

FACT SHEET

Sheikh Mohammed Al Amoudi's Response to '*Clinton Cash*'

On May 5, 2015, HarperCollins published a book by Peter Schweizer (*Clinton Cash*) which made a number of inaccurate, incomplete and/or false statements about Sheikh Mohammed Hussein Al Amoudi. The following details the corrections related to the section on Sheikh Al Amoudi, which are found on pages 128-134 in Chapter 8 of *Clinton Cash*.

1. Amount of Donation to the Clinton Foundation

Mr. Schweizer states that Sheikh Al Amoudi made a \$20 million commitment to the Clinton Foundation in 2007. While it is true that Sheikh Al Amoudi committed to that sum in principle, he in fact only donated \$6 million to the Clinton Foundation. He then provided a further \$16 million for a separate event - the Sixteenth International Conference on AIDS and STI in Africa (ICASA 2011). Interested parties are referred to the Sheikh's personal website - www.sheikhmohammedalamoudi.info - for more information on his philanthropy and on his longstanding interest in African healthcare issues as well as the facts on the Clinton Foundation donation and ICASA 2011. All of this is explained on the Sheikh's website.

2. False Claims Derived from Suspect Online Letter

Mr. Schweizer relied for some of his 'facts' on a purported 2009 letter from an otherwise unknown "Ethiopian human rights organization" (Ethiopian Americans for Justice). The allegations raised in the letter were highly unreliable. In particular, the letter, without any factual support or basis, claimed that the donation to the Clinton Foundation was made at the behest of the Ethiopian Government and that the Sheikh 'is not known for much philanthropy.' This purported organization has no website and no mailing address. The letter was not signed and only provided a Gmail email account, raising suspicions about the letter and its origins. There was no evidential basis for the statements in the letter.

Sheikh Al Amoudi, who was born in Ethiopia and is a long-time citizen of Saudi Arabia, is a private businessman. He made the donation to the Clinton Foundation on his own behalf and out of his own funds, and not that of the Ethiopian or any other Government. The gift was based on his longstanding and deep commitment to the eradication of HIV/AIDS in Africa in order to (in his own words) "improve the welfare of the people of the country of my birth."

As for the claim in the letter that he is 'not known for much philanthropy,' Sheikh Al Amoudi in fact has a proven, long and credible history of donation in the area of health care and education (as in other areas such as sports and culture). Apart from the ICASA 2011 and Clinton Foundation donations, both closely linked to health awareness, treatment and education about HIV/AIDS in

Africa, his companies have undertaken corporate social responsibility programs throughout the world. He has personally provided major support for the King Abdulaziz University, the King Saud University, the King Fahd University and KAUST (King Abdullah University for Science and Technology) in Saudi Arabia.

In the healthcare sector, he provided extensive support for the Sheikh Mohammed Hussein Al Amoudi Center of Excellence in Breast Cancer at KAUST. More information on his philanthropic commitment can be found in a Forbes interview of May 2013 available at www.forbes.com/sites/tatianaserafin/2013/06/05/sheikh-mohammed-al-amoudi-on-philanthropy/ and through the Official Web Site www.sheikhmohammedalamoudi.info.

The claims of the purported "human rights organization" were further called into question in a letter dated March 12, 2009, to the Clinton Foundation by another group, the Ethio-American Civic Associations Alliance [EACAA] which comprised 11 different named Ethiopian diaspora groups. EACAA confirmed the long history of philanthropic giving by Sheikh Al Amoudi, noting that "It is no secret that the Sheikh has been involved in many business ventures and humanitarian activities in Ethiopia for decades. Among his various humanitarian activities in Ethiopia we would like to mention the recently inaugurated world class Children's Heart Center."

3. Implication of Political Motives for Donation

Mr. Schweizer implicitly suggested that there was a political 'quid pro quo' by which Sheikh Al Amoudi donated to the Clinton Foundation in order to obtain a favorable decision by Secretary of State Hillary Clinton on a waiver for the Ethiopian Government's compliance with US laws concerned with the transparent use of US aid. This is absolutely untrue and is adamantly refuted by the Sheikh. Sheikh Al Amoudi is not a government official in Ethiopia, Saudi Arabia or any other country. As noted above, he did not make the gift to the Clinton Foundation on behalf of the Ethiopian Government. He had and has no knowledge of any actions taken by Secretary of State Clinton related to any waiver for the Ethiopian Government or indeed any other policy decision by the US State Department.

4. The Sheikh's Relationship with US AID and Dashen Bank

Mr. Schweizer claimed that a USAID brokered long term contract in November 2009 for Almeda Textiles (which he says was owned by Sheikh Al Amoudi) to import textiles into the US is an example of a benefit that the Sheikh received from US assistance to Ethiopia. The Sheikh has never owned, and does not now own Almeda Textiles, which is part of an entirely separate group of companies not connected to the Sheikh and owned by the EFFORT Group.

Mr. Schweizer also stated that the Sheikh had benefited from a USAID Development Credit Authority project with certain Ethiopian banks including Dashen Bank. Sheikh Al Amoudi has an affiliation with Dashen Bank, but the claim of benefit is not accurate. The USAID project was part of a series of loan guarantees that allowed the expansion of local farmers who would otherwise not have been able to obtain capital for their agricultural projects. Ethiopian farmers and those Ethiopians who would gain jobs and better access to food would be beneficiaries of this project and not the Sheikh. For the record, the Sheikh otherwise and elsewhere is highly supportive of the smaller farmers in Ethiopia.