

Iran-Saudi proxy conflicts

Regional rivals Iran and Saudi Arabia have signed a China-brokered agreement to restore diplomatic relations, ending a seven-year dispute following Riyadh's execution of a prominent Shia Muslim cleric



Jan 2016: Saudi Arabia executes Sheikh **Nimr Baqir al-Nim** (left) – icon for Shia Muslims' struggle for political and religious freedom within kingdom

1 2003, Iraq: Following U.S.-led invasion which topples **Saddam Hussein**, Iran deepens its political and economic influence

2 2011, Syria: Iran offers military, economic and diplomatic support to President **Bashar al-Assad** following his crackdown on protests

3 2015, Yemen: Saudi-led coalition launches air strikes after Iran-backed Houthis oust internationally recognised government

4 2017, Lebanon: Saudi Arabia forces Prime Minister Saad Hariri to announce his resignation. Hariri later revokes resignation, supported by Iran-backed Hezbollah group

5 May-Jun 2019, Strait of Hormuz: Iranian attacks on six oil tankers escalate tensions with U.S.

6 Sep 2019, Abqaiq: Iran launches drone attack from Iraq on world's largest oil processing plant, cutting almost half of Saudi production