

The Qatar Crisis in 7 Statements

by Antonino Occhiuto

(23 May 2017) **Saudi Arabia's Foreign Minister, Adel Al-Jubeir:**

'We want to see Qatar implement the promises it made a few years back with regard its support of extremist groups, regards its hostile media and interference in affairs of other countries. Qatar should align its foreign policy to the other members of the GCC by opposing Iran's destabilizing efforts in the region.'

(24 May 2017) **Qatar's Emir, Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani:**

'Differently from our friends in Washington and Riyadh we consider antagonizing Iran as a counterproductive measure which is far from providing regional stability...Only by recognizing Hamas as a legitimate representative of the Palestinian people it would be possible to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.'

(29 May 2017) **UAE Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Anwar Gargash:**

'Our patience with Qatar's ambiguous foreign policy is quickly running out. We cannot longer tolerate Qatari refusal to sympathize with GCC initiatives aimed at contrasting terrorism and Iranian influence in the Gulf.'

(5 June 2017) **Saudi Arabia's Foreign Minister, Adel Al-Jubeir:**

'Saudi Arabia and other Arab fellow nations were forced to take painful measures against Qatar. Common sense and logic will convince Qatar to take the right steps. The decisions that were made were very strong and will have a fairly large cost on Qatar and we do not believe that Qataris want to sustain those costs.'

(6 June 2017) **Kuwaiti MP, Ali al-Deqbasi**, on Kuwaiti leader's efforts to bridge the diplomatic rift:

'We hope his highness Sheikh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah, with support from the Sultanate of Oman, can play once again a pivotal role in solving a diplomatic dispute between fellow Arab countries.'

(8 June 2017) **Bahraini Foreign Minister, Sheikh Khalid bin Ahmed Al Khalifa**:

'Qatar has to redress its path and has to go back to all previous commitments, it has to stop destabilizing media campaigns and has to distance itself from our number one enemy, Iran'. On Kuwaiti efforts to solve the row he added: *"The Emir of Kuwait is a messenger of good, but the policies of Qatar are not granting his endeavors success. In case of failure Qatar would be responsible for not giving Emir of Kuwait the chance to bring everyone together.'*

(9 June 2017) **Qatar's Foreign Minister, Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani**:

'Actions undertaken by Saudi Arabia, Bahrain and the UAE are quite concerning. There is now a big question mark over the future of the GCC as an effective organization.'

The most important statements by prominent political figures involved in the Qatar diplomatic row suggest that the most serious crisis among fellow Arab Sunni countries is still unraveling and it is unlikely to be settled in the near future.

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