



NATIONAL U.S.-ARAB CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

غرفة التجارة الأمريكية العربية الوطنية



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غرفة التجارة الأمريكية العربية الوطنية تتقدم بأطيب تمنياتها لكم بسنة جديدة صحية ومثمرة ونهني دولة قطر على نجاحها الكبير في بطولة كأس العالم لكرة القدم التي ساهمت في تعديل وتطوير صورة العالم العربي.

في 16 ديسمبر أجريت مقابلة مع قناة الجزيرة حول كأس العالم ويمكن مشاهدة مقطع فيديو لتلك المقابلة [هنا](#).

ستجدون مقتطفات مترجمة باللغة الانجليزية من المقابلة أدناه.

**Commentator:** The President & CEO of the National U.S. - Arab Chamber of Commerce published an article on the ability of Morocco's Atlas Lions to unify the Arab world in only a few weeks. They did so by playing from the bottom of their hearts, winning new fans across the Arab world and around the globe, he said.

**Hamod:** This World Cup was a big win for the Arab world. First, Doha proved that it could host the largest sporting event in the world, at the highest level, with resounding success. In addition, Morocco proved that it could compete at the highest levels through its national team, the Atlas Lions. The Moroccans played their hearts out, and they never gave up, winning respect and support from the American people.

Americans love underdogs. At first, we were rooting for Team USA, itself an underdog. But when the American team was eliminated, we began to support the Atlas Lions, an even bigger underdog. Against all odds, Morocco kept on winning. It took some time, but we eventually realized that they *deserved* to be in the semifinals, that they *earned* the right to compete against the best teams in the world.

The Atlas Lions have made us very proud. But they have also brought us *joy*. Like when they jumped into the crowds to kiss their mothers, and also their fathers! This outpouring of emotion for the family is something that the American people don't typically see, and we are grateful to the Moroccan players for showing the human side of the Arab world to the American people.

**Commentator:** Mr. David, you pointed out that when the Moroccan team wins or scores a goal and celebrates, they head to the stands to kiss their mothers, which is unusual in America. Do you think that this experience could change the perception that Americans have about family love and unity that exists among Arab families and societies?

**Hamod:** Without a doubt, yes. This World Cup has dispelled a lot of stereotypes and negative perceptions about the Arab world. It opened a door for Western nations to learn more about Arab culture.

For those of us who are of Arab descent - whether its first, second, third, or fourth generation - this experience has helped us to explain what Arab culture is all about. This was achieved not only through Qatar's ability to host the World Cup, but also from watching the Atlas Lions. This is a group of guys who play as a team. Viewers came to understand not just the value of superstar players like Messi and Mbappe, but also the importance of *team spirit*.

When an underdog team reaches the final stages of the World Cup, it is inspirational for everyone. I believe that Morocco could have beaten France, just as the Tunisians did. Luck plays a big role, and perhaps on another day, the Moroccan team would have come out on top. As we say in the USA, "It's just how the ball bounces."

**Commentator:** Mr. David Hamad, thank you very much.

For five decades, the National U.S. - Arab Chamber of Commerce (NUSACC) has served as a commercial bridge between the United States and the Arab world. Widely regarded as the voice of American business in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region, the Chamber serves over 50,000 members and stakeholders in the USA and across the Arab world. Awarded the E-Award for export excellence by the President of the United States, NUSACC is the only business entity in the USA that is recognized by the League of Arab States and the Union of Arab Chambers.

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