

Ep. 29: Qatar, Hamas & the Muslim Brotherhood: Inside Doha's Influence Machine

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In this episode of Misgav Mideast Horizons, hosts Asher Fredman and Lahav Harkov sit down with Dr. Ariel Admoni - one of Israel's leading experts on Qatar - for a deep dive into the most controversial actor in the Middle East today.

Is Qatar merely a mediator between warring sides - or something far more strategic and dangerous?

Dr. Admoni, a Senior Fellow at the Jerusalem Institute for Strategy and Security, explains Qatar's decades-long relationship with the Muslim Brotherhood, its hosting and financing of Hamas leadership, and how Doha has positioned itself as the "default" intermediary for the United States - from Gaza to the Taliban to the Houthis. We examine whether Qatar's role reflects good-faith mediation or a sophisticated strategy to legitimize terror actors while expanding its global influence.

The conversation explores:

- Qatar's ideological and financial ties to the Muslim Brotherhood
- Whether Al Jazeera functions as an independent media outlet or a Qatari state instrument
- How Qatar leverages education, universities, aid, and media to shape Western discourse
- Qatar's influence operations in Washington and Europe
- The controversy surrounding "Qatargate" in Israel
- Whether Qatar could ever join the Abraham Accords
- The strategic risks of Qatari involvement in post-war Gaza

Dr. Admoni argues that Qatar's power lies not in overt confrontation, but in subtle, long-term influence - shaping academic narratives, political incentives, and media ecosystems across the West.

In the opening segment, Asher and Lahav analyze the latest developments regarding Iran and the possibility of renewed U.S.-Iran negotiations, Israel's strategic timeline vis-à-vis Iranian missile and air defense rebuilding, Israel's surprising economic resilience in 2025, and the debate over how democracies should combat rising antisemitism.

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