

Follow the Money: Qatar Outspends Everyone in Washington

The Lie:

- Israel “controls Washington” through AIPAC (the American Israel Public Affairs Committee) and outsized Jewish influence.

The Truth:

- AIPAC is funded entirely by American citizens, while Qatar, a foreign state sponsor of Hamas, has constructed the most extensive influence network in Washington to protect Islamist movements and shape U.S. policy from the outside.

Background:

- Qatar has invested nearly **\$100 billion** into U.S. lobbying, academia, media, real estate, and elite political networks — all while financing Hamas and hosting Hamas leadership in Doha.
- Israel’s advocacy is **minimal, transparent, and American-funded**, focused on shared security needs and defensive cooperation with the United States.

Truth Explained:

- **Qatar’s is Hamas’s primary financier and the Muslim Brotherhood’s most powerful state sponsor.** Doha has funneled **~\$1.8B** into Hamas-run Gaza, sheltered senior Hamas leaders in five-star hotels, and elevated their messages worldwide through Al Jazeera. This is not neutrality — it is a deliberate political project to preserve Islamist power in the region. [FDD](#)
- **To shield this network, Qatar constructed the most expansive foreign influence operation in Washington.** It hired **31 FARA-registered lobbying and PR firms** — with an unprecedented **71% based in Washington, D.C.** — giving Doha direct access to the policymakers, journalists, and institutions that shape American policy. [Quincy Institute](#)
- **Qatar then saturated the U.S. political system with money and face time.** Since 2016, it has poured nearly **\$250M** into lobbying and public relations, employing dozens of former members of Congress and high-profile political operatives. Its agents logged **627 in-person meetings** with U.S. officials between 2021–25 — more than any other foreign country, by a wide margin. This is foreign influence at industrial scale. [Quincy Institute](#)
- **Qatar’s influence extends deep into America’s cultural and educational infrastructure.** As the **largest foreign donor to U.S. universities** — contributing **\$6.3B**, with **\$1B to Georgetown University alone** — Qatar has shaped academic narratives on the Middle East, Islamism, and Israel from inside the country’s most prestigious institutions. This is long-term ideological engineering, not standard diplomacy. [Fisch Files](#), [The Free Press](#)
- **Qatar also commands disproportionate media access and narrative power.** Al Jazeera and its subsidiaries hold **136 congressional press credentials** — far more than major U.S. outlets — allowing Qatar to shape political journalism from inside Capitol Hill. At the same time, Qatari foreign agents have aggressively courted right-wing media, paying six-figure monthly retainers, placing stories, and even investing **\$50M** into Newsmax to soften coverage. [GIOR](#), [Fisch Files](#)
- **Meanwhile, AIPAC is not a foreign lobby — it is 100% American.** Every dollar comes from U.S. citizens. Its board is American. It takes no instruction from Israel. Its advocacy reflects American public opinion — which has consistently been strongly pro-Israel for decades. [AIPAC](#)
- **Israel’s lobbying is transparent, modest, and focused entirely on shared security.** In 2023, Israel spent just **\$3.1M** advocating for lifesaving defense systems like Iron Dome — a fraction of Qatar’s vast, multi-front influence machine. [OpenSecrets](#)

Quotes

- “Qatar fooled Trump, played Israel, manipulated the Arabs, and ensured Hamas would remain the only force ruling Gaza.” — Ahmed Fouad Alkhatib
- “Qatar’s influence dwarfing everyone — Israel doesn’t even come close.” — Eitan Fischberger
- “Qatar has enabled Hamas politically and financially for decades.” — Foundation for Defense of Democracies

Takeaway:

The claim that “Israel controls Washington” is a political myth — the evidence shows that Qatar is the true foreign influence superpower, using its billions to shield Hamas, shape U.S. elites, and dominate the narrative.