

No. 0419

The Embassy of the United States of America presents its compliments to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Federation of St. Christopher and Nevis, and has the honor to inform you that on May 16, 2017, the United States designated five individuals and five entities pursuant to multiple Executive Orders (E.O.), namely E.O. 13382 ("Blocking Property of Weapons of Mass Destruction Proliferators and Their Supporters"), E.O. 13572 ("Blocking Property of Certain Persons with Respect to Human Rights Abuses in Syria"), and E.O. 13582 ("Blocking Property of the Government of Syria and Prohibiting Certain Transactions with Respect to Syria").

As a result of these actions, all assets of these individuals and entities that are under jurisdiction of the United States or in the control of U.S. persons must be frozen, and U.S. persons are generally prohibited from engaging in transactions with them.

In addition, persons in your jurisdiction who provide material support to these and other designated individuals could themselves become subject to designation. We recommend that you convey this to any persons in your jurisdiction who transact with designated persons.

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This action follows the recent action the United States took on April 24th to sanction 271 employees of the Syrian Scientific Studies and Research Center (SSRC) in response to the barbaric April 4 Sarin attack on innocent civilians by the Assad regime.

Ending the conflict in Syria is a top priority for the United States. We remain committed to holding the Assad regime accountable for its continued and blatant violation of international law. Our policy is to de-escalate the violence, ensure unhindered humanitarian access, and find a path forward to a political settlement. Lasting peace in Syria means a Syria without Bashar al-Assad, where the rights of all Syrians are protected. The United States believes in the importance of ensuring accountability for the Assad regime's atrocities.

The Embassy of the United States of America avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Federation of St. Christopher and Nevis the assurances of its highest consideration.

Enclosed: Information Regarding the Designations.

Embassy of the United States of America,  
Bridgetown, May 19, 2017.



## Information Regarding the Designations

The Department of Treasury, Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) designated 1 individual, Muhammed Quwaydir, and 1 entity, Syrian Company for Information Technology (SCIT), pursuant to E.O. 13382 ("Blocking Property of Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) Proliferators and Their Supporters"). Muhammed Quwaydir was designated for acting on or behalf of the SSRC. SCIT was designated for being owned or controlled by the Organization for Technological Industries, a US-designated entity, whose property and interests in property are blocked pursuant to E.O. 13382. Identifier information on the individual and entity are as follows:

Name: Muhammed Bin-Muhammed Faris Quwaydir  
AKA: Muhammad Kweider  
AKA: Muhammad Quaydir  
AKA: Muhammad Kweiter  
AKA: Samir Qassar  
DOB: July 21, 1967  
Location: Damascus, Syria  
Title: SSRC Contracts Director  
Alt Title: SSRC Director of Contracts and Purchasing  
Passport: 004123298  
Gender: Male

Name: Syrian Company for Information Technology  
AKA: SCIT  
Address: P.O. Box 11037, Damascus, Syria

OFAC also designated 3 individuals, Muhammad Hasan Abbas, Samir Darwish, and Ihab Makhluaf, and 3 entities, Barly Group, Al-Ajniyah, and Al-Bustan Charity, pursuant to E.O. 13572 ("Blocking Property of Certain Persons with Respect to Human Rights Abuses in Syria"), which blocks property of certain persons with respect to human rights abuses in Syria, their supporters, and supporters of senior officials or certain activities related to public corruption. Information regarding these individuals and entities, including their identifiers, are below.

Mohammad Hassan Abbas is the maternal cousin of Rami Makhluaf. Abbas has acted for or on behalf of Rami Makhluaf and materially assisted, sponsored, or provided financial, material, or technological support for, or goods or services in

support of MakhluF by carrying out financial interests for MakhluF. Samir Darwish is the Director of Al-Bustan Charity and was designated for acting for or on behalf of the charity. Ihab MakhluF has materially assisted, sponsored, or provided financial, material, or technological support for, or goods or services in support of and acted or purported to act for or on behalf of, directly or indirectly, Rami MakhluF. Ihab MakhluF is the brother of Rami MakhluF and a cousin of Syrian President Bashar al-Asad.

Barly Off-Shore is a front company that is owned or controlled by Muhammad Abbas and is used to move Rami MakhluF's financial earnings out of Syria. Al-Ajniyah is owned or controlled by Muhammad Abbas and is used to move Rami MakhluF's financial earnings out of Syria. Al-Bustan is owned or controlled by Rami MakhluF, who has created a vast private network of militias and security-linked institutions through Al-Bustan. Al-Bustan is a prominent organization recruiting and mobilizing individuals to support and augment Syrian military forces.

Name: Muhammad Abbas  
AKA: Mohammad Hassan Abbas  
AKA: Mohammad Hasan Abbas  
DOB: 1 September 1964  
Place of Birth: Al Ladhiqiyyah  
Gender: Male  
Location: Damascus, Syria

Name: Samir Sakhr Darwish  
DOB: 1971  
DOB: 1970  
DOB: 1972  
Title: Head of Al-Bustan Charity  
Location: Mezzah, Damascus, Syria

Name: Ihab MakhluF  
AKA: Ihab MakhluF  
AKA: Ehab MakhluF  
AKA: Iehab MakhluF  
DOB: January 21, 1973  
Location: Damascus, Syria  
Passport: N002848852  
Gender: Male

Name: Barly Off-Shore  
AKA: Barly Off-Shore S.A.L.  
Location: Lebanon

Name: al-Ajniyah  
AKA: Ajneha  
AKA: al-Ajniyah Private Joint Stock Corporation  
AKA: Al-Agneha Company  
Location: Damascus, Syria

Name: Al-Bustan Charity  
AKA: Jamiat Al-Bustan al-Khayriyah Charity  
AKA: Al-Bustan  
Charity Association  
AKA: Al-Bustan Charity Foundation  
AKA: Al-Bustan Charity Society  
AKA: Al-Bustan Organization  
AKA: Al-Bustan Association  
AKA: Al Jamaiah al Bustan  
Location: Mazza, Damascus, Syria

Finally, OFAC designated 1 entity, Cham Islamic Bank, and 1 individual, Iyad Makhluf, pursuant to E.O. 13582 ("Blocking Property of the Government of Syria and Prohibiting Certain Transactions with Respect to Syria"), which targets the Government of Syria and its supporters. Cham Islamic Bank acted or purportedly acted for or on behalf of, directly or indirectly, and materially assisted, sponsored, or provided financial, material, or technological support for, or goods or services in support of the Government of Syria. Iyad Makhluf has materially assisted, sponsored, or provided financial, material, or technological support for, or goods or services in support of the Government of Syria. Iyad Makhluf is the brother of Rami Makhluf and a cousin of Syrian President Bashar al-Asad. He has helped the Government of Syria evade international sanctions. Identifier information regarding the individual and entity are as follows:

Name: Cham Islamic Bank  
AKA: Al-Cham Islamic Bank  
AKA: Cham Bank  
Location: Damascus, Syria  
Address: Al-Najmeh Square, Damascus, Syria  
Name: Iyad Makhluf

AKA: Iyad Makhlouf  
AKA: Eyad Makhlouf  
DOB: January 21, 1973  
Location: Damascus, Syria  
Passport: N001820740  
Gender: Male