

# US, European guarantees needed to solve Gulf crisis: UAE

**Dubai**  
A top Emirati diplomat said yesterday that US and European guarantees would be needed to monitor any future agreement aimed at ending a row between Qatar and its neighbours.

The dispute erupted when Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Egypt and others broke ties with Qatar on June 5, accusing it of backing extremism. Doha denies the claim.

The UAE state minister for foreign affairs, Anwar Gargash, said the dispute could be resolved "through diplomacy if Qatar renounces its support for extremism and terrorism".

"We don't want European mediation, and I don't think the Europeans want to be mediators. Their role should be to put pressure on Qatar," said Gargash.

"If Qatar follows the path of wisdom... we would need a system of guarantees and controls" in order to implement an accord with Doha, he said, calling for "European and American guarantees".

Gargash did not elaborate, but on Thursday the UAE and its allies Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Bahrain delivered a list of 13 demands to Qatar through



UAE state minister for foreign affairs, Anwar Gargash

mediator Kuwait, including one to close down Al-Jazeera broadcaster.

The last point on the list calls for the establishment of a 10-year mechanism, that would operate monthly for the first year, to ensure Qatar is complying with the agreement.

Doha was given 10 days to meet the ultimatum.

During a visit to Paris on Monday, Gargash called on Western nations including the United States, France, Germany and Britain to help monitor any agreement reached with Qatar to ensure they are not cooperating with jihadists.

"They have the diplomatic clout and technical know-how," Gargash said at the time.

## Sisi ratifies handover of islands to KSA

**Cairo**  
Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi ratified a treaty that hands over two Red Sea islands to Saudi Arabia in a deal that had sparked protests and a police crackdown, the cabinet said yesterday.

Sisi ratified the maritime border treaty days after parliament approved the deal, which has been the subject of a confusing legal battle with one court annulling the treaty and another upholding it.

The treaty, first announced in April 2016, had fuelled rare protests and police have arrested dozens of activists over the past week after calls for more demonstrations.

It had also been challenged in courts, but the country's highest tribunal had suspended the contradictory rulings this week until a final decision determined which court has jurisdiction.

Parliament's vote on June 14 came after days of heated

debate, with opponents even interrupting one committee session with chanting.

The accord had sparked rare protests in Egypt, with Sisi accused of having traded the islands of Tiran and Sanafir.

The government has said the islands were Saudi to begin with, but were leased to Egypt in the 1950s. Opponents of the agreement insist that Tiran and Sanafir are Egyptian. (AFP)

## Turkey detains 5 bomber suspects near Syria border

**Istanbul**  
Turkish police have detained five suspected would-be suicide bombers including three Syrian nationals in southern Hatay province near the border with Syria, local authorities said yesterday.

Two of the suspects had been wearing suicide vests ready to explode, the local governor's office said in a statement, adding that they were arrested before reaching the city centre.

Authorities declined to say which group the five detained individuals claimed to belong to.

## Organisers vow to hold Gay Pride despite ban

**Istanbul**  
Organisers of the annual Gay Pride march in Istanbul insisted that it would go ahead in the city's Taksim Square despite a ban by the authorities over "safety concerns".

Activists had called the parade on Sunday but the city governor's office said that Taksim was not an official rallying ground.

City officials also said there had been no formal application to call a rally and that they only heard of the event through social media.

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## Crisis a family issue, says US

**Washington**  
The White House said yesterday it considers the deepening crisis in the Gulf to be primarily "a family issue," urging regional leaders to chart a way out while offering US help in enabling talks.

When asked about a list of demands placed on Doha by Saudi Arabia and its allies as the price for lifting an almost three-week "blockade" on Qatar, press secretary Sean Spicer declined to comment directly.

"We believe it's a family issue," he said. "If we can help facilitate those



Sean Spicer

discussions then so be it, but this is something they want to and should work out for themselves."

The demands placed on Qatar include the closure of Al-Jazeera television, a long-standing source of conflict

with neighbouring countries which accuse the network of fomenting regional strife.

Asked specifically about Al-Jazeera, and America's attachment to freedom of the press, the President's spokesman replied: "We are going to play a facilitating role in those discussions but that's a discussion that these countries need to have amongst themselves."

On June 5, Saudi Arabia and the UAE severed all links with Doha for allegedly supporting groups, including some backed by Iran, "that aim to destabilize the region."



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