

Use of articles

adapted by D.Potter - 20170605

practice based on an internet press release

Complete the text with either a zero article (-), a definite or an indefinite article

1 Six Arab countries including Saudi Arabia and Egypt have cut diplomatic ties
2 with Qatar, accusing it of destabilising [] region.
3
4 They say Qatar backs militant groups including so-called Islamic State (IS) and
5 al-Qaeda, which Qatar denies. [] Saudi state news agency SP [] said Riyadh had
6 closed its borders, severing land, sea and air contact with [] tiny peninsula
7 of oil-rich Qatar. Qatar called [] decision "unjustified" and with "no basis
8 in fact". [] unprecedented move is seen as [] major split between powerful
9 Gulf countries, who are also close US allies. It comes amid heightened
10 tensions between Gulf countries and their near-neighbour Iran. [] Saudi
11 statement accused Qatar of collaborating with "Iranian-backed terrorist groups"
12 in its restive Eastern region of Qatif and Bahrain. What has happened? []
13 diplomatic withdrawal was put into motion by Bahrain then Saudi Arabia early on
14 Monday. [] United Arab Emirates (UAE), Egypt, Yemen and Libya followed suit.
15 SP [] cited officials as saying [] decision was taken to "protect its national
16 security from [] dangers of terrorism and extremism". [] three Gulf
17 countries have given Qatari nationals two weeks to leave their territory. In
18 [] latest developments:
19
20 [] UAE has given Qatari diplomats 48 hours to leave [] country. Abu Dhabi
21 accuses Qatar of "supporting, funding and embracing terrorism, extremism and
22 sectarian organisations," state news agency WAM said
23
24 UAE airlines Etihad Airways, Emirates and Flydubai said they would suspend all
25 flights to and from Qatari capital Doha from early Tuesday, local time
26
27 [] Gulf allies said they had closed their airspace to Qatar Airways, which has
28 suspended all its flights to Saudi Arabia
29
30 Bahrain's state news agency said it was cutting its ties because Qatar was
31 "shaking [] security and stability of Bahrain and meddling in its affairs"
32
33 [] Saudi-led Arab coalition fighting Yemen's Houthi rebels
34 also expelled Qatar from its alliance because of its "practices that strengthen
35 terrorism" and its support to groups "including al-Qaeda and Daesh [IS], as
36 well as dealing with [] rebel militias", according to SPA. Food, flights and
37 football at risk All you need to know about Qatar What is [] context? While
38 [] severing of ties with Qatar was sudden, it has not come out of [] blue, as
39 tensions have been building for years, and particularly in recent weeks. Two
40 weeks ago, [] same four countries blocked Qatari news sites, including Al
41 Jazeera. Controversial comments purportedly by Qatari emir Sheikh Tamim bin
42 Hamad al-Thani criticising Saudi Arabia appeared on Qatari state media.
43
44 [] government in Doha dismissed [] comments as fake, attributing [] report
45 to [] "shameful cybercrime". Back in 2014, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain and [] UAE
46 withdrew their ambassadors from Qatar for several months in protest over
47 alleged interference in their affairs. Qatar says news agency was hacked More
48 broadly, there are two key factors driving Monday's decision: Qatar's ties to
49 Islamist groups, and [] role of Iran, Saudi Arabia's regional rival. While
50 Qatar has joined [] US coalition against IS, [] Qatari government has been
51 forced to repeatedly deny accusations from Iraq's Shia leaders that it provided
52 financial support to IS. However, wealthy individuals in [] emirate are
53 believed to have made donations and [] government has given money and weapons
54 to hardline Islamist groups in Syria. Qatar is also accused of having links to
55 [] group formerly known as [] Nusra Front, [] al-Qaeda affiliate. [] SPA
56 statement accused Qatar of backing these groups, as well as [] widely-outlawed

57 Islamist Muslim Brotherhood, and that it "promotes [] message and schemes of
58 these groups through their media constantly". Where key countries stand on IS
59 Where does IS get its support? While on [] visit to Riyadh two weeks ago, US
60 President Donald Trump urged Muslim countries to take [] lead in combating
61 radicalisation, and blamed Iran for instability in [] Middle East. "It seems
62 that [] Saudis and Emiratis feel emboldened by [] alignment of their regional
63 interests - toward Iran and Islamism - with [] Trump administration," Gulf
64 analyst Kristian Ulrichsen told Reuters news agency.
65
66 "[They] have decided to deal with Qatar's alternative approach on []
67 assumption that they will have [] [Trump] administration's backing." Saudi
68 Arabia has also been accused of funding IS, either directly or by failing to
69 prevent private donors from sending money to [] group - allegations it denies.
70 In recent days, British Prime Minister Theresa May has also come under pressure
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-- original text --

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