



My Opinion

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Qatar...What if ?

When a country has caused so many problems, harbored terrorists and funded others, you expect that when its being told it will be held accountable for the losses of lives as a consequence to its acts, it will at least avoid more losses. But when it arrogantly puts the lives of hundreds of others at risk, you realize that this country is not prepared to acknowledge its mistakes that I will refer to as crimes, yet it continues to act as a threat to its neighbors.

Qatar this week intercepted UAE flights to Bahrain with two warplanes, an act that cannot be justified since the UAE aircraft had abided to all the international aviation standards.

And I could just imagine how the passengers on that flight felt when they saw these interceptions and what they may have led to.

Passengers airlines being intercepted by Mirage warplanes!!

Such hostile acts that endanger the lives of hundreds of civilians can never be justified and Qatar needs to seriously consider its past acts that has already torn apart its brotherly relations with its closest neighbours. Its intervention in other countries affairs in an attempt to be a leader in the region obviously backfired and Qatar has been labelled as a terrorist harboring country.

In simple analysis, when Qatar funded the Houthis, terrorist cells and acts of crime and sabotage in Bahrain with a direct interference in our sovereignty and the sovereignty of other states including Egypt and Libya, that led to the deaths of hundreds through all the wars it triggered, Qatar's intentions towards its neighbors became loud and quite clear.

Terrorist cells funded by Qatar succeeded in taking the lives of many innocent people who were either protecting their country or their neighbors. The terrorist acts in Bahrain did not just cost the lives of Bahraini citizens but also UAE soldiers who were serving in Bahrain and protecting us.

Can these atrocities just be deleted from our minds and history. Of course not.

Can deaths resulted by its support to the Houthis and Muslim brotherhood in neighboring states be forgotten, forgiven and deleted.

Of course not.

Can the fact that Qatar has threatened the stability of Saudi Arabia, UAE, Bahrain and Egypt be forgotten? Of course not, especially when the display of its muscles continues through intercepting civilian aircrafts.

Therefore, the last thing Doha needs is an accident that can cause the lives of civilians onboard a commercial flight.

The four boycott states have repeatedly denied the possibility of military intervention in Doha and this surely reflects their wisdom and patience but can what happened this week be viewed as a military intervention from Doha.

What we today ask ourselves is: What is next?

(The views and opinions expressed in this article are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the policy or position of this newspaper.)

'Unjustified escalation'

Manama

Bahrain yesterday refuted the allegations made by Qatar that military aircraft belonging to the United Arab Emirates violated its airspace.

In a memorandum filed to the UN Security Council, Kingdom's mission to the United Nations in New York, citing radar recordings, told the Council yesterday that the United Arab Emirates aircraft didn't violate Qatari airspace and was on a committed flight path to Bahrain.

Radar footages delivered to the UN Council showed that the UAE aircraft was flying away from Qatari airspace and that Qatar violated international law by intercepting the UAE aircraft.

This, Bahrain said, is "an irresponsible and unjustified escalation by Qatar."

Bahrain also called upon the State of Qatar to respect international law and to abide by the principles of good neighbourliness and not to repeat such unacceptable acts which endanger the lives of innocent civilians and threaten international peace and security.

Meanwhile, the UAE Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation told UN Security



The first incident involved Emirates Flight EK837 while the second involved Etihad flight EY23B traveling from Abu Dhabi International Airport to Bahrain International Airport.

Council, in a briefing, that the UAE military aircraft accused by Doha of violating Qatari airspace was flying over the UAE airspace over a training zone acknowledged by the two countries and that its mission did not last more than 30 seconds.

Gulf News reported that the meeting, which included presentations and a short video by the GCAA and the UAE Armed Forces, showed radar footage documenting in real time the two separate incidents of interception of

two military cargo aircraft that were flying over the Arabian Gulf by Qatari Mirage fighters.

Dr Anwar Gargash, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, reportedly said at the briefing that the actions by the Qatari aircraft against the UAE aircraft and the international air safety showed clearly that the authorities in Qatar are determined to escalate the situation.

Dr Gargash also Tweeted on Wednesday that the

Bahrain refutes Qatar's allegation at UN Council

UAE's response to Qatar's jets intercepting two Emirati civilian aircraft will be "balanced and legal".

"There are two explanations for the developments in the Qatar crisis and the exposure of the civilian planes. First, it is Qatar's increased concern and confusion, and second, it was a desperate attempt in fear of marginalisation," Dr Anwar Gargash tweeted.

"Our response will be balanced and legal, and our goal is the safety of the region and the passengers."



Secretary-General of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf, Dr Abdullatif bin Rashid Al Zayani, yesterday met Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed, the UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy to Yemen, and his accompanying delegation at his office in the headquarters of the GCC Secretariat. They discussed UN efforts to restore security and stability in Yemen and ways to intensify efforts to deliver humanitarian aids. The Secretary-General reiterated that any political solution in Yemen should be based on the GCC Initiative as well as the outcomes of the Comprehensive National Dialogue Conference and UNSC resolution 2216. Dr Aluwaisheg, the GCC Assistant Secretary General for Political and Negotiations Affairs, also attended the meeting. In picture, the GCC Secretary General receiving the UN Secretary-General's Envoy