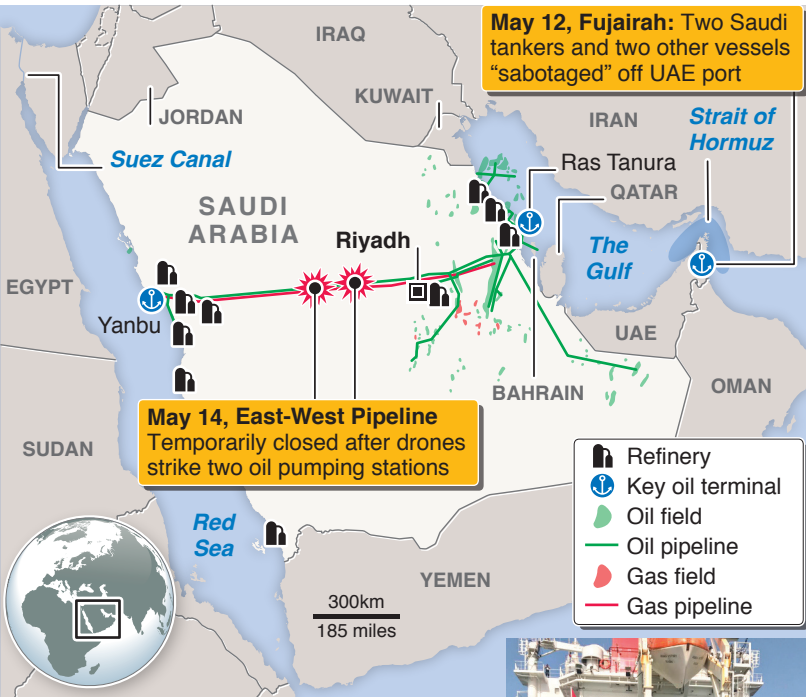


Rising tensions over Middle East oil attacks

Tensions over threats to oil flows from the Middle East are escalating after an attack by armed drones on Saudi Arabia's main oil transport pipeline to the Red Sea

May 12, Fujairah: Two Saudi tankers and two other vessels "sabotaged" off UAE port



Saudi Arabia: World's largest crude oil exporter, producing 9.8 million barrels per day (bpd) and exporting 7 million bpd

East-West Pipeline: Carries 10 percent of Saudi Arabia's total crude exports to Europe. Line also critical to Red Sea refineries

Strait of Hormuz: Key maritime transit route through which Gulf exporters (Saudi Arabia, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Qatar, UAE and Bahrain) ship their oil. 18.5 million bpd passed through chokepoint in 2016, mainly to East Asia

Damage to Norwegian-flagged tanker, May 13

