Qatari Crisis - De-escalation

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What is the issue?

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There has been a degree of de-escalation in the on-going Qatar crisis.

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How did the issue de-escalated?

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- Saudi Arabia, UAE, Bahrain, and Egypt had listed 13 demands and warned that there would be serious consequences if Qatar failed to yield.
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- Qatar rejected the ultimatum and the 4 countries have not yet carried out their threats.
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- Qatar sldo leaked the text of the demands to the media in order to draw the attention of the international community.
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- The world came to realize that the four countries wanted Qatar to **surrender its sovereignty** in the realm of foreign policy.
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- They also wanted to align Qatar's social, political and economic policies with that of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries.
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- Following the international scrutiny, the countries have **softened their stand,** signaling that it might be enough if Qatar were to accede to 'Six Principles'.
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What was the reason for de-escalation?

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- The initial move by Donald Trump was intended to project Saudi Arabia as the undisputed leader of the Muslim world.
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- But, later the US State Department **publicly rebuked Saudi Arabia** for resorting to an embargo against Qatar without justification.
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- This might have probably compelled the four countries to come out with their badly drafted set of demands.
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- U.S' Secretary of State went to Saudi Arabia where he met King Salman and the foreign ministers of the four countries.
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- Though **there was no breakthrough,** the four countries got a clear message that the US had taken a stand for an early resolution of the crisis viz. a position that favored Qatar.
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- With this, the foreign ministers of the four countries issued a declaration of 'Six Principles'.
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How did Qatar handled the crisis?

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- Qatar made it clear that it would be prepared talk about the principles **only after the blockade is lifted.**
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- Qatar's handled the issue withn diplomatic maturity and patience.
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- It has chosen **not to retaliate**.
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- UAE continues to get natural gas from Qatar.
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- They have not expelled 300,000 Egyptians who continue to work in its territory.
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- Qatar has even constituted a Compensation Claims Committee to consolidate claims from Qatar Airways, banks, and others who have been affected by the blockade.

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Source: IDSA

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