



## Detail

An explosion has reportedly set on fire a tanker owned by the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC). The incident is said to have taken place in the Red Sea near to the Port of Jeddah.

Various reports state that Iranian official sources are describing the situation as a terrorist incident. NIOC is quoted in the media as saying 2 separate explosions took place aboard the ship and that they were “probably” caused by missiles. This came after an unnamed source told Iranian media the vessel was struck by missiles “probably” originating from Saudi Arabia.

The vessel *Sabiti* is said to have damaged 2 storage tanks, and there are mixed reports about whether oil has spilled into the water and if so, how much, and whether any leaks are now contained.

## Assessment

There is very little information about this incident other than that provided by Iranian sources. Such an incident has the potential to add to already escalated tension in the region. No doubt further information about the incident will come out in the next 24-48hrs which will provide independent corroboration of the situation, or an alternative narrative. In addition, due to the lack of post-incident imagery of the vessel it is not possible to provide a more comprehensive assessment at this stage.

## Legend

- 11 Oct 2019. Approximate location of incident.