

NC4™ Incident Monitoring Center



ALERT SUMMARY: SAUDI ARABIA ATTEMPTED SUICIDE BOMBING OF ABQAIQ OIL FACILITY

DATE

February 24, 2006

TIME

3:00 pm UTC +3

LOCATION

Abqaiq Oil Facility
Saudi Arabia

INCIDENT SITUATION

The Saudi Arabian Interior Minister announced that the country is on "high alert" after al-Qaeda claimed responsibility for the February 24, 2006 attempted suicide attack on the Abqaiq oil facility at 3:00 pm local time. In the first attack on an oil production facility since the Saudi royal family began a crackdown on al-Qaeda militants three years ago, three cars disguised as belonging to the state oil company, Aramco, penetrated the facility's first security gate. They were at the second gate when one of the cars carrying gunmen exchanged gunfire with the guards. The gunfight was followed by the explosion of the other two vehicles, leading to a small fire that was extinguished soon thereafter. Two guards were killed and another eight were injured.

Osama bin Laden's statement claiming responsibility was released on the internet Saturday and was followed by the Saudi Arabian branch of al-Qaeda's declaration that they will continue to target the nation's oil targets. Authorities feared this attack is evidence of a larger terrorist plot to disturb Middle East oil exports that has been ongoing in Iraq. Oil prices jumped over \$2.00 per barrel despite claims from Saudi Arabia's oil minister that oil and gas output was not affected. The Abqaiq plant is the world's largest and is responsible for 5-7 million barrels of Saudi Arabia's 10.5/11 million barrels per day, two-thirds of the nation's total daily production. Saudi Arabian oil offices were targeted twice in May/June of 2004 when nearly thirty workers were killed. Saudi Arabia has been designated as a high-risk nation for terrorist attacks by the US and other western governments as previously reported by NC4.

NC4 COVERAGE

NC4 provides ongoing updates to members as the incident unfolds through the National Incident Monitoring Center (NIMC). NIMC analysts follow the incident using official government sources as well as national and local media sources - linking to the Sydney Morning Herald article, *Al-Qaeda Claims Thwarted Bombing*, including images from the scene, eyewitness news video, and real time metro traffic conditions.

Selected NIMC Updates:

Saudi Arabian television is reporting that an explosion was heard at the Abqaiq oil facility. 2/24/2005 08:20 EST

Crews have controlled the fire at the Abqaiq oil facility after an attempted suicide bombing. 2/24/2005 09:14 EST

Oil and gas output at the Abqaiq oil facility not affected by today's attempted suicide bombings. 2/24/2005 10:27 EST

Two guards were killed in the attack at the Abqaiq oil facility, oil output and exports not affected. 2/24/2005 14:10 EST

Al Qaeda claims responsibility for attack on Abqaiq oil facility in online statement. 2/24/2006 19:28 EST

Saudi Arabia on high alert after Al Qaeda claims responsibility for Abqaiq attack, pledge more. 2/25/2006 13:08 EST

© 2005 NC4

Home | Contact NC4 | Log Out | Active Incident | Active Advisory | Incident Explorer | Incident Map | Create NIMC | Landmarks | Create Landmark

NIMC Analyst Access

- Incident Channels
 - NIMC Incidents
 - Alert Profiles>Create/Modify
 - Active Incidents
 - NIMC Incidents
 - NIMC Map with Refresh
 - NIMC in Google Earth
- Special Events
 - Avian Flu
 - 2006 Winter Olympic
- NIMC/NTCT Transportation
 - Transportation Incidents
 - Transportation Alert Profiles
- User Profile Administration
 - My Profiles
- Facility Management
 - Create Facilities
 - Facility Status
 - Facility Map

Incident Detail

Terrorism (Bombing)

When: 2006-02-24 05:15 PST

Where: Oil Facility
Abqaiq
Abqaiq
Saudi Arabia

Synopsis: Saudi Arabia on high alert after Al Qaeda claims responsibility for Abqaiq attack, pledge more.
The Saudi Arabian Interior Minister has announced that the country is on "high alert" after al-Qaeda claimed responsibility for the attack on the Abqaiq oil facility Friday. The statement from Osama bin Laden was released on a website frequently used by militant groups. The Saudi Arabian al-Qaeda today vowed that they will follow bin Laden's directive and launch more attacks against Saudi oil targets. They also released the names of two of the suicide bombers involved in yesterday's attack. [More...](#)

What:

Special Program Event: N/A

Last Updated: 2006-02-25 10:08 PST by NC4 Analyst 46

Notification Rule: Use Pagermaster

Moderate Media Attachment(s)

Forward Comment Cancel