

# Mission to prevent oil tanker disaster

The UN has started an operation to remove 1.1 million barrels of oil from a decaying supertanker moored off Yemen's Red Sea coast, in a bid to avert an environmental disaster

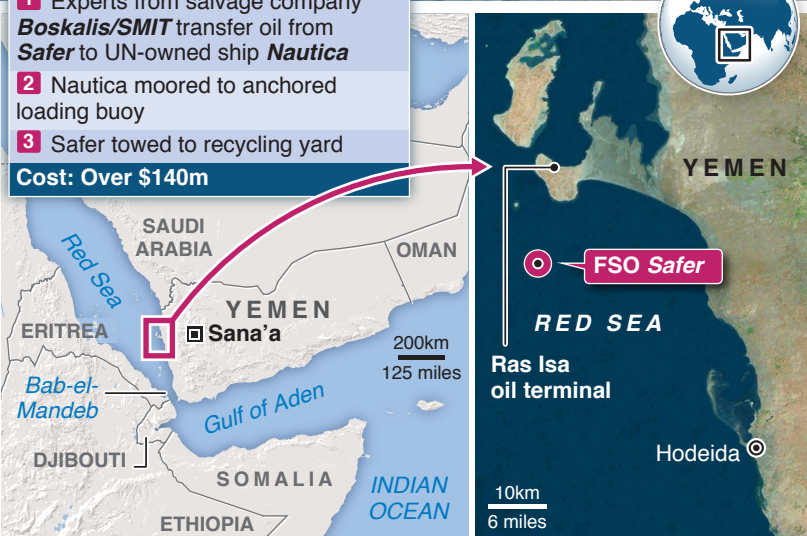
## FSO *Safer* supertanker

*There is imminent risk that vessel could explode or break apart, UN warns*

### STAGES OF SALVAGE OPERATION

- 1 Experts from salvage company **Boskalis/SMIT** transfer oil from ***Safer*** to UN-owned ship ***Nautica***
- 2 ***Nautica*** moored to anchored loading buoy
- 3 ***Safer*** towed to recycling yard

Cost: Over \$140m



■ ***Safer*** anchored since 1988 and abandoned after Yemen's civil war broke out in 2015

■ Vessel holds four times amount of oil spilled by ***Exxon Valdez*** in Alaska in 1989

■ Major spill would devastate fishing communities, expose millions to polluted air, and block critical food and supplies into Yemen

■ Spill could cost up to \$20bn to clean up