



P&I CORRESPONDENTS DEPARTMENT

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We would like to advise the Club and its members of the recent developments in diplomatic relations between the GCC countries and Qatar.

We understand that several GCC countries including Saudi Arabia, Bahrain and United Arab Emirates and Egypt and Yemen have suspended airline travel to and from Qatar to the respective countries. The Qatar embassies in the named countries have been closed and this has been reciprocated in Qatar.

The three Gulf States announced the closure of transport ties with Qatar and gave Qatari visitors and residents two weeks to leave their countries.

Saudi Arabia accused Qatar of backing militant groups and spreading their violent ideology, in an apparent reference to its influential state-owned satellite channel Al Jazeera.

At this time there has been no further update on whether this will affect shipping movement to and from Qatar. There is a possibility that vessels and cargo moving from and to Qatar might be delayed or sanctioned.

We will keep you advised as the situation develops.

Please see the attached local news links:-

<http://gulfnews.com/news/gulf/saudi-arabia/saudi-uae-bahrain-egypt-cut-ties-with-qatar-over-terrorism-1.2038481>

<http://www.khaleejtimes.com/region/saudi-arabia/saudi-arabia-cuts-ties-to-qatar-cites-terrorism->

<https://www.bloomberg.com/politics/articles/2017-06-05/saudi-led-alliance-cuts-qatar-ties-as-gulf-crisis-escalates>

from Al Khaleej Times Website:-

HIGHLIGHTS: Gulf Arab states, Egypt, sever ties with Qatar

- Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Bahrain cut diplomatic and consular relations with the state of Qatar and will close all ground, sea and air ports to forbid transit, state news agencies said.
- It was not immediately clear when these measures would be implemented. Saudi Arabia said it would "begin immediate legal measures with friendly, sisterly countries and international companies to implement that measure as quickly as possible for all types of transit from and to the state of Qatar."
- Abu Dhabi-based Ethiad Airways said it would suspend flights to and from Qatar on Tuesday.
- The decision forbids Saudi, UAE and Bahraini citizens from travelling to Qatar, residing in it or passing through it, SPA said. Residents and visitors of those countries must leave Qatar within 14 days. Qatari citizens have 14 days to leave Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Bahrain.

- Qatar has been expelled from a Saudi-led coalition fighting in Yemen.
- Egypt said it was also severing ties and would close its airspace and seaports for all Qatari transportation to protect its national security. It was not immediately clear whether it was expelling Qataris or had asked its citizens to come home

Trust to have kept you informed.

Regards,
Peter Valles
General Manager
P&I Correspondents Department
T: +971 4 3038590
F: +971 4 3345176
M: +971 50 6453894
E: peter.valles@iss-shipping.com
W: www.iss-shipping.com

Inchcape Shipping Services (Dubai) LLC
5th Floor, Office Court Bldg
Oud Metha Road, PO Box 33166, Dubai,
United Arab Emirates