



The Greater Tunb, The Lesser Tunb, and Abu Musa Island

Source: ET

Recently, **Iran** called in China's ambassador to lodge a protest over a joint statement made by **China** and the **United Arab Emirates (UAE)** regarding the sovereignty of [the Abu Musa, Greater Tunb, and Lesser Tunb islands](#).

- These are small disputed islands between **Iran and UAE**, located at the entrance of the **Strait of Hormuz** in the **Persian Gulf**.
- Iran claims that the islands were historically part of Persian territories until they were occupied by the British in the **early 20th century**.
- After British forces withdrew in **1971**, Iran took control of the three islands, considering them an integral part of its territory.
- According to the UAE, the **islands belonged to the emirate of Ras al-Khaimah** until Iran allegedly seized them by force just days before the formation of the **Emirati Federation in 1971** before UAE's independence from Britain.



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