



**CORNERSTONE
GLOBAL**

Cornerstone Global Associates

Response to New York Times article entitled

“Ahead of Qatar World Cup, a Gulf Feud Plays Out in the Shadows”

1 February 2019

We have read with total surprise an article by the New York Times that makes serious accusations in relation to the impartiality of Cornerstone’s work.

The article refers to an alleged agreement for \$1 m to disclose damaging information related to the Qatar 2022 World Cup bid, which Cornerstone unequivocally denies. The NYT has refused to share with us a copy of this alleged contract, which does not exist. We demand to see a copy of this alleged contract.

We are also disappointed that NYT May have used stolen documents, which may have been doctored, which are the subject of ongoing investigation by the British authorities. The NYT have been informed of the investigation and Cornerstone has issued an announcement related to them. The NYT has refused to share with us any of the stolen documents they hold.

We call upon the NYT to immediately withdraw the false allegations and cooperate with the British authorities to find out who has been behind the hacking campaign that has been conducted against a British business with the sole aim of undermining impartial analysis.

We also reserve our right to full damages resulting from this reckless move by the NYT.

Cornerstone is a high end consultancy that has been operating for 10 years, that works with a range of clients from around the world. We do not represent or act on behalf any government. As would be expected in our line of work, our analyses are often quoted in global media. The nature of risk analysis is that they highlight risks, objectively and impartially as we do. We are aware that the Qatari authorities have been upset by the results of our impartial analyses, but we have not expected to be the target of such vicious hacking campaign.