

## Oil prices rise after Saudi drone attacks

18th September, 2019



Oil prices soared on Monday after the drone attacks on oil plants in Saudi Arabia. Prices saw their biggest rise in a decade. At one point, prices shot up by nearly 20 per cent. This is the biggest one-day rise since the 1990-91 Gulf War.

Saudi Arabia's Energy Minister Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman said the drone attack on Saudi Arabia's Abqaiq oil plant cut the kingdom's oil production in half. The attacks will cut the world's daily oil production by five per cent. The Bloomberg news agency said it could take weeks for Saudi to repair the damage. During this time, people could see higher gasoline prices at the pumps, especially in Asia. People may also have to pay higher prices for food and other goods.

Yemen's Houthi group has claimed responsibility for the attacks in Saudi Arabia. The group said the attacks were because of Saudi Arabia's attacks on rebel groups in Yemen. Iran's President Hassan Rouhani supported the Houthi claim. He called the attack an act of self defense. He said: "Yemeni people are exercising their legitimate right of defense. The attack was a reciprocal response to years of Saudi aggression against Yemen." However, an Arab coalition says there is evidence that the weapons used to strike the Saudi oil plants were made by Iran. U.S. officials say satellite images suggest the attacks came from either Iraq or Iran and not Yemen. Iranian officials called the U.S. allegations "maximum lies".

Sources: [yahoo.com](http://yahoo.com) / [latimes.com](http://latimes.com) / [reuters.com](http://reuters.com)

### Writing

Another war in the Gulf would be the worst war ever. Discuss.

### Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

oil prices / drones / decade / Saudi Arabia / prices / half / news agency / pumps / food responsibility / rebel group / attack / legitimate / aggression / coalition / satellite / lies

### True / False

- a) Oil prices rose by the biggest amount in ten years. T / F
- b) Oil prices rose by the largest one-day amount since 1991. T / F
- c) The attacks have cut the world's oil production by 10 per cent. T / F
- d) People in Asia will not be affected by price rises. T / F
- e) A rebel group in Yemen said it carried out the attacks. T / F
- f) Iran's President said the attack was not self defense. T / F
- g) A group of Arab countries said Iran played no part in the attack. T / F
- h) The USA said the attacks came from Yemen. T / F

### Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- |                      |                 |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| 1. <b>soared</b>     | a. declared     |
| 2. <b>decade</b>     | b. fix          |
| 3. <b>cut</b>        | c. genuine      |
| 4. <b>repair</b>     | d. untruths     |
| 5. <b>especially</b> | e. ten years    |
| 6. <b>claimed</b>    | f. proof        |
| 7. <b>supported</b>  | g. particularly |
| 8. <b>legitimate</b> | h. rose         |
| 9. <b>evidence</b>   | i. backed       |
| 10. <b>lies</b>      | j. reduced      |

### Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) What do you know about the Houthi rebels?
- c) Why are Saudi Arabia and Yemen fighting?
- d) What is the worst thing that could happen next?
- e) What is the role of Iran in this story?
- f) What should the USA do here?
- g) What do you think will happen in the next week?
- h) What questions would you like to ask the Saudi government?

## Phrase Match

- |                                     |                         |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Oil prices                       | a. images               |
| 2. Prices saw their biggest rise    | b. daily oil production |
| 3. the biggest one-                 | c. groups               |
| 4. The attacks will cut the world's | d. at the pumps         |
| 5. higher gasoline prices           | e. of self defense      |
| 6. Yemen's Houthi group has claimed | f. in a decade          |
| 7. rebel                            | g. coalition            |
| 8. He called the attack an act      | h. soared on Monday     |
| 9. an Arab                          | i. responsibility       |
| 10. satellite                       | j. day rise             |

## Discussion – Student B

- What do you think of the Saudi drone attacks?
- How important are oil prices?
- How important is oil?
- How dangerous is the situation in Saudi Arabia?
- How will rising oil prices affect you?
- How could you change your lifestyle to avoid higher prices?
- How will this story continue in the coming weeks?
- What advice do you have for Saudi Arabia?

## Spelling

- Oil prices sdreoa on Monday
- their biggest rise in a deaecd
- cut the kingdom's oil cniprotudo in half
- news egaync
- eiparr the damage
- cieellysap in Asia
- claimed iibloyirstesnp for the attacks
- attacks on lreeb groups in Yemen
- an act of self dfnese
- their aiglhteime right
- an Arab coalition says there is veedecni
- called the U.S. allegations "amxmimu lies"

### Answers – Synonym Match

1. h	2. e	3. j	4. b	5. g
6. a	7. i	8. c	9. f	10. d

## Role Play

### Role A – Saudi Arabia

You think Saudi Arabia is in the best position to keep the peace in the region. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their players aren't as effective. Also, tell the others which is the least effective of these (and why): the USA, the United Nations or Yemen.

### Role B – The USA

You think the USA is in the best position to keep the peace in the region. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their players aren't as effective. Also, tell the others which is the least effective of these (and why): Saudi Arabia, the United Nations or Yemen.

### Role C – The United Nations

You think the United Nations is in the best position to keep the peace in the region. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their players aren't as effective. Also, tell the others which is the least effective of these (and why): the USA, Saudi Arabia or Yemen.

### Role D – Yemen

You think Yemen is in the best position to keep the peace in the region. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their players aren't as effective. Also, tell the others which is the least effective of these (and why): the USA, the United Nations or Saudi Arabia.

## Speaking – The Players

Rank these with your partner. Put the players who can best keep this crisis peaceful at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- |           |                      |
|-----------|----------------------|
| • Saudi   | • Arab League        |
| • Houthis | • United Nations     |
| • USA     | • Yemen's government |
| • Iran    | • Other _____        |

### Answers – True False

a	T	b	T	c	F	d	F	e	T	f	F	g	F	h	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.