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**Law No. (5) of 2008 Ratifying the Agreement on Cooperation in the Field of Security between the Government of the Kingdom of Bahrain and the Government of the State of Qatar**

We, Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, King of the Kingdom of Bahrain.

Having reviewed the Constitution;

And the Agreement on Cooperation in the Field of Security between the Government of the Kingdom of Bahrain and the Government of the State of Qatar, signed in Doha on 14 Shawwal 1426 A.H., corresponding to 16 November 2005.

The Shura Council and the Council of Representatives have approved the following Law, which we have ratified and enacted:

**Article One**

The Agreement on Cooperation in the Field of Security between the Government of the Kingdom of Bahrain and the Government of the State of Qatar, signed in Doha on 14 Shawwal 1426 A.H., corresponding to 16 November 2005, attached to this Law, has been ratified.

**Article Two**

The Minister of the Interior shall implement this Law, and it shall come into force from the day following the date of its publication in the Official Gazette.

King of the Kingdom of Bahrain.

Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa

Issued at Riffa Palace:

On: 8 Rabi' Al-Awwal 1429 A.H.

Corresponding to 16 March 2008

**Agreement on Cooperation in the Field of Security between the Government of the State of Qatar and the Government of the Kingdom of Bahrain**

The Government of the State of Qatar and the Government of the Kingdom of Bahrain (hereinafter referred to as “The Parties”);

Building on the spirit of true fraternity and close ties linking the peoples of the two brotherly countries; Seeking to promote cooperation between them to serve their common interests; Keen to realize the greatest degree of cooperation to contribute effectively to combating crimes of all forms, to bolster the efficiency of their respective security agencies, and to cooperate in issuing unified tourist visas; and building on their conviction of the bonds and ties linking their peoples, their territorial unity as well as their common destiny and interests.; Have agreed as follows:

**Chapter One**

**Security Cooperation and Coordination**

**Article (1)**

Subject to the requirements of national legislation in both states and the international agreements to which the states are party, the Parties shall endeavour to promote and develop their existing cooperation in the exchange of information and security and technical expertise to combat crimes of all forms, especially the illicit trade and use of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and money laundering crimes.

**Article (2)**

The Parties shall exchange information on crimes that have been committed or are being planned by criminal organisations, in addition to new crimes and means of perpetration thereof, and the measures taken for tracking and suppressing such crimes. To this end, close communication shall be established between the officials of the competent security agencies in both countries.

**Article (3)**

The Parties shall endeavour to promote cooperation in the development of civil protection and defence systems and to provide mutual assistance in confronting natural disasters, environmental crises, marine pollution and mitigation of the hazards of severe accidents.

**Article (4)**

The two Parties shall mutually provide facilities in the areas of education, training and visits to various institutes and colleges affiliated to the Ministry of Interior and similar security organs in both countries.

**Article (5)**

The Parties shall exchange legislation pertaining to their respective competencies in addition to publications, books, bulletins, research and other media available to the Parties.

**Article (6)**

Each Party shall inform the other of the conferences, seminars and educational symposia pertaining to the competencies of the Ministry of Interior, in particular matters related to crime, traffic safety, education and training, which are deemed useful for the other Party. The other Party shall be informed sufficiently in advance of the holding of the said activities to enable it to take part in them if it so desires.

**Article (7)**

The Parties shall exchange the names of persons with previous criminal records who are listed among those prohibited from entering or exiting the State.

**Article (8)**

The Parties shall adopt the necessary means to maintain the confidentiality of information and material exchanged between them if the party delivering the same stipulates the confidentiality thereof. Documents received in accordance with the present Agreement may not be forwarded, disclosed or divulged to a third party without the consent of the other Party.

**Article (9)**

Either of the two Parties may reject any request presented under this Agreement if it believes that the request jeopardizes the sovereignty, security, public order or any fundamental interest of its State in contravention of the national legislation.

**Chapter Two**

**Unified Tourist Visa**

**Article (10)**

The Parties agree to issue the unified tourist visa in accordance with the provisions stipulated in this Agreement as a preliminary step towards the unified GCC visa.

**Article (11)**

The Parties shall approve the unified tourist visa issued by either State for entry through its official ports after marking the bearer’s visa to indicate that it is a unified visa for the two countries.

A stamp shall be created in the two countries bearing an expression permitting the bearer of the unified visa to enter the other Party’s country.

**Article (12)**

The unified tourist visa shall be issued in accordance with the applicable procedures in both countries.

**Article (13)**

The Parties agree to approve the list annexed to this Agreement which includes the names of states whose citizens are permitted to obtain the unified visa issued by either state.

Bearers of travel documents may not benefit from the unified tourist visa, except for a British travel document whose term of validity is not less than four years, of which the remaining period is at least one year.

**Article (14)**

The unified tourist visa shall be issued for multiple entries and shall grant its bearer the right of residence and movement between the two countries for a period of one month, renewable for another month. The visa shall be valid for a period of ninety (90) days from the date of issuance.

**Article (15)**

The unified tourist visa charges shall be determined as agreed between the two states and shall be collected in their own currencies. Such charges shall be deposited in the treasury of the country issuing the visa.

**Article (16)**

The unified tourist visa shall be deemed revoked if its bearer departs to another country other than the countries of the two Parties, in which case he must obtain a new visa if he desires to return to either of the two states.

**Article (17)**

Late charges shall be collected according to the laws of the state where the unified tourist visa expires.

**Article (18)**

The unified tourist visa shall not avail its holder of the right to obtain a work permit, paid or unpaid, in either of the two countries. The unified tourist visa shall not exempt the holder from complying with the laws and regulations of entry and residence of foreigners or other laws of the two states.

**Article (19)**

Each Party shall retain the right to deny entry to any person bearing the unified tourist visa if his entry prejudices public order or security or public interest.

**Chapter Three**

**General Provisions**

**Article (20)**

The Ministries of Interior in both countries shall be the competent authorities for implementing the provisions of this Agreement.

**Article (21)**

The provisions of this Agreement may be amended during its enforcement period in accordance with the constitutional procedures applicable in both countries.

**Article (22)**

The provisions of the present Agreement shall not prejudice the implementation of other agreements in force of which the states are party.

**Article (23)**

This Agreement shall come into force from the date of exchange of its ratification documents, and shall be in force for four years, automatically renewable for similar terms unless one of the Parties notifies the other in writing of its intention to terminate it at least three months before its expiry. IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned being duly authorised by their respective governments, have signed this Agreement.

This Agreement is issued and signed in the city of Doha on 14/10/1426 AH, corresponding to 16/11/2005, in two equally authentic original copies in the Arabic language.

**For the Government of the State of Qatar For the Government of the Kingdom of Bahrain**

**Sheikh Abdulla bin Nasser bin Khalifa Al Thani Lieutenant General / Rashid bin Abdulla Al Khalifa**

**Minister of State for Interior Affairs Minister of Interior**

**Member of the Council of Ministers**