

Foreign Support for Research and Advocacy

 The New York Times

To the Editor:

The problematic impact of foreign government funding for political advocacy nongovernmental organizations and think tanks is not unique to American democracy. For many years, the European Union and European governments, including Norway, which you cite, have channeled tens of millions of euros, pounds and kroner to Israeli political groups in order to manipulate the democratic process.

I founded NGO Monitor over a decade ago to provide [research](#) as well as a system of checks and balances regarding such policies. NGO Monitor research has demonstrated that funding processes are closely guarded state secrets, and Britain, the European Union and other governments routinely deny related freedom of information requests in order to prevent critical public debate.

If European states are active in this manipulation of democracy, it is hardly surprising that your reporting shows that Qatar and other closed regimes follow a similar route.

GERALD STEINBERG Jerusalem, Sept. 8, 2014

The writer is president of NGO Monitor and a professor of political science at Bar-Ilan University.

