

Arab nations cut ties with Qatar

7th June, 2017



Six Arab countries have cut ties with the tiny nation of Qatar. Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates, Libya and Yemen have all cut relations with Qatar

because they say Qatar gives money to and supports terrorist groups. Saudi Arabia said it has cut ties to protect its own national security. It said Qatar was home to many "terrorist and sectarian groups that aim to create instability in the region". The Qatar government said this was not true and that there are no facts that show there are terrorist groups in Qatar. It said the other Arab countries are acting unfairly towards Qatar. It also said that the decisions of Arab countries would, "not affect the normal lives of citizens and residents" in Qatar.

Qatar is now facing an uncertain and difficult future, unless normal relations are restored. Air, land and sea links have been closed to Qatar from Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Egypt and Bahrain. This will cause a lot of trouble for people living in the tiny Gulf Arab country. Most of its food enters by truck from Saudi Arabia and there is already a rush to buy food in supermarkets. Qatar Airways will also be badly affected because it has to change its routes, so flights will take much longer. The construction of eight stadiums for the 2022 soccer World Cup could also slow down as building materials have to enter Qatar via Saudi. Citizens from Saudi, the UAE and Bahrain have been banned from going to Qatar and have 14 days to leave.

Sources: *bbc.com* / *Aljazeera.com* / *thenational.ae*

Writing

How can Qatar and the other Arab states resolve this situation? Discuss three solutions.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

tiny / nation / relations / terrorist / national security / instability / unfairly / decisions / uncertain / air / land / sea / truck / rush / routes / flights / construction / banned

True / False

- Yemen is not one of the countries that cut ties with Qatar. T / F
- Saudi Arabia said it needed to protect its own national security. T / F
- Qatar asked Saudi Arabia for facts to show terrorist groups were in Qatar. T / F
- Qatar said life in the country would go on as normal. T / F
- Air and sea links to Qatar are closed but land links are open. T / F
- Most of Qatar's food arrives from Bahrain. T / F
- Qatar is building eight soccer stadiums for the 2022 World Cup. T / F
- Citizens of the UAE can stay in Qatar for another month. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|------------------------|----------------|
| 1. cut | a. hurry |
| 2. national | b. change |
| 3. instability | c. put back |
| 4. facts | d. state |
| 5. affect | e. building |
| 6. restored | f. information |
| 7. rush | g. severed |
| 8. enters | h. prohibited |
| 9. construction | i. comes in |
| 10. banned | j. uncertainty |

Discussion – Student A

- How serious is this situation?
- What do you know about Qatar?
- What kind of relations does Qatar have with its neighbours?
- What should each country do to restore relations?
- Should Saudi Arabia show the facts about Qatar and links to terrorism?
- Are the six Arab countries acting unfairly towards Qatar?
- What other problems are there in the Gulf region?
- How will people in Qatar be able to live normal lives?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|--|-------------------------|
| 1. cut ties with the tiny | a. of citizens |
| 2. gives money to and supports | b. in the region |
| 3. protect its own national | c. eight stadiums |
| 4. groups that aim to create instability | d. security |
| 5. affect the normal lives | e. trouble for people |
| 6. facing an uncertain | f. nation of Qatar |
| 7. This will cause a lot of | g. in supermarkets |
| 8. a rush to buy food | h. going to Qatar |
| 9. The construction of | i. terrorist groups |
| 10. banned from | j. and difficult future |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- How can Qatar survive if it has no access to land, sea or air links?
- Where will Qatar get its food from?
- What happens when the supermarkets run out of food?
- How badly will Qatar Airways be damaged?
- Will the soccer World Cup be affected?
- Why do citizens of Saudi, Bahrain and the UAE have to leave Qatar?
- What questions would you like to ask the leaders of the six countries?

Spelling

- purpsost terrorist groups
- protect its own national tieuyscr
- groups that aim to create byiitatisln
- countries are acting rluafiyn towards Qatar
- not fefact the normal lives
- citsneiz and residents
- an ancenitur and difficult future
- unless normal relations are erodrset
- glhisft will take much longer
- The ocinscttoun of eight stadiums
- building lteiaasmr
- naenbd from going to Qatar

Answers – Synonym Match

1. g	2. d	3. j	4. f	5. b
6. c	7. a	8. i	9. e	10. h

Role Play

Role A – Trade

You think trade is the most important kind of links for a country to have with other countries. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their links. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): cultural, intelligence or religious.

Role B – Cultural

You think cultural is the most important kind of links for a country to have with other countries. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their links. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): trade, intelligence or religious.

Role C – Intelligence

You think intelligence is the most important kind of links for a country to have with other countries. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their links. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): cultural, trade or religious.

Role D – Religious

You think religious is the most important kind of links for a country to have with other countries. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their links. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): cultural, intelligence or trade.

Speaking – Links

Rank these with your partner. Put the most important links for a country to have with other countries at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|----------------|------------|
| • military | • air |
| • rail | • trade |
| • religious | • cultural |
| • intelligence | • security |

Answers – True False

a	F	b	T	c	T	d	T	e	F	f	F	g	T	h	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.