

big story

‘Cowardly terrorist act’

Bahrain condemns attacks on two major oil pumping stations in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

- Saudi Arabia said it had stopped pumping crude oil along a major pipeline
- Iran-backed Huthis said they had targeted vital Saudi installations
- Saudi Aramco took precautionary measures and temporarily stopped operation of the pipeline

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Bahrain yesterday denounced and condemned in strongest terms the terrorist attack, that targeted two oil pumping stations transporting Saudi Arabian oil, using explosive-laden drones.

The stations were used for pumping Saudi Arabian oil from the fields in the Eastern Province to the port of Yanbu on the West Coast.

Bahrain Ministry said that this ‘cowardly terrorist act’ is a threat to the energy safety of not only the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia but also to the world.

The Foreign Ministry statement pledged Bahrain’s ‘unequivocal position’ in supporting Saudi Arabia against those threatening its security or harming its interests and the stability of its people.

The Ministry also called for the international community to combat all groups and terrorist organisations that seek to provoke tension, violence and chaos in the region.

The attacks were claimed by Iran-backed Huthi rebels hours



A drone which the Emirati armed forces say was used by Huthis in Yemen in battles against the coalition forces led by the UAE and Saudi Arabia

after the blast.

Following the drone attack, Saudi Arabia said it had stopped pumping crude oil along the major pipeline.

Energy Minister Khalid al-Falih said two pumping stations on the pipeline from the oil-rich Eastern Province to the Red Sea had been targeted early yesterday.

The vital pipeline has a capacity of at least five million barrels per day.

“Saudi Aramco took precautionary measures and temporarily stopped the operation of the pipeline, as it is evaluating the situation and working on restoring the operations of the affected pump station and the pipeline,” Falih said in a statement cited by state news agency SPA.

The 1,200-kilometre (750-mile) pipeline carries crude from Saudi Arabia’s main eastern oil fields to the Red Sea port city of Yanbu in the west. It was created several decades ago as an alternative for Saudi crude exports if the strategically vital Strait of Hormuz at the mouth of the Gulf were to be closed.

The pumping stations reportedly targeted lie west of the capital Riyadh, at Dawadmi and Afeef.

The reported pipeline attacks came amid spiralling tensions in the Gulf, following a series of mysterious attacks on ships off the coast of the UAE and a major US military deployment to the region.

Falih condemned the attacks. “The latest acts of terrorism and sabotage in the Arabian Gulf... not only target the Kingdom but also the security of oil supplies to the world and the global economy,” he said.

“These attacks prove again that it is important for us to face terrorist entities, including the Houthi militias in Yemen that are backed by Iran.”

The attacks were condemned several countries including Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Egypt, Jordan and Palestine.

Egypt’s foreign ministry expressed solidarity with Saudi Arabia in confronting all attempts to undermine its security and stability.

Jordan also condemned the “cowardly terrorist attack” in the strongest terms and confirmed its stance with Saudi Arabia in the face of any threat to the security and stability of the Kingdom, according to Sufian al-Qudah, spokesman for the Jordanian foreign ministry.

The head of the Arab League Ahmed Aboul-Gheit said the attacks were a “serious threat to the regional and international security, and the world economy.”

He said: “The Arab League stands by Saudi Arabia to counter these terrorist threats aimed at stabilising the region.”

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas said the attacks were not only aimed at the Kingdom but “are aimed at destabilising the region as a whole.”



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SAUDI ARABIA’S ENERGY MINISTER KHALID AL-FALIH



A general view of an oil plant in Haradh, about 280 kilometres (170 miles) southwest of the eastern Saudi oil city of Dhahran, following its inauguration launching a project adding 300,000 barrels of oil to the kingdom’s daily production capacity.

Housemaid admits setting sponsor’s house on fire

- Maid claimed the sponsor prevented her from contacting her family

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In a high-profile arson case in Busaiteen, the family’s maid allegedly confessed to setting fire to her sponsor’s house. The suspect, a 24-year-old Kenyan national, reportedly told police that she torched the room of her sponsor’s daughter to avenge the injustice done to her.

The sponsor allegedly refused to pay her salary and prevented her from contacting her family.

The maid claimed that she was not allowed to use a phone.

The incident was reported to

police on February 10.

Investigators, who reached the scene immediately, concluded the incident as an arson attack and noticed that the maid was missing.

The sponsor also confirmed to the police that they didn’t found her after the fire.

The suspect, who managed to escape the fire unscathed, was tracked down and arrested a few hours later.

Further investigation confirmed that the incident in fact was an arson attack.

Explaining the reasons that led her into the attack, the maid reportedly told investigators that her sponsor treated her rudely and insulted her verbally.

She confessed that she used a matchstick to set a bed in one of the rooms on fire.

Explaining the ordeal, the sponsor told police that she managed to escape through their garage, upon finding smoke gushing out of her daughter’s room.

The woman said she later noticed that the maid was missing from the house.

The Public Prosecution accused the suspect of arson and endangering people’s lives and property.

She was referred to the First High Criminal Court, which adjourned the case to June 2.

Tribune reported earlier that the Director-General of Muharraq Governorate Police announced the arrest of an African maid who is suspected of setting fire to a house in Busaiteen.

Investigators suspected an arson attack and revealed that the maid is missing.



A picture released earlier by the police showing the damage caused by the fire