

Dear Secretary Kerry and Secretary Carter:

The escalating brutality of ISIL, illustrated most recently by the grotesque immolation of Jordanian Lieutenant Muath al-Kasasbeh, reinforces our belief in the pressing need to strengthen the Coalition and support our partners in the fight against ISIL.

Recognizing the need for the United States' regional partners to play a leading role in the Coalition effort, Bahrain has demonstrated its commitment since the beginning by participating in the first wave of airstrikes in northern Syria against ISIL targets. In November last year, Bahrain hosted a high-level meeting to support the effort to counter the financing of terrorism, a key component in the strategy to defeat violent extremism. The Bahraini leadership has expressed to us their country's desire to play an even greater role in Operation Inherent Resolve in Syria. We understand that His Majesty King Hamad of Bahrain met with His Majesty King Abdullah of Jordan in Amman on February 9, 2015 to pledge additional military support for Jordan's efforts against ISIL. On February 15, 2015, Bahrain announced that it is deploying air force and artillery units to Jordan in support of the Coalition.

As the pace of the fight against ISIL picks up and the nuclear talks with Iran proceed, it is critical that we demonstrate unity and cohesiveness among our Coalition partners. We believe that lifting the holds placed on the sale of certain military items to Bahrain would send a strong message of support to our allies in the region. We urge the administration to lift the holds placed on items that do not require congressional notification immediately, and to begin to work promptly to resolve those that do.

Bahrain is a major non-NATO ally and a strategic partner of the United States. It also hosts the US Fifth Fleet. We urge you to follow up on this request in an expeditious manner.