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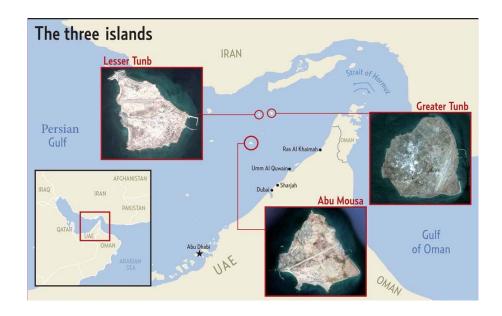
News: Dispute Over the Persian Gulf Islands

- Tensions between Iran and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) have escalated as a joint statement issued at the 6<sup>th</sup> Arab-Russian Cooperation Forum in Morocco challenged Iran's claims to three disputed islands in the Persian Gulf.
- A joint statement signed by Russia and Arab countries has called for a peaceful resolution to the Iran-UAE conflict over disputed islands.
- ➤ In response, Iran summoned the Russian envoy to express its protest the joint statement.

## **Persian Gulf Islands Dispute**

- ➤ Persian Gulf Islands Dispute is the dispute between Iran and United Arab Emirates (UAE) involving three islands in the strategic Strait of Hormuz, namely the Greater Tunb, Lesser Tunb, and Abu Musa.
- ➤ Iran claims that the islands have been part of Persian states since the ancient past until they were occupied by the British in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.
- ➤ Iran took control of the three islands after British forces withdrew in 1971. It considers them an "inseparable" part of its territory.

- ➤ It also says that Iran has an agreement with Sharjah, one of the UAE's seven emirates, which gives it the right to administer Abu Musa and station troops there.
- ➤ The UAE asserts ownership of the disputed islands, with Ras al-Khaimah (City in the UAE) claiming Greater and Lesser Tunbs, and Sharjah claiming Abu Musa.
- ➤ The UAE contends that Iran forcibly seized the islands from Ras al-Khaimah just before the formation of the Emirati Federation in 1971.



## **Persian Gulf**

Persian Gulf is an arm of the Arabian Sea located between the southwestern

Iran and the Arabian Peninsula.

- ➤ Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar, United Arab Emirates, Oman (Musandam exclave) and Iran border the Persian Gulf.
- > It is connected to the Gulf of Oman in the east by the Strait of Hormuz.
- ➤ The Strait of Hormuz is situated between Qeshm Island and the Iranian coast in the north and the Musandam Peninsula of the Arabian Peninsula in the south.

## **Strategic Importance**

- ➤ Persian Gulf countries are major producers of crude oil and natural gas.
- ➤ Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Saudi Arabia are members of OPEC (Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries).
- ➤ United Arab Emirates (UAE), Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Qatar, Kuwait are members of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).

