 U.S.C. § 611(d), that statutory exemption does not apply to Al Jazeera because the media exemption only applies if a media outlet is not “owned, directed, supervised, controlled, subsidized, financed, and none of its policies are determined by any foreign principal.”

Please send all unclassified material directly to the signers of this letter. In keeping with the requirements of Executive Order 13526, if any of the responsive documents do contain classified information, please segregate all unclassified material within the classified documents, provide all unclassified information directly to the signers, and provide a classified addendum to the Office of Senate Security and Office of House Security. The signers comply with all laws and regulations governing the handling of classified information. The signers are not bound, absent their prior agreement, by any handling restrictions or instructions on unclassified information unilaterally asserted by the Executive Branch.

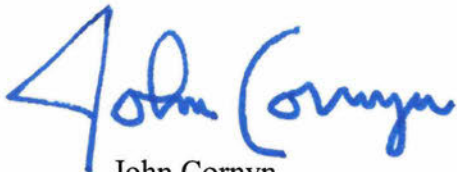
Sincerely,



Charles E. Grassley
Chairman
Senate Finance Committee



Tom Cotton
U.S. Senator



John Cornyn
U.S. Senator



Todd Young
U.S. Senator



Marco Rubio
U.S. Senator



Ted Cruz
U.S. Senator



Mike Johnson
U.S. Representative



Lee Zeldin
U.S. Representative



U.S. Department of Justice

Office of Legislative Affairs

Office of the Assistant Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20530

OCT 03 2019

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley
Chairman
Committee on Finance
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This responds to your letter to the Attorney General dated June 18, 2019, seeking information concerning whether the Department of Justice (Department) has taken actions to determine whether Al Jazeera Media Network (“Al Jazeera”) has an obligation to register under the Foreign Agents Registration Act (“FARA”), 22 U.S.C. § 611 *et seq.* We are sending identical responses to the other Members and Senators who joined your letter.

The Department appreciates your ongoing interest in FARA and your continued efforts to raise the profile of the Act. We note that the Department has significantly increased its enforcement efforts over the last few years. In 2018 alone, the Department brought five criminal cases involving violations of FARA, and the number of new registrants and new foreign principals has almost doubled since 2015. In addition, earlier this year, the Department successfully utilized its civil enforcement authority for the first time since 1991 to obtain a court order that required the registration of a U.S. agent of a Russian state-owned media enterprise.

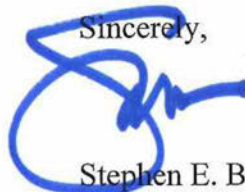
As you know from prior correspondence, the Department has a policy of neither confirming nor denying whether it is engaging investigative activities with respect to an individual or entity. The requests in your letter all seek information that could reveal possible investigative activities. For example, your letter asks whether the Department has sent a letter of inquiry or letter of determination to Al Jazeera and, if so, asks the Department to produce any such letters. As we have previously explained, when questions regarding a possible obligation to register come to the attention of the FARA Unit, a letter of inquiry is sent to the appropriate individual or entity. Through these letters of inquiry, the FARA Unit notifies the parties of the potential registration obligation, seeks additional information, and, based on any response, subsequently makes a determination as to whether a registration obligation exists. These letters are considered investigative activity, and consequently, consistent with longstanding Department practice, unless and until the recipient of the letter registers under the Act, we neither confirm nor deny whether the Department sent letters of inquiry. Your letter also seeks to learn whether Al Jazeera has sought an advisory opinion from the FARA Unit pursuant to 28 C.F.R. § 5.2. The

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley
Page Two

Department likewise views requests for advisory opinions as implicating its investigative activities and cannot confirm or deny whether it has received any from a particular person or entity. We note, however, that the FARA Unit posts to its public website (www.fara.gov) redacted versions of advisory opinions.

We hope this information is helpful. Please do not hesitate to contact this office if we may provide additional assistance regarding this or any other matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "S.E. Boyd", is written over the word "Sincerely,".

Stephen E. Boyd
Assistant Attorney General



U.S. Department of Justice

Office of Legislative Affairs

Office of the Assistant Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20530

OCT 03 2019

The Honorable Tom Cotton
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Cotton:

This responds to your letter to the Attorney General dated June 18, 2019, seeking information concerning whether the Department of Justice (Department) has taken actions to determine whether Al Jazeera Media Network (“Al Jazeera”) has an obligation to register under the Foreign Agents Registration Act (“FARA”), 22 U.S.C. § 611 *et seq.* We are sending identical responses to the other Members and Senators who joined your letter.

The Department appreciates your ongoing interest in FARA and your continued efforts to raise the profile of the Act. We note that the Department has significantly increased its enforcement efforts over the last few years. In 2018 alone, the Department brought five criminal cases involving violations of FARA, and the number of new registrants and new foreign principals has almost doubled since 2015. In addition, earlier this year, the Department successfully utilized its civil enforcement authority for the first time since 1991 to obtain a court order that required the registration of a U.S. agent of a Russian state-owned media enterprise.

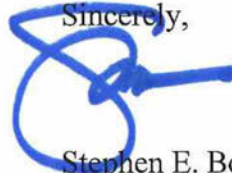
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The Honorable Tom Cotton
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Sincerely,

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Stephen E. Boyd
Assistant Attorney General



U.S. Department of Justice

Office of Legislative Affairs

Office of the Assistant Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20530

OCT 03 2019

The Honorable John Cornyn
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Cornyn:

This responds to your letter to the Attorney General dated June 18, 2019, seeking information concerning whether the Department of Justice (Department) has taken actions to determine whether Al Jazeera Media Network (“Al Jazeera”) has an obligation to register under the Foreign Agents Registration Act (“FARA”), 22 U.S.C. § 611 *et seq.* We are sending identical responses to the other Members and Senators who joined your letter.

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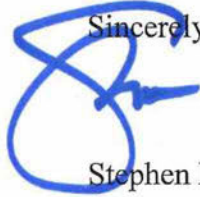
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Sincerely,

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Stephen E. Boyd
Assistant Attorney General



U.S. Department of Justice

Office of Legislative Affairs

Office of the Assistant Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20530

OCT 03 2019

The Honorable Todd Young
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Young:

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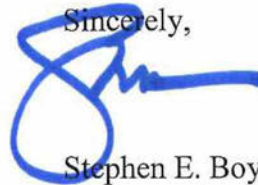
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Stephen E. Boyd
Assistant Attorney General



U.S. Department of Justice

Office of Legislative Affairs

Office of the Assistant Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20530

OCT 03 2019

The Honorable Marco Rubio
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Rubio:

This responds to your letter to the Attorney General dated June 18, 2019, seeking information concerning whether the Department of Justice (Department) has taken actions to determine whether Al Jazeera Media Network (“Al Jazeera”) has an obligation to register under the Foreign Agents Registration Act (“FARA”), 22 U.S.C. § 611 *et seq.* We are sending identical responses to the other Members and Senators who joined your letter.

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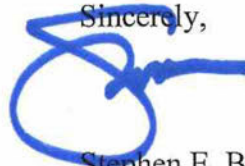
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Sincerely,

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Stephen E. Boyd
Assistant Attorney General



U.S. Department of Justice

Office of Legislative Affairs

Office of the Assistant Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20530

OCT 03 2019

The Honorable Ted Cruz
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Cruz:

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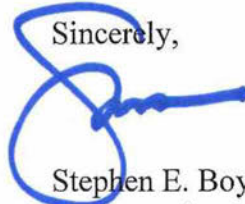
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Stephen E. Boyd
Assistant Attorney General



U.S. Department of Justice

Office of Legislative Affairs

Office of the Assistant Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20530

OCT 03 2019

The Honorable Mike Johnson
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Johnson:

This responds to your letter to the Attorney General dated June 18, 2019, seeking information concerning whether the Department of Justice (Department) has taken actions to determine whether Al Jazeera Media Network (“Al Jazeera”) has an obligation to register under the Foreign Agents Registration Act (“FARA”), 22 U.S.C. § 611 *et seq.* We are sending identical responses to the other Members and Senators who joined your letter.

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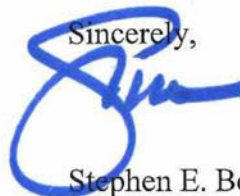
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Sincerely,



Stephen E. Boyd
Assistant Attorney General



U.S. Department of Justice

Office of Legislative Affairs

Office of the Assistant Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20530

OCT 03 2019

The Honorable Lee Zeldin
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Zeldin:

This responds to your letter to the Attorney General dated June 18, 2019, seeking information concerning whether the Department of Justice (Department) has taken actions to determine whether Al Jazeera Media Network (“Al Jazeera”) has an obligation to register under the Foreign Agents Registration Act (“FARA”), 22 U.S.C. § 611 *et seq.* We are sending identical responses to the other Members and Senators who joined your letter.

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Stephen E. Boyd
Assistant Attorney General

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2201

June 10, 2022

The Honorable Merrick B. Garland
Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Attorney General Garland,

Federal court filings made public earlier this week reveal the existence of an ongoing FBI investigation into various Americans engaged in illegal lobbying of the U.S. government on behalf of the State of Qatar. The filings document, among other things, that retired four-star Marine General John R. Allen, while working as a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution and shortly before being appointed its President, engaged in behind-the-scenes efforts in 2017 to help Qatar influence U.S. policy in the midst of a diplomatic crisis without registering as a foreign agent under the Foreign Agents Registration Act (FARA).¹

While it appears that DOJ's investigation into General Allen is proceeding, his employer, the Brookings Institution is claiming that the think tank itself is not being investigated.² If this is true, it would be deeply concerning. While serving as a senior fellow at Brookings Institution—and no doubt at least engaging in negotiations to become the next President of the think tank—General Allen traveled to Qatar at the behest of the Emir and other top Qatari officials to advise them on how to successfully influence U.S. foreign policy in a direction more favorable to Qatari interests. According to court filings, General Allen used his official Brookings email account in carrying out his alleged efforts to help Qatar's standing with the U.S.

The advice General Allen gave to Qatar, however, included suggestions that no U.S. think tank should be offering to any foreign government. For example, General Allen advised the Qatari regime to “use the full spectrum” of information operations, including “black and white operations.” It is well known that “black” info operations include covert and illegal activity, such as hack-and-leak operations against critics and rivals, methods in which the Qatari regime specializes.

In fact, according to the search warrant application, General Allen encouraged the Emir to use “black” information operations on June 10, 2017, just one week after the public launch of GlobalLeaks, a campaign widely attributed to Qatar which used hacked emails to generate

¹ “FBI seizes retired general’s data related to Qatar lobbying,” By Alan Suderman and Jim Mustian, June 8, 2022; <https://apnews.com/article/politics-john-r-allen-qatar-middle-east-united-arab-emirates-5c30827587d2295012549d5d65fc806e>
² “Brookings puts president on leave amid reported federal probe,” By Jacob Knutson, June 8, 2022; <https://www.axios.com/2022/06/08/brookings-institution-john-allen-fbi>



negative stories about prominent Americans, including current and former U.S. government officials.

Just a few months after this successful and well-compensated lobbying campaign on behalf of Qatar, General Allen was appointed President of the Brookings Institution, one of the most prestigious and influential think tanks in the United States. Qatar has long been one of Brookings' biggest financial backers.

Although General Allen must face the consequences of his own actions, there is substantial evidence suggesting that his alleged assistance to Qatar is merely part of a much larger pattern of the Brookings Institution advancing Qatar's interests. During the previous administration, for example, Brookings Institution's Lawfare Blog relentlessly promoted false narratives about foreign influence in the U.S. Yet somehow, the Lawfare Blog conspicuously avoided any meaningful criticism of Qatar, despite a widely-held belief that the wealthy emirate engaged in "black" information operations targeting *Americans* whom it viewed as critics of Qatar or as supporters of Qatar's perceived enemies.

The Lawfare Blog even went so far as to attack a bipartisan bill that I helped co-author, the HACT Act, grossly mischaracterizing the legislation and falsely claiming that it would allow flimsy lawsuits against foreign states.³ Given that Qatar would likely face more legal liability than almost any other nation should the HACT Act become law, that Lawfare Blog article directly served Qatar's interests.

I am encouraged by the revelation of the FBI investigation into illegal Qatari lobbying operations, and I would urge the Department of Justice to investigate the degree to which the Brookings Institution was used to advance Qatar's interests in the U.S. Despite its outsized influence on U.S. policymakers, Qatar has long operated not only as a principal sponsor of terror worldwide, but as a corrupting influence on U.S. institutions across the board. The Qatari regime has established one of the best-funded foreign influence peddling operations in the nation's capital, and the tentacles of that operation extend from major media operations to educational institutions and think tanks.

Last year, I encouraged the Department of Justice to follow through on its own determination that "news network" Al Jazeera (whose parent company Al Jazeera International is solely owned by the Emirate of Qatar) must register as a foreign agent under the Foreign Agents Registration Act (FARA). For years, the network has faced allegations of propagandizing on behalf of Islamic terrorist groups like Hamas and providing a platform for the most virulent forms of anti-Semitism. As several Members of Congress wrote in our letter to the Department of Justice last year, "Al Jazeera's record of radical anti-American, anti-Semitic, and anti-Israel broadcasts warrants scrutiny from regulators to determine whether this network is in violation of U.S. law."

As you know, despite common misconceptions, there is no exemption from FARA registration for think tanks in the FARA statute. Today, it is the norm for think tanks to employ lobbyists,

³ "Private Lawsuits Against Nation-States Are Not the Way to Deal With America's Cyber Threats," By Chimène Keitner and Allison Peters, June 15, 2020: <https://www.lawfareblog.com/private-lawsuits-against-nation-states-are-not-way-deal-americas-cyber-threats>

pursue partisan politics, and even draft legislation. This shift in focus is critical when it comes to the question of foreign funding, because if the organization in question is, in effect, working as the agent of a foreign principal to advance another nation's interests, it should be subject to registration under FARA.

As a result of previous illicit Qatari lobbying activity, I sent another letter to DoJ requesting an investigation into possible FARA violations on the part of the Stimson Center (given their extensive Qatari funding). To date, I have received no acknowledgment of either letter.

The growing volume of lobbying work on behalf of the nation-state Qatar by third parties that are, in essence, Qatari-funded is perhaps the most extreme example of Americans simply outright ignoring FARA's requirements. Qatar, home to three terrorists released from Guantanamo that were part of the Taliban negotiating team in Doha, has become expert in this method of indirect lobbying.

FARA explicitly requires the registration of, and disclosures by, an "agent of a foreign principal" who, either directly or through another person, within the United States engages in "political activities" on behalf of a foreign principal, or represents the interests of the foreign principal before any agency or official of the U.S. government. With that context, it seems quite significant that in the months after the start of the Gulf blockade against Qatar in June 2017, the Brookings Institution time and again parroted Qatar's own talking points about the motives of the blockading countries and about what steps the U.S. should take. While General Allen may have influenced some of that, the Brookings Institution has been espousing policies and positions that benefit Qatar for many years. It is time that the Department of Justice starts to take egregious violations of FARA, including by think tanks funded by Qatar, with the seriousness that they deserve.

Thank you for your attention in this matter, and I look forward to hearing about how you intend to follow up.

Sincerely,



Jack Bergman
Member of Congress

cc: John C Demers, Assistant Attorney General, National Security Division

From: DOJ Correspondence (SMO) [Ex_DojCorrespondence@jmd.usdoj.gov]
Sent: Friday, August 14, 2020 2:14:32 PM
To: DOJExecSec (JMD)
CC: Tolson, Kimberly G (JMD)
Subject: FW: Al Jazeera FARA Letter to DOJ

Pls log & per OLA (Rubens) assign to NSD. OLA (Rubens) is POC. Thanks.

From: Rubens, William B. (OLA) <(b) (6)>
Sent: Friday, August 14, 2020 1:41 PM
To: DOJ Correspondence (SMO) <Ex_DojCorrespondence@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Cc: McKay, Shirley A (OLA) <(b) (6)>; Thorley, Charles A. (OLA) <(b) (6)>
Subject: FW: Al Jazeera FARA Letter to DOJ

Good Afternoon,

Please log this letter and assign to NSD and myself. Thank you.

From: Matar, Sara <(b) (6)>
Sent: Friday, August 14, 2020 9:03 AM
To: Rubens, William B. (OLA) <(b) (6)>
Subject: Al Jazeera FARA Letter to DOJ

Hello,

Please see attached for the a copy of a letter we sent by mail last week. I wanted to make sure you also had an electronic copy.

Thank you,

Sara Matar
Senior Legislative Assistant
Office of Congressman Lee Zeldin (NY-1)

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

August 7, 2020

The Honorable William P. Barr
Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20350
Dear Attorney General Barr,

Since 2017, many in Congress have engaged the Department of Justice (DOJ) regarding enforcement of the Foreign Agents Registration Act (FARA) on Qatari-owned media company Al Jazeera. This includes a letter sent last year requesting the Department explain what steps it had taken to determine whether Al Jazeera should register as a foreign agent. Recently, we have seen determinations by DOJ to require organizations to register such as Turkish Radio and Television Corporation (TRT) and Qatar-America Institute. We appreciate these actions that ensure FARA is rigorously enforced to protect U.S. national interests from the undue influence of foreign nations. In order to ensure this law is robustly enforced, we request that DOJ require Al Jazeera, the media network owned and funded by the state of Qatar, to register under FARA for the below reasons.

In August 2019, the Department determined that TRT meets the legal criteria of a foreign agent, and must register under FARA. The Department stated that the Turkish government “exercises direction and control of TRT by regulation and oversight, and by controlling its leadership, budget, and content,” and that TRT engaged in “political activities” for the purpose of influencing U.S. public opinion and government policy. Al Jazeera also engages in political activities and disseminates information in the United States that advance the interests of Qatar. Al Jazeera has long operated as a publicity agent of Emir Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani and the rest of the Qatari ruling family. Corporate documents filed in the United Kingdom show that Al Jazeera International (AJI) was controlled by the Emir of Qatar until 2018, after which the person of significant control was changed from the Emir of Qatar to Al Jazeera Media Network (AJMN). The board of AJMN is chaired by Sheikh Hamad bin Thamer Al Thani, a relative of the Emir, and includes other Qatari royal family members.

Congress has responded to foreign interference in American politics by strengthening U.S. laws governing foreign agents. In 2018, Congress passed Section 722 of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), which required that foreign-owned and controlled media file a report with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC).¹ Under Section 722, U.S.-based foreign media outlets must submit reports to the FCC about their relationship with their foreign principals, and the Commission must make these reports publicly available.² This was done largely to close loopholes that exempted many foreign media organizations from having to register under the more stringent standard in FARA.

As a media outlet funded and directed by a foreign sovereign, Al Jazeera is undeniably subject to this FCC registration requirement. Yet Al Jazeera has missed three consecutive FCC filing deadlines, in addition to openly defying FARA requirements, claiming without evidence that it is completely independent of the state.

A cursory scan of Al Jazeera's coverage will produce more than sufficient evidence to refute Al Jazeera's frequent claims of editorial independence. Mohammad Fahmy, who previously served as the Cairo bureau chief for Al Jazeera English, explicitly stated that Al Jazeera "coordinated and takes directions from the [Qatar] government," and acts, at least in part, as "a mouthpiece for Qatari intelligence."³ Indeed, Fahmy found himself imprisoned in Egypt's infamous Scorpion prison due to Al Jazeera's negligent and unethical practices, which included concealing from Fahmy that the network had lost its license to operate in Egypt just days before the network hired him.

Al Jazeera claims to promote democracy and free speech. But the network is functionally muzzled when it comes to coverage of domestic news and hardly ventures into coverage of Qatar itself, a dictatorship that turns a blind eye to terror finance while offering refuge to Hamas commanders.⁴ According to a new law issued by the Emir of Qatar in January 2020, Al Jazeera, along with all Qatari media, is forbidden from publishing any "false or biased rumors, statements, or news, or inflammatory propaganda, domestically or abroad, with the intent to harm national interests, stir up public opinion, or infringe on the social system or the public system of the state," with threat of imprisonment.⁵

¹ Sec. 722. Disclosure Requirements for United States-Based Foreign Media, 47 USC 624.

² "United States-Based Foreign Media Outlets," Federal Communications Commission.

(<https://www.fcc.gov/united-states-based-foreign-media-outlets>)

³ Seth Frantzman, "A weapon against its neighbors": former Al Jazeera bureau chief speaks out against network," The Jerusalem Post, August 23, 2017. (<https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/a-weapon-against-its-neighbors-former-al-jazeera-bureau-chief-speaks-out-against-network-503206>)

⁴ Varsha Koduvayur, "It's Time for Al Jazeera to Register Under Fara," Foundation for Defense of Democracies, March 31, 2020. (<https://www.fdd.org/analysis/2020/03/31/it-is-time-for-al-jazeera-to-register-under-fara/>)

⁵ "Qatar: Repressive new law further curbs freedom of expression," Amnesty International, January 20, 2020.

(<https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2020/01/qatar-repressive-new-law-further-curbs-freedom-of-expression/>)

These practices are indicative of a media network that is completely editorially controlled by its foreign sovereign. If the DOJ has found that TRT is subject to FARA registration due to the government of Turkey exercising “direction and control of TRT by regulation and oversight,” as well as “by controlling its leadership, budget, and content,” then the same is true of Al Jazeera. If engaging in “political activities” that sought to influence U.S. public opinion and government policy merited TRT’s registration, then Al Jazeera – with its clearly biased coverage and its attempts to prop up Qatar’s favored actors throughout the region – must also be held to that standard. Furthermore, on May 29, 2020, Qatar-America Institute (QAI), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, registered under FARA as an agent of Qatar after DOJ requested further information on the Institute’s political activity. This is another example of an organization owned and funded by Qatar that has been engaging in political activities in the United States to influence U.S. public opinion without registering under FARA.

At a minimum, Al Jazeera should be compelled to register with the FCC under Section 722 of the 2018 NDAA. The American people have a right to know where their information is coming from, particularly if it is from a foreign government. As such, we request the DOJ to immediately review and issue a determination letter requiring Al Jazeera to register under FARA. Additionally, to help us understand why this has not yet happened, we would request the answer to the following questions:

1. Why has the DOJ not issued a determination for Al Jazeera to register under FARA?
2. What analysis, information, or assessment has the DOJ undertaken thus far regarding a potential determination of Al Jazeera as a foreign agent?
3. If the DOJ has not considered any kind of determination relating to Al Jazeera, why has it not done so?
4. Regarding Section 722 registration, are there actions the DOJ can take to compel Al Jazeera to comply with the FCC registration requirement?
5. Is there any additional legislation from Congress that the DOJ believes is needed to ensure that it can enforce the law as it relates to Al Jazeera, and similarly situated media companies?

Thank you for your attention to this important issue. We look forward to your prompt response.



Lee Zeldin
U.S. Representative



Marco Rubio
U.S. Senator



Liz Cheney
U.S. Representative



Tom Cotton
U.S. Senator



Brian Mast
U.S. Representative



Ted Cruz
U.S. Senator



Steve Chabot
U.S. Representative



Peter King
U.S. Representative



Jack Bergman
U.S. Representative



Ann Wagner
U.S. Representative



U.S. Department of Justice
Office of Legislative Affairs

Office of the Assistant Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20530

October 30, 2020

Congressman Lee Zeldin
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Zeldin:

This responds to your letter to the Attorney General dated August 7, 2020, inquiring into any possible actions the Department of Justice (Department) has taken to investigate whether Al Jazeera should register as a foreign agent under the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938, as amended, 22 U.S.C. § 611 *et seq.* (FARA).

The Department appreciates your interest in FARA, and we assure you that FARA is an active, integral part of the Department's overall strategy to address threats to U.S. national security. For example, last year the Department doubled the number of new registrants and new foreign principals registering annually as of 2016. Moreover, this year a record number of individuals who work for registrants (known as "short-form registrants") have registered, increasing transparency concerning the individuals engaged in foreign influence activities. Additionally, in 2019 the Department successfully utilized its civil enforcement authority for the first time since 1991 to obtain a court order that required the registration of a U.S. agent of a Russian state-owned media enterprise.

Although we appreciate having the benefit of your views on this matter, long-standing policy and practice of the Department prevents us from discussing this information with you further or confirming the existence of any investigation. As such, please do not interpret this acknowledgment as a confirmation or a denial of an investigation of any of the matters described in your letter.

We hope this information is helpful. Please do not hesitate to contact this office if we may provide additional assistance regarding this or any other matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "S. Boyd", with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Stephen E. Boyd
Assistant Attorney General



U.S. Department of Justice
Office of Legislative Affairs

Office of the Assistant Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20530

October 30, 2020

Congressman Liz Cheney
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Cheney:

This responds to your letter to the Attorney General dated August 7, 2020, inquiring into any possible actions the Department of Justice (Department) has taken to investigate whether Al Jazeera should register as a foreign agent under the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938, as amended, 22 U.S.C. § 611 *et seq.* (FARA).

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Stephen E. Boyd
Assistant Attorney General



U.S. Department of Justice
Office of Legislative Affairs

Office of the Assistant Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20530

October 30, 2020

Congressman Brian Mast
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Mast:

This responds to your letter to the Attorney General dated August 7, 2020, inquiring into any possible actions the Department of Justice (Department) has taken to investigate whether Al Jazeera should register as a foreign agent under the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938, as amended, 22 U.S.C. § 611 *et seq.* (FARA).

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Stephen E. Boyd
Assistant Attorney General



U.S. Department of Justice
Office of Legislative Affairs

Office of the Assistant Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20530

October 30, 2020

Congressman Steve Chabot
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Chabot:

This responds to your letter to the Attorney General dated August 7, 2020, inquiring into any possible actions the Department of Justice (Department) has taken to investigate whether Al Jazeera should register as a foreign agent under the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938, as amended, 22 U.S.C. § 611 *et seq.* (FARA).

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Stephen E. Boyd
Assistant Attorney General



U.S. Department of Justice
Office of Legislative Affairs

Office of the Assistant Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20530

October 30, 2020

Congressman Peter King
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman King:

This responds to your letter to the Attorney General dated August 7, 2020, inquiring into any possible actions the Department of Justice (Department) has taken to investigate whether Al Jazeera should register as a foreign agent under the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938, as amended, 22 U.S.C. § 611 *et seq.* (FARA).

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Stephen E. Boyd
Assistant Attorney General



U.S. Department of Justice
Office of Legislative Affairs

Office of the Assistant Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20530

October 30, 2020

Congressman Jack Bergman
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Bergman:

This responds to your letter to the Attorney General dated August 7, 2020, inquiring into any possible actions the Department of Justice (Department) has taken to investigate whether Al Jazeera should register as a foreign agent under the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938, as amended, 22 U.S.C. § 611 *et seq.* (FARA).

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Stephen E. Boyd
Assistant Attorney General



U.S. Department of Justice
Office of Legislative Affairs

Office of the Assistant Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20530

October 30, 2020

Congressman Ann Wagner
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Wagner:

This responds to your letter to the Attorney General dated August 7, 2020, inquiring into any possible actions the Department of Justice (Department) has taken to investigate whether Al Jazeera should register as a foreign agent under the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938, as amended, 22 U.S.C. § 611 *et seq.* (FARA).

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Stephen E. Boyd
Assistant Attorney General



U.S. Department of Justice
Office of Legislative Affairs

Office of the Assistant Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20530

October 30, 2020

Congressman Marco Rubio
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Rubio:

This responds to your letter to the Attorney General dated August 7, 2020, inquiring into any possible actions the Department of Justice (Department) has taken to investigate whether Al Jazeera should register as a foreign agent under the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938, as amended, 22 U.S.C. § 611 *et seq.* (FARA).

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Stephen E. Boyd
Assistant Attorney General



U.S. Department of Justice
Office of Legislative Affairs

Office of the Assistant Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20530

October 30, 2020

Congressman Tom Cotton
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Cotton:

This responds to your letter to the Attorney General dated August 7, 2020, inquiring into any possible actions the Department of Justice (Department) has taken to investigate whether Al Jazeera should register as a foreign agent under the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938, as amended, 22 U.S.C. § 611 *et seq.* (FARA).

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Stephen E. Boyd
Assistant Attorney General



U.S. Department of Justice
Office of Legislative Affairs

Office of the Assistant Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20530

October 30, 2020

Congressman Ted Cruz
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Cruz:

This responds to your letter to the Attorney General dated August 7, 2020, inquiring into any possible actions the Department of Justice (Department) has taken to investigate whether Al Jazeera should register as a foreign agent under the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938, as amended, 22 U.S.C. § 611 *et seq.* (FARA).

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Stephen E. Boyd
Assistant Attorney General



U.S. Department of Justice

Office of Legislative Affairs

Office of the Assistant Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20530

OCT 30 2020

Congressman Lee Zeldin
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Congressman Zeldin:

This responds to your letter to the Attorney General dated August 7, 2020, inquiring into any possible actions the Department of Justice (Department) has taken to investigate whether Al Jazeera should register as a foreign agent under the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938, as amended, 22 U.S.C. § 611 *et seq.* (FARA).

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Sincerely,

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Stephen E. Boyd
Assistant Attorney General

From: DOJ Correspondence (SMO) [Ex_DOJCorrespondence@jmd.usdoj.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, June 19, 2019 9:36:20 AM
To: DOJExecSec (JMD)
CC: Tolson, Kimberly G (JMD); (b)(6) per NSD (NSD); (b)(6) per NSD (NSD)
Subject: FW: 2019-06-18 CEG et al to DOJ (Al Jazeera FARA) - TIME SENSITIVE

Pls log & per OLA (Rubens) assigned to NSD to draft resp for OLA sig. Pls expedite assignment. **Response is requested by 7/2/2019.**

From: Rubens, William B. (OLA) <(b) (6)>
Sent: Wednesday, June 19, 2019 9:15 AM
To: DOJ Correspondence (SMO) <Ex_DOJCorrespondence@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Cc: Lasseter, David F. (OLA) <(b) (6)>
Subject: FW: 2019-06-18 CEG et al to DOJ (Al Jazeera FARA)

Good Morning,

Please log and assign to NSD and me. Thanks

From: Flynn-Brown, Joshua (Finance) <(b) (6)>
Sent: Tuesday, June 18, 2019 6:01 PM
To: Lasseter, David F. (OLA) <(b) (6)>; Rubens, William B. (OLA) <(b) (6)>
Cc: CEG <(b) (6)>; Ragsdale, DeLisa (Finance) <(b) (6)>; McCollum, Kyle (Judiciary-Rep) <(b) (6)>; Linczer, Edward (Cotton) <(b) (6)>; Bergin, Don (Cornyn) <(b) (6)>; Helmers, Jessica (Young) <(b) (6)>; Roberts, Samantha (Rubio) <(b) (6)>; 'Morris, Brad' <(b) (6)>; 'Walecki, Jack' <(b) (6)>; 'Matar, Sara' <(b) (6)>; Ceren, Omri (Cruz) <(b) (6)>; Stone, Judd (Judiciary-Rep) <(b) (6)>; Leahy, Samantha (Cruz) <(b) (6)>; Noonan, John (Cotton) <(b) (6)>
Subject: 2019-06-18 CEG et al to DOJ (Al Jazeera FARA)

David and Will,

Please see the attached letter. Please confirm receipt and send all formal follow-up correspondence to the email addresses copied on this email. Thank you.

Very Respectfully,

Joshua Flynn-Brown
Deputy Chief Investigative Counsel
Chairman Charles E. Grassley
U.S. Senate Committee on Finance
(b) (6)

From: [DOJ Correspondence \(SMO\)](#)
To: [DOJExecSec \(JMD\)](#)
Cc: [EXECSEC Quality Control](#)
Subject: FW: Rep. Bergman letter to AG Garland
Date: Friday, June 24, 2022 1:34:16 PM
Attachments: [6.10.22 Letter to DOJ.pdf](#)

Please assign to OLA with info copy to NSD, thank you.

Best,

-
Soraya Haddad
Office of Legislative Affairs
U.S. Department of Justice

From: Jelnicky, Michelle <(b) (6)>
Sent: Friday, June 10, 2022 2:11 PM
To: DOJ Correspondence (SMO) <Ex_DOJCorrespondence@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Rep. Bergman letter to AG Garland

Please find the attached letter to Attorney General Garland from Congressman Bergman. Thank you!

Michelle Jelnicky
Deputy Chief of Staff/ Legislative Director
Representative Jack Bergman (MI-01)
566 Cannon HOB, Washington, D.C. 20515
Office: 202-225-4735

[Sign up for Rep. Bergman's e-newsletter today](#)



From: McKay, Shirley A (OLA) [(b) (6)]
Sent: Wednesday, March 7, 2018 10:08:33 AM
To: DOJExecSec (JMD)
CC: Tolson, Kimberly G (JMD)
Subject: FW: Gottheimer, Zeldin, Cruz, colleagues, letter to Attorney General Sessions re: FARA enforcement for Al Jazeera

Pls log the attached & per OLA (Lasseter) assign to NSD. Thanks.

From: DOJ Correspondence (SMO)
Sent: Wednesday, March 07, 2018 9:52 AM
To: Lasseter, David F. (OLA) <(b) (6)>; Johnson, Joanne E. (OLA) <(b) (6)>
Cc: Hankey, Mary Blanche (OLA) <(b) (6)>
Subject: FW: Gottheimer, Zeldin, Cruz, colleagues, letter to Attorney General Sessions re: FARA enforcement for Al Jazeera

Good morning

Pls provide assignment guidance. Thanks.

From: Marrow, Daniel [(b) (6)]
Sent: Tuesday, March 06, 2018 4:20 PM
To: DOJ Correspondence (SMO) <Ex_DOJCorrespondence@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Cc: Matar, Sara <(b) (6)>
Subject: Gottheimer, Zeldin, Cruz, colleagues, letter to Attorney General Sessions re: FARA enforcement for Al Jazeera

Good afternoon,

Attached please find a pdf scanned copy of the 3.6.18 letter from Reps. Gottheimer and Zeldin, Senator Cruz, and colleagues addressed to Attorney General Sessions regarding FARA enforcement with respect to Al Jazeera. Thank you in advance for your prompt reply.

Sincerely,

Daniel Marrow
Legislative Assistant
Rep. Josh Gottheimer (NJ-05)
(202) 225-4465

From: [Lasseter, David F. \(OLA\)](#)
To: [DOJ Correspondence \(SMO\)](#); [Johnson, Joanne E. \(OLA\)](#)
Cc: [Hankey, Mary Blanche \(OLA\)](#)
Subject: RE: Gottheimer, Zeldin, Cruz, colleagues, letter to Attorney General Sessions re: FARA enforcement for Al Jazeera
Date: Wednesday, March 7, 2018 10:03:52 AM

NSD please

From: DOJ Correspondence (SMO)
Sent: Wednesday, March 7, 2018 9:52 AM
To: Lasseter, David F. (OLA) <(b) (6)>; Johnson, Joanne E. (OLA) <(b) (6)>
Cc: Hankey, Mary Blanche (OLA) <(b) (6)>
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From: Marrow, Daniel <(b) (6)>
Sent: Tuesday, March 06, 2018 4:20 PM
To: DOJ Correspondence (SMO) <Ex_DOJCorrespondence@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Cc: Matar, Sara <(b) (6)>
Subject: Gottheimer, Zeldin, Cruz, colleagues, letter to Attorney General Sessions re: FARA enforcement for Al Jazeera

Good afternoon,

Attached please find a pdf scanned copy of the 3.6.18 letter from Reps. Gottheimer and Zeldin, Senator Cruz, and colleagues addressed to Attorney General Sessions regarding FARA enforcement with respect to Al Jazeera. Thank you in advance for your prompt reply.

Sincerely,

Daniel Marrow
Legislative Assistant
Rep. Josh Gottheimer (NJ-05)
(202) 225-4465

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 6, 2018

The Honorable Jeff Sessions
Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20530-0001

Dear Attorney General Sessions:

We write regarding the Department of Justice's (DOJ) enforcement of the Foreign Agents Registration Act (FARA).

On August 17, 2017, the DOJ National Security Division determined that RTTV America, a state-sponsored media organization funded by the Russian government, is obligated to register under the FARA. While we welcome this determination, Congress needs clarification as to whether additional foreign principals should also be required to register under FARA, including Qatar's Al Jazeera, which the U.S. State Department has indicated is state-controlled.

Founded by state charter in 1996 and headquartered in Doha, the Al Jazeera Media Network maintains an estimated global reach of 310 million people in more than 160 countries, and a presence in U.S. cities including Washington, New York, Chicago, Miami, and Los Angeles. Its broadcasts are easily accessible, including via social media, and, as stated by the U.S. Ambassador to Qatar in 2009, Al Jazeera is "one of Qatar's most valuable political and diplomatic tools" and was "used as a chip" to shape Qatar's relations with other governments.

We find it troubling that the content produced by this network often directly undermines American interests with favorable coverage of U.S. State Department-designated Foreign Terrorist Organizations, including Hamas, Hezbollah, Palestinian Islamic Jihad, and Jabhat al-Nusra, al-Qaeda's branch in Syria. Furthermore, Al Jazeera's record of radical anti-American, anti-Semitic, and anti-Israel broadcasts warrants scrutiny from regulators to determine whether this network is in violation of U.S. law. Such an investigation should cover the full range of activities undertaken by Al Jazeera in the United States, including reports that it infiltrated American 501(c)(3) and (c)(4) nonprofit organizations.

As highlighted by your Department, "the purpose of FARA is to inform the American public of the activities of agents working for foreign principals to influence U.S. Government officials or the American public with reference to the domestic or foreign policies of the United States, or with reference to the political or public interests, policies, or relations of a foreign country or a foreign political party."

We urge you and the Department to ensure that this law is rigorously enforced and applied fairly and uniformly to protect U.S. national interests from the undue influence of foreign nations. As such, we respectfully request that you provide our offices with detailed information about the DOJ's investigative process, and whether additional entities, including Al Jazeera,

meet the legal definition of "foreign principal" and if so, whether its subsidiaries should be required to register as "foreign agents" under FARA.

American citizens deserve to know whether the information and news media they consume is impartial, or if it is deceptive propaganda pushed by foreign nations.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue. We look forward to your prompt response.

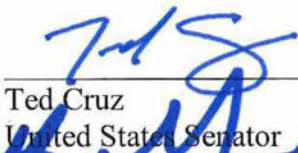
Sincerely,



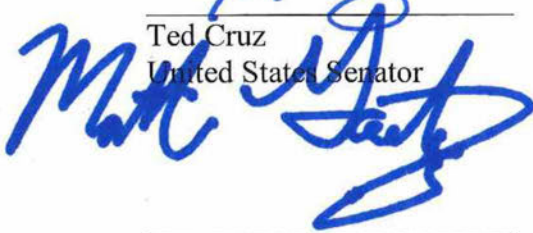
Josh Gottheimer
Member of Congress



Lee Zeldin
Member of Congress



Ted Cruz
United States Senator



Matt Gaetz
Member of Congress



Ron DeSantis
Member of Congress



Louie Gohmert
Member of Congress



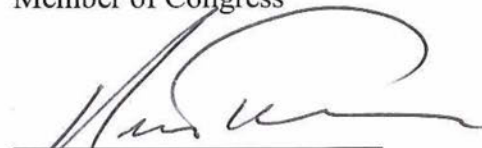
Vicente Gonzalez
Member of Congress



Darrell Issa
Member of Congress




Mike Johnson
Member of Congress



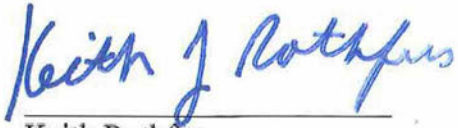
Peter King
Member of Congress



Ted Poe
Member of Congress



Tom Reed
Member of Congress



Keith Rothfus
Member of Congress



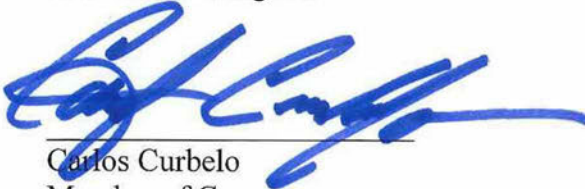
David Rouzer
Member of Congress



Steve Stivers
Member of Congress



Tom Suozzi
Member of Congress



Carlos Curbelo
Member of Congress



Steve Chabot
Member of Congress



John Ratcliffe
Member of Congress



U.S. Department of Justice

Office of Legislative Affairs

Office of the Assistant Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20530

JUN 19 2018

The Honorable Josh Gottheimer
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Gottheimer:

This responds to your letter to Attorney General dated March 6, 2018, regarding the applicability of the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938, as amended, 22 U.S.C. § 611 *et seq.* ("FARA" or "the Act") to the activities in the United States of Qatar's Al Jazeera network. The Department of Justice (Department) appreciates your interest in FARA, and we assure you that FARA is an active, integral part of the Department's overall strategy to address threats to U.S. national security. We are sending identical responses to Senator Cruz and the other Members who joined your letter.

By way of background, personnel in the Department's FARA Unit regularly review public reporting to help identify potential foreign agents. When questions regarding a possible obligation to register come to the attention of the FARA Unit, through public reporting or otherwise, a letter of inquiry is sent to the appropriate individual or entity. Through these letters of inquiry, the FARA Unit notifies the parties of the potential registration obligation, seeks additional information, and, based on any response, subsequently makes a determination as to whether a registration obligation exists. These letters of inquiry are considered investigative activity, and consequently, consistent with longstanding Department practice, unless and until the recipient of the letter registers under the Act, we neither confirm nor deny whether the Department sent letters of inquiry. Thus, we cannot not confirm or deny what investigative steps, if any, the Department has taken with respect to any state-controlled media organizations, Qatari or otherwise, that are not currently registered under FARA.

We hope this information is helpful. Please do not hesitate to contact this office if we may provide additional assistance regarding this or any other matter.

Sincerely,

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Stephen E. Boyd
Assistant Attorney General



U.S. Department of Justice

Office of Legislative Affairs

Office of the Assistant Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20530

JUN 19 2018

The Honorable Lee Zeldin
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Zeldin:

This responds to your letter to Attorney General dated March 6, 2018, regarding the applicability of the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938, as amended, 22 U.S.C. § 611 *et seq.* ("FARA" or "the Act") to the activities in the United States of Qatar's Al Jazeera network. The Department of Justice (Department) appreciates your interest in FARA, and we assure you that FARA is an active, integral part of the Department's overall strategy to address threats to U.S. national security. We are sending identical responses to Senator Cruz and the other Members who joined your letter.

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Sincerely,

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Stephen E. Boyd
Assistant Attorney General



U.S. Department of Justice

Office of Legislative Affairs

Office of the Assistant Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20530

JUN 19 2018

The Honorable Ted Cruz
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Cruz:

This responds to your letter to Attorney General dated March 6, 2018, regarding the applicability of the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938, as amended, 22 U.S.C. § 611 *et seq.* ("FARA" or "the Act") to the activities in the United States of Qatar's Al Jazeera network. The Department of Justice (Department) appreciates your interest in FARA, and we assure you that FARA is an active, integral part of the Department's overall strategy to address threats to U.S. national security. We are sending identical responses to the Members who joined your letter.

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Stephen E. Boyd
Assistant Attorney General



U.S. Department of Justice

Office of Legislative Affairs

Office of the Assistant Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20530

JUN 19 2018

The Honorable Ron DeSantis
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman DeSantis:

This responds to your letter to Attorney General dated March 6, 2018, regarding the applicability of the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938, as amended, 22 U.S.C. § 611 *et seq.* ("FARA" or "the Act") to the activities in the United States of Qatar's Al Jazeera network. The Department of Justice (Department) appreciates your interest in FARA, and we assure you that FARA is an active, integral part of the Department's overall strategy to address threats to U.S. national security. We are sending identical responses to Senator Cruz and the other Members who joined your letter.

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Stephen E. Boyd
Assistant Attorney General



U.S. Department of Justice

Office of Legislative Affairs

Office of the Assistant Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20530

JUN 19 2018

The Honorable Matty Gaetz
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Gaetz:

This responds to your letter to Attorney General dated March 6, 2018, regarding the applicability of the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938, as amended, 22 U.S.C. § 611 *et seq.* ("FARA" or "the Act") to the activities in the United States of Qatar's Al Jazeera network. The Department of Justice (Department) appreciates your interest in FARA, and we assure you that FARA is an active, integral part of the Department's overall strategy to address threats to U.S. national security. We are sending identical responses to Senator Cruz and the other Members who joined your letter.

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Stephen E. Boyd
Assistant Attorney General



U.S. Department of Justice

Office of Legislative Affairs

Office of the Assistant Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20530

JUN 19 2018

The Honorable Louie Gohmert
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Gohmert:

This responds to your letter to Attorney General dated March 6, 2018, regarding the applicability of the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938, as amended, 22 U.S.C. § 611 *et seq.* ("FARA" or "the Act") to the activities in the United States of Qatar's Al Jazeera network. The Department of Justice (Department) appreciates your interest in FARA, and we assure you that FARA is an active, integral part of the Department's overall strategy to address threats to U.S. national security. We are sending identical responses to Senator Cruz and the other Members who joined your letter.

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Stephen E. Boyd
Assistant Attorney General



U.S. Department of Justice

Office of Legislative Affairs

Office of the Assistant Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20530

JUN 19 2018

The Honorable Vicente Gonzalez
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Gonzalez:

This responds to your letter to Attorney General dated March 6, 2018, regarding the applicability of the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938, as amended, 22 U.S.C. § 611 *et seq.* ("FARA" or "the Act") to the activities in the United States of Qatar's Al Jazeera network. The Department of Justice (Department) appreciates your interest in FARA, and we assure you that FARA is an active, integral part of the Department's overall strategy to address threats to U.S. national security. We are sending identical responses to Senator Cruz and the other Members who joined your letter.

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Stephen E. Boyd
Assistant Attorney General



U.S. Department of Justice

Office of Legislative Affairs

Office of the Assistant Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20530

JUN 19 2018

The Honorable Darrell Issa
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Issa:

This responds to your letter to Attorney General dated March 6, 2018, regarding the applicability of the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938, as amended, 22 U.S.C. § 611 *et seq.* ("FARA" or "the Act") to the activities in the United States of Qatar's Al Jazeera network. The Department of Justice (Department) appreciates your interest in FARA, and we assure you that FARA is an active, integral part of the Department's overall strategy to address threats to U.S. national security. We are sending identical responses to Senator Cruz and the other Members who joined your letter.

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Stephen E. Boyd
Assistant Attorney General



U.S. Department of Justice
Office of Legislative Affairs

Office of the Assistant Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20530

JUN 19 2018

The Honorable Mike Johnson
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Johnson:

This responds to your letter to Attorney General dated March 6, 2018, regarding the applicability of the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938, as amended, 22 U.S.C. § 611 *et seq.* ("FARA" or "the Act") to the activities in the United States of Qatar's Al Jazeera network. The Department of Justice (Department) appreciates your interest in FARA, and we assure you that FARA is an active, integral part of the Department's overall strategy to address threats to U.S. national security. We are sending identical responses to Senator Cruz and the other Members who joined your letter.

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Stephen E. Boyd
Assistant Attorney General



U.S. Department of Justice

Office of Legislative Affairs

Office of the Assistant Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20530

JUN 19 2018

The Honorable Peter King
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman King:

This responds to your letter to Attorney General dated March 6, 2018, regarding the applicability of the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938, as amended, 22 U.S.C. § 611 *et seq.* ("FARA" or "the Act") to the activities in the United States of Qatar's Al Jazeera network. The Department of Justice (Department) appreciates your interest in FARA, and we assure you that FARA is an active, integral part of the Department's overall strategy to address threats to U.S. national security. We are sending identical responses to Senator Cruz and the other Members who joined your letter.

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Stephen E. Boyd
Assistant Attorney General



U.S. Department of Justice

Office of Legislative Affairs

Office of the Assistant Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20530

JUN 19 2018

The Honorable Ted Poe
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Poe:

This responds to your letter to Attorney General dated March 6, 2018, regarding the applicability of the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938, as amended, 22 U.S.C. § 611 *et seq.* ("FARA" or "the Act") to the activities in the United States of Qatar's Al Jazeera network. The Department of Justice (Department) appreciates your interest in FARA, and we assure you that FARA is an active, integral part of the Department's overall strategy to address threats to U.S. national security. We are sending identical responses to Senator Cruz and the other Members who joined your letter.

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Stephen E. Boyd
Assistant Attorney General



U.S. Department of Justice
Office of Legislative Affairs

Office of the Assistant Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20530

JUN 19 2018

The Honorable Tom Reed
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Reed:

This responds to your letter to Attorney General dated March 6, 2018, regarding the applicability of the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938, as amended, 22 U.S.C. § 611 *et seq.* ("FARA" or "the Act") to the activities in the United States of Qatar's Al Jazeera network. The Department of Justice (Department) appreciates your interest in FARA, and we assure you that FARA is an active, integral part of the Department's overall strategy to address threats to U.S. national security. We are sending identical responses to Senator Cruz and the other Members who joined your letter.

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Stephen E. Boyd
Assistant Attorney General



U.S. Department of Justice

Office of Legislative Affairs

Office of the Assistant Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20530

JUN 19 2018

The Honorable Keith Rothfus
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Rothfus:

This responds to your letter to Attorney General dated March 6, 2018, regarding the applicability of the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938, as amended, 22 U.S.C. § 611 *et seq.* ("FARA" or "the Act") to the activities in the United States of Qatar's Al Jazeera network. The Department of Justice (Department) appreciates your interest in FARA, and we assure you that FARA is an active, integral part of the Department's overall strategy to address threats to U.S. national security. We are sending identical responses to Senator Cruz and the other Members who joined your letter.

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Stephen E. Boyd
Assistant Attorney General



U.S. Department of Justice

Office of Legislative Affairs

Office of the Assistant Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20530

JUN 19 2018

The Honorable David Rouzer
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Rouzer:

This responds to your letter to Attorney General dated March 6, 2018, regarding the applicability of the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938, as amended, 22 U.S.C. § 611 *et seq.* ("FARA" or "the Act") to the activities in the United States of Qatar's Al Jazeera network. The Department of Justice (Department) appreciates your interest in FARA, and we assure you that FARA is an active, integral part of the Department's overall strategy to address threats to U.S. national security. We are sending identical responses to Senator Cruz and the other Members who joined your letter.

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Stephen E. Boyd
Assistant Attorney General



U.S. Department of Justice
Office of Legislative Affairs

Office of the Assistant Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20530

JUN 19 2018

The Honorable Steve Stivers
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Stivers:

This responds to your letter to Attorney General dated March 6, 2018, regarding the applicability of the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938, as amended, 22 U.S.C. § 611 *et seq.* ("FARA" or "the Act") to the activities in the United States of Qatar's Al Jazeera network. The Department of Justice (Department) appreciates your interest in FARA, and we assure you that FARA is an active, integral part of the Department's overall strategy to address threats to U.S. national security. We are sending identical responses to Senator Cruz and the other Members who joined your letter.

By way of background, personnel in the Department's FARA Unit regularly review public reporting to help identify potential foreign agents. When questions regarding a possible obligation to register come to the attention of the FARA Unit, through public reporting or otherwise, a letter of inquiry is sent to the appropriate individual or entity. Through these letters of inquiry, the FARA Unit notifies the parties of the potential registration obligation, seeks additional information, and, based on any response, subsequently makes a determination as to whether a registration obligation exists. These letters of inquiry are considered investigative activity, and consequently, consistent with longstanding Department practice, unless and until the recipient of the letter registers under the Act, we neither confirm nor deny whether the Department sent letters of inquiry. Thus, we cannot not confirm or deny what investigative steps, if any, the Department has taken with respect to any state-controlled media organizations, Qatari or otherwise, that are not currently registered under FARA.

We hope this information is helpful. Please do not hesitate to contact this office if we may provide additional assistance regarding this or any other matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "S. Boyd", written over the word "Sincerely,".

Stephen E. Boyd
Assistant Attorney General



U.S. Department of Justice
Office of Legislative Affairs

Office of the Assistant Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20530

JUN 19 2018

The Honorable Tom Suozzi
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Suozzi:

This responds to your letter to Attorney General dated March 6, 2018, regarding the applicability of the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938, as amended, 22 U.S.C. § 611 *et seq.* ("FARA" or "the Act") to the activities in the United States of Qatar's Al Jazeera network. The Department of Justice (Department) appreciates your interest in FARA, and we assure you that FARA is an active, integral part of the Department's overall strategy to address threats to U.S. national security. We are sending identical responses to Senator Cruz and the other Members who joined your letter.

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Stephen E. Boyd
Assistant Attorney General



U.S. Department of Justice

Office of Legislative Affairs

Office of the Assistant Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20530

JUN 19 2018

The Honorable Carlos Curbelo
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Curbelo:

This responds to your letter to Attorney General dated March 6, 2018, regarding the applicability of the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938, as amended, 22 U.S.C. § 611 *et seq.* ("FARA" or "the Act") to the activities in the United States of Qatar's Al Jazeera network. The Department of Justice (Department) appreciates your interest in FARA, and we assure you that FARA is an active, integral part of the Department's overall strategy to address threats to U.S. national security. We are sending identical responses to Senator Cruz and the other Members who joined your letter.

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Stephen E. Boyd
Assistant Attorney General



U.S. Department of Justice

Office of Legislative Affairs

Office of the Assistant Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20530

JUN 19 2018

The Honorable Steve Chabot
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Chabot:

This responds to your letter to Attorney General dated March 6, 2018, regarding the applicability of the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938, as amended, 22 U.S.C. § 611 *et seq.* ("FARA" or "the Act") to the activities in the United States of Qatar's Al Jazeera network. The Department of Justice (Department) appreciates your interest in FARA, and we assure you that FARA is an active, integral part of the Department's overall strategy to address threats to U.S. national security. We are sending identical responses to Senator Cruz and the other Members who joined your letter.

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Stephen E. Boyd
Assistant Attorney General



U.S. Department of Justice

Office of Legislative Affairs

Office of the Assistant Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20530

JUN 19 2018

The Honorable John Ratcliffe
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Ratcliffe:

This responds to your letter to Attorney General dated March 6, 2018, regarding the applicability of the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938, as amended, 22 U.S.C. § 611 *et seq.* ("FARA" or "the Act") to the activities in the United States of Qatar's Al Jazeera network. The Department of Justice (Department) appreciates your interest in FARA, and we assure you that FARA is an active, integral part of the Department's overall strategy to address threats to U.S. national security. We are sending identical responses to Senator Cruz and the other Members who joined your letter.

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Stephen E. Boyd
Assistant Attorney General

