

Disputes between Saudi Arabia and Iran



1 1987: Clashes in Muslim holy city of Mecca result in deaths of 275 Iranian pilgrims. Protesters in Tehran occupy Saudi embassy. **Riyadh cuts diplomatic relations**

2 2003: U.S.-led invasion topples **Saddam Hussein** and empowers Iraq's Shia majority. Ousted Baath Party officers form alliance with **Al Qaeda in Iraq** which leads to rise of so called **Islamic State (Daesh)**

3 2011: Saudi Arabia and UAE send 2,000 troops to Bahrain to crush mass pro-democracy protests by Shia majority during **Arab Spring**

4 2011: Riyadh accuses its Shia minority, including figurehead cleric, **Sheikh Nimr al-Nimr**, of collaborating with Iran. Al-Nimr is charged with "instigating unrest"

5 2012: Saudi Arabia backs rebels fighting to topple Iran's ally, Syrian President **Bashar al-Assad**

6 2015: Saudi-led coalition launches bombing campaign in Yemen against Shia **Houthi rebels**

7 2016: Execution of al-Nimr triggers attack on Saudi embassy in Iran. Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Sudan, Kuwait and UAE cut diplomatic ties with Iran