

# Saudi Arabia's Efforts to Maintain Global Oil Supply in the Persian Gulf

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## ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study is to describe Saudi Arabia's efforts to maintain global oil supplies in the Persian Gulf. The research method used is descriptive qualitative using library research as a data collection technique. The results obtained from this study are that the efforts made by Saudi Arabia in maintaining global oil supplies in the Persian Gulf consist of two efforts, namely military and non-military efforts. Saudi Arabia's military efforts are joining the United States maritime coalition to carry out sentinel operations and conducting Sentinel Coalition Task Force (CTF) exercises as an increase in security cooperation between Saudi Arabia and the United States to protect oil shipments in the Persian Gulf. As for the non-military efforts made by Saudi Arabia, namely by holding an emergency meeting with the Gulf countries to inform them that a serious effort or effort is needed to protect the security of shipping in the Persian Gulf because of attacks that have occurred before, namely on two Saudi Arabian tankers which were sabotaged and released. the coast of Fujairah and drone attacks on oil fields or oil processing facilities in the Saudi cities of Khurais and Abqaiq.

Keywords: *Saudi Arabia Efforts, Oil Supplies Persian Gulf, Global Oil Supplies, Protect Persian Gulf, Maintain Global Oil Supplies*

## A. INTRODUCTION

Saudi Arabia is the largest country in the Middle East region and also a country that has the largest natural oil resources in the world, where its natural oil resources account for half of the Middle East's oil potential. Oil, with reserves estimated at 25% of the world's total oil reserves, or 267 billion barrels, is Saudi Arabia's main source of income. Saudi Arabian oil also accounts for around 80% of the country's revenue, or 45% of GDP, and 90% of its export earnings. This oil revenue is one of Saudi Arabia's main sources of income, which can drive Saudi Arabia's internal economic growth, increase government revenues, and encourage foreign capital inflows into the country. Thanks to the profits from this oil source, the Saudi government is able to pay off its internal or domestic debt.

Saudi Arabia has mainly oil-based economic activities with strong government control (Kemlu, n.d.). One area that is a global or world oil source is the Persian Gulf where in this region is the only region that is the world's largest source of petroleum and is the most important oil supplier. The location of the Persian Gulf is located between the Arabian Peninsula and Iran which has an area of 241,000 km<sup>2</sup>. In the Persian Gulf region, at least 60% of the world's oil resources are collected, namely around 370 billion barrels of oil which are divided into seven Gulf countries namely Kuwait, Bahrain, Iraq, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) (Evans, 2021).

The waters of the Persian Gulf are one of the most important shipping lanes in the world to carry out oil supplies and also to send most of the world's energy such as crude oil which

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includes 40% of India's energy supply through this route (Perdana, 2019). The Persian Gulf is also one of the strategic waters most frequently traversed by tankers carrying up to a third of all crude oil (Berlianto, 2022). As many as 53,000 ships traverse the waters of the Persian Gulf each year for the transportation of oil (Al-Yamani, 2015). The Persian Gulf is also important because of the presence of rich oil and gas resources on the seabed and on its shores. The Gulf is a transit route for oil from Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, and is therefore an area of strategic importance. About 30 percent of the world's oil is supplied from this region, which sometimes increases and sometimes decreases. According to the latest statistics, the Persian Gulf has reserves of about 730 billion barrels of oil reserves and more than 70 trillion cubic meters of natural gas. Most of the exports of oil and oil products are transported by sea through ports in the Persian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz. This is the reason why this Persian Gulf route is very important, including for Saudi Arabia (Safar, 2021).

Oil shipments from the Persian Gulf are carried out through two ports, namely Juaymah Port and Ras Tanura Port. The location of the port or terminal of Juaymah is about 18 miles northwest of the Ras Tanura terminal and 7 miles offshore (htt). The Juaymah and Ras Tanura ports are Aramco's main crude oil shipping facilities to refineries where oil is stored around the world. With the Persian Gulf being used as a global oil supply route, it certainly needs to be provided with security by the Gulf countries, especially Saudi Arabia, so that there is a smooth supply of oil because it does not rule out that attacks on tankers can occur in the Persian Gulf, causing disruption to global oil supplies.

One example is the two sabotaged tankers belonging to Saudi Arabia near the waters of Fujairah or off the coast of Fujairah United Arab Emirates (UAE) where one of the sabotaged tankers was loading crude oil from the port of Ras Tanura in the Persian Gulf owned by Saudi Arabia. and sailing to the United States crude oil filling point or it can be called a branch of the Saudi Arabian oil and gas company, namely Aramco in the United States. It was identified that the two tankers that received the sabotage attack were the tanker Amjad and the crude oil tanker Al Marzoqah. Although the sabotage attack did not cause any casualties or oil leaks, the sabotage attack caused serious damage to the structure of the two tankers (Syah Utomo, 2019a). Then the UAE through its authority conducted an investigation and then explained the initial findings of the investigation regarding the sabotage attack on tankers off the coast of Fujairah where the sabotage attack was part of a sophisticated and coordinated attack or operation that might have been carried out by one country. However, the UAE did not specify who was behind the sabotage attack (Syah Utomo, 2019c). On the other hand, there were also drone attacks on oil fields or oil processing facilities in two cities, namely the cities of Khurais and Abqaiq in Saudi Arabia. Following the attack, Saudi Arabia's defense ministry conducted an identification of the debris from the weapons used to attack Saudi Arabia's oil fields in the towns of Khurais and Abqaiq. The Saudi Arabian Ministry of Defense explained the findings of the identification through its spokesperson, Colonel Turki Al-Maliki. It was explained that there were 18 drones and 7 cruise missiles used to attack oil fields in the cities of Khurais and Abqaiq. Of the 7 cruise missiles, 4 of the missiles hit the oil fields in the city of Khurais and 3 of the missiles fell near the oil fields in the city of Abqaiq. The cruise missile was identified as an Iranian Ya-Ali missile. However, in the end the Houthis, through their military spokesperson, Yahya Sarea, admitted that they were the masterminds and carried out the drone attack (BBC, 2019).

Because of these sabotage attacks and drone attacks, even though they did not occur in the Persian Gulf, countries such as the Gulf countries and countries outside the region are trying to maintain global oil supplies in the Persian Gulf for fear that sabotage and drone attacks could occur in the Persian Gulf so that could disrupt global oil supplies. The Persian Gulf does not only have one security interest related to being an oil shipping route, but also ports in the Persian Gulf such as Juaymah and Ras Tanura which are used to export oil.

This research is important where the authors see that there are military and non-military efforts made by Saudi Arabia in protecting oil shipments in the Persian Gulf. The efforts made by Saudi Arabia are also to anticipate or prevent threats that could disrupt oil supplies or crude oil shipments in the Persian Gulf because the Persian Gulf is one of the trade routes or oil shipments for commercial vessels such as tankers and cargo ships.

Efforts to anticipate threats or prevent threats in the Persian Gulf by Saudi Arabia are important to do because if an attack occurs against ships shipping oil in the Persian Gulf, it will certainly have a negative impact, such as world oil supplies will be disrupted because the attack can cause oil spills and causing the death of the crew and the price of oil will also rise. All countries have the potential to suffer losses including Saudi Arabia if there is an attack on ships originating from various countries crossing the Persian Gulf to carry out oil shipments depending on what attack is carried out and how badly the attack impacts commercial ships crossing the Persian Gulf. The reason the author chose Saudi Arabia as the research subject is because Saudi Arabia is the largest oil exporting country in the Gulf and ships owned by Saudi Arabia dominate oil shipments in the Persian Gulf.

The Persian Gulf is important for Saudi Arabia because the Persian Gulf is not only a crude oil shipping route for commercial ships, especially tankers from all over the country, but also for loading crude oil through ports in the Persian Gulf such as the ports of Ras Tanura and Juaymah as well as oil transit routes from Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates. With these three factors, it is important for Saudi Arabia to maintain global oil supplies in the Persian Gulf. The time limit used in this research is in the 2019-2022 time frame. The reason the author chose this vulnerable time is because at that time there was a threat of oil supplies through sabotage attacks on two Saudi Arabian tankers off the coast of Fujairah, the United Arab Emirates (UAE). Even though it did not occur in the Persian Gulf, as a result of this threat which then caused Saudi Arabia to worry that this threat could occur in the Persian Gulf so that Saudi Arabia responded by trying to prevent threats or malicious activities carried out by a country so that it could disrupt oil supplies in Persian Gulf because considering the interests in the Persian Gulf related to oil supply not only as an oil shipping route but also oil loading and as a transit route for oil supplies.

## **B. ANALYTICAL FRAMEWORK**

### **Concept Securitization**

Security studies must be rationalized to know about the behavior of actors, not the behavior of analysts or theories. Countries can try to increase their power through their own efforts or through alliances and alignments with other countries. The state focuses on power rather than on interests, goals and values because interests, goals and values depend on their realization and how an actor who has power can be able to make other actors submit to the will of the state, manifested in the capacity for violence they have.

States are expected to choose what they will do and behave accordingly using costs and risks to deal with things that threaten their power. States should be very concerned about the

military might of other countries and about threats to their own vital interests. Countries always react to threats made by other countries that can affect the interests of the country. For realists, the key variable or driving factor for state behavior is power. The primary form of power is military might or might. This is assumed to be true for two reasons. First, there is the overall distribution of violence capability across states. Second, a state's material capacity is its ability to decisively influence not only the behavior of other states but also the state system or the balance of power that prevails among the states themselves.

Traditional realists explain that non-material forms of power can ultimately be coercive forces and violence can be exercised by the state. Realists argue that all states should be concerned with their position of power relative to other states. This necessity arises from two conditions, namely the nation-state anarchy system where each state must pursue its goals, especially in ensuring state security. Therefore, countries must develop military strength, strategies, alliances, and weapons acquisition policies to maintain and enhance their competitive position. States are expected to be able to choose what they will do and take costly actions if something threatens their power. Realist doctrine itself, a sovereign king and a ruler must act rationally to balance the power of other countries and protect the country from potential threats that threaten their interests and security posed by other countries (Kolodziej, 2005).

With this explanation which can then describe the problems in this study. The Persian Gulf as one of the oil shipping lanes for commercial ships such as tankers certainly has the potential to receive threats which can be in the form of non-traditional security threats such as terrorist attacks, be it drone attacks or sabotage for ships carrying out oil loading and shipping oil in the Persian Gulf. This threat can occur at any time in the Persian Gulf, because previously two Saudi Arabian tankers that were about to send oil had previously been sabotaged off the coast of Fujairah in the United Arab Emirates (UAE). Even though there have not been any attacks or threats against ships in the Persian Gulf which could disrupt oil supplies, this does not rule out the possibility that such attacks or threats could arise at any time. The potential for non-traditional security threats such as terrorist attacks must be prevented or anticipated in the Persian Gulf because if a terrorist attack occurs, be it a sabotage attack or a drone attack against commercial vessels such as tankers crossing the Persian Gulf, this will pose a threat to interests and security. maritime as well as causing a negative impact in the form of reduced world oil supplies or disrupted global oil supplies in the Persian Gulf, world oil prices will rise and economic losses due to oil supply disruptions will cause a country to lose. Maritime interests and security are the shipping and loading of oil in the Persian Gulf. So non-traditional security threats such as terrorist attacks that disrupt oil supplies in the Persian Gulf will not occur if the state is able to act rationally to anticipate or prevent attacks or threats from these terrorists from occurring so that oil supplies in the Persian Gulf can be safe and secure.

Therefore, it is important for Saudi Arabia as a country to react to these non-traditional security threats by providing efforts to maintain global oil supplies in the Persian Gulf. Where the global oil supply in question is oil shipping and oil loading in the Persian Gulf. On the other hand, where Saudi Arabia is a gulf country, Saudi Arabia can decisively influence the behavior of other gulf countries to be able to prevent security threats from occurring in the Persian Gulf. The purpose of influencing this behavior is for other gulf countries to provide security for oil supplies in the Persian Gulf through any means including using force or violence that those other gulf countries have.

Saudi Arabia itself as a country certainly needs to make efforts on its own in maintaining global oil supplies in the Persian Gulf, namely Saudi Arabia must develop military strength, strategies, alliances and weapons acquisition policies in order to be able to maintain global oil supplies in the Persian Gulf due to sabotage attacks on ships. tankers such as the oil tanker owned by Saudi Arabia off the coast of Fujairah. Even though sabotage attacks or terrorist attacks have not occurred in the Persian Gulf or the port of oil shipping facilities in the Persian Gulf, Saudi Arabia certainly has to prepare certain steps for any bad possibilities that could disrupt oil supplies in the Persian Gulf. Therefore it is important for Saudi Arabia to try to anticipate attacks such as sabotage attacks through alliances, developing military strength, and weapons acquisition policies in order to create safe conditions for tankers who want to supply or send oil from ports in the Persian Gulf to refineries around the world. Developing military strength here can be done by buying weapons or sophisticated military equipment and can also be done through joint military exercises between Saudi Arabian troops or troops and troops or armies of other countries. Then in compiling a security strategy that can be carried out by procuring navigation experts, fast boats and trained divers to be able to maintain global oil supplies in the Persian Gulf (Syah Utomo, 2019c). Furthermore, regarding alliances, Saudi Arabia can join with other countries to form alliances in maintaining security in the Persian Gulf. Lastly, the weapons acquisition policy also needs to be carried out by Saudi Arabia to achieve a security strategy and support its armed forces.

### C. LITERATURE REVIEW

As for some of the previous research that was included and used by the author to show the novelty of this research, the following is the previous research. The first previous research entitled "Iran's Defense Policy Regarding the Development of the United States' Missile Defense System in the Persian Gulf Region" written by Erren Sindu Winata (Winata, 2013). This research is a thesis from the Social Sciences study program at UPN "Veteran" Yogyakarta University. This research discusses Iran, one of the countries in the Middle East which has developed a ballistic missile force. Developed by Iran, this ballistic missile can reach Europe as well as the United States. Since then, the United States has directed ballistic missile development to Iran. The United States claims that Iran is a dangerous country with ballistic missile power. Therefore, to ensure the security of US allies in the Middle East, especially the Gulf countries, to protect the Persian Gulf. The United States plans to build a missile defense system for the Gulf countries starting from Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Oman, Bahrain and Kuwait. With the actions of the United States, Iran has no choice but to expand its military power and further strengthen its troops to maintain national security.

Then the second previous research entitled "Disturbance to the Shipping of Ships in the Persian Gulf in terms of International Maritime Law" written by Natalia Triyayi (Triyayi, 1988). This thesis is a thesis from the Law study program at Airlangga University. This type of research is descriptive research with qualitative methods. In this study used descriptive analysis. This study discusses the disruption to the shipping of foreign ships in the Persian Gulf due to the installation of mines and firing of missiles against foreign ships passing through the Persian Gulf caused by the gulf war between Iran and Iraq. By looking at the results of Natalia Triyayi's research which stated that shipping disruptions in the Persian Gulf occurred to foreign ships caused by the Gulf War between Iran and Iraq. While this research has a novelty in looking at the efforts made by Saudi Arabia in maintaining global oil supplies in the Persian Gulf.

Then finally the third previous research entitled "Crude Strategy: Rethinking the US Military Commitment to Defend Persian Gulf Oil" written by Charles L. Glaser and Rosemary A. Kelanic (Glaser, Charles L.; Kelanic, 2016). This book is a book from Georgetown University Press. This book discusses the United States in January 1980 declaring that the Persian Gulf oil flows were of vital US interest and Washington would use any means necessary including military force to protect it. This statement became known as the Carter Doctrine and in that statement it has been stated that there has been support through US policy since then. The Rapid Deployment Joint Task Force created in March 1980 allowed the United States to quickly project forces into the region. Three years later the United States established Central Command as a unified multi-service command responsible for South Asia and the Middle East. To support its military needs in the Persian Gulf, the United States is building significant sea and air capabilities such as stationing materiel in the region, negotiating access to regional facilities, and upgrading its main military base at Diego Garcia in the Indian Ocean. US interests in the Persian Gulf extend beyond oil, including preventing nuclear proliferation, fighting terrorism and spreading democracy.

The similarities between the first, second and third studies with this research lie in the object of research and the problems to be studied, namely regarding security in the Persian Gulf. The difference between the first, second and third studies with this research is that, for example, between the first and third studies with this research lies in the country that provides security in the Persian Gulf. The update offered in this research is the author analyzes from several sources obtained, where Saudi Arabia as a country in the Middle East region in its efforts to maintain global oil supplies in the Persian Gulf is carried out through efforts that are military and non-military in nature. These military and non-military efforts have made this research more up-to-date compared to previous studies.

#### **D. RESULT AND DISCUSSION**

##### **Saudi Arabia Joins the United States Maritime Coalition**

On July 19 2019 the United States announced plans to mobilize international maritime forces as well as seek to develop a multinational maritime effort consisting of several nations. This effort was realized by the United States by forming a maritime coalition by carrying out sentinel operations. There are 11 countries that are members of the US maritime coalition namely Albania, Bahrain, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Seychelles, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom and United States. The objectives of Operation Sentinel are to enhance maritime stability, ensure safe passage and protect navigation in the waters of the Persian Gulf, Strait of Hormuz, Bab el-Mandeb Strait and the Gulf of Oman. This maritime security framework will enable countries to provide escort to their respective national flagged vessels (Primer, 2019).

Operation Sentinel is run from inside the big tent by the US naval bases in Bahrain and the United States as well as being a command in this US maritime coalition. Operation Sentinel is carried out through naval personnel and naval vessels deployed by each country that is a member of or participates in the United States maritime coalition. The navies and ships deployed by each country that is part of the United States maritime coalition will escort the flagged ships of each country itself.

The Sentinel CTF's operating area covers approximately 2.5 million square miles consisting of the Arabian Gulf, Arabian Sea, Gulf of Oman, Red Sea and parts of the Indian Ocean. Twenty countries comprise this stretch, which includes three critical points in the Strait of Hormuz, the Suez Canal, and the Bab al Mandeb Strait at the southern tip of Yemen (imscentinel, 2022a).

The number of ships participating in Operation Sentinel varied from day to day, and from country to country. US Fifth Fleet/Navy Central Command (NAVCENT) is the largest provider of troops, but other nations also contribute ships, aircraft and personnel on a rotating basis, usually in limited numbers. For example, the UK may provide frigates to support Operation Sentinel for a period of time, while the UAE may assign some of its personnel as liaisons to the new Operation Sentinel base in Bahrain.

Most of the ships assigned to Operation Sentinel are involved in maritime security operations, patrolling, monitoring traffic on busy regional sea lanes and maritime chokepoints, and providing assistance to civilian seafarers when requested. Given that a ship's primary mission is to patrol and have many areas to cover, it is natural that naval vessels belonging to the United States maritime coalition do not operate in close proximity to one another. Sentinel Operations task force leadership rotates among the contributing members. As of August 2020, led by British Commodore Robert Bellfield. US Navy ships usually operate in a different hat. Sometimes they work for the Sentinel Coalition Task Force (CTF), sometimes they operate as part of NAVCENT's Combined Maritime Task Force (CMF), and sometimes they carry out missions unilaterally in support of national assignments (Connell, 2020).

Then, not long after the US formed a maritime coalition, on 18 September 2019 Saudi Arabia announced that it would join the US-led maritime security coalition by participating in carrying out and supporting Operation Sentinel in the Persian Gulf. Not only Saudi Arabia, but also other countries such as Australia, Bahrain, Britain, Israel, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates also joined the maritime coalition led by the United States (Command, 2019).

Saudi Arabia is joining the maritime coalition led by the United States (US) to secure and protect merchant vessels such as tankers through providing safe navigation and protecting the interests of member states of the alliance as well as securing waters in the Middle East including the Persian Gulf. This can be seen from Saudi Arabia deploying its Navy fleet to the Persian Gulf to join the coalition led by the United States.

Saudi Arabia in joining the US maritime coalition certainly has a goal, namely to support regional and international efforts to prevent and fight threats to maritime navigation and global trade. More specifically, the US maritime coalition also aims to secure the Persian Gulf region as well as other areas including trade or oil shipping routes in the Strait of Hormuz, Bab el-Mandeb, and the Gulf of Oman (Handayani, 2019).

With Saudi Arabia joining the United States maritime coalition by carrying out this sentinel operation, of course Saudi Arabia benefits, not only Saudi Arabia but all countries that join the United States maritime coalition because it can prevent threats to maritime navigation and global trade such as oil shipments in the Persian Gulf. On the other hand, of course there is an increase in security to prevent threats to oil supplies in the Persian Gulf because there are ships that are always escorting and patrolling to protect trade routes or oil shipments in the Persian Gulf.

### **Enhancement of Security Cooperation Between Saudi Arabia and the United States**

There are military exercises conducted between the Saudi Arabian navy and the United States to maintain global oil supplies in the Persian Gulf or provide supervision in the Persian

Gulf so that trade continues to occur which is free from threats carried out by one country. The exercise was the Sentinel Coalition Task Force (CTF) exercise carrying out the second joint exercise Sentinel Shield in the Persian Gulf, demonstrating interoperability between coalition warships supporting Sentries and Sentinel patrols in the coalition area of operations on March 8, 2021.

Royal Saudi Navy patrol vessel HMS Oqbah (PGG 525) and United States Navy guided-missile destroyer USS John Paul Jones (DDG 53) perform synchronized tactical maneuvers in the Persian Gulf, while testing their ability to communicate across different systems with one another with merchant ships. Regular training between Sentry and Sentinel patrols throughout the Persian Gulf is essential for deterrence missions as it is feared that incidents involving state-sponsored malicious activity could occur at any time.

For the Commander of the Royal Saudi Navy, Thamer Dhafi Alhussain who is the commander of HMS Oqbah, the exercise has increased our ability not only to work together, but also to understand each other better. Better understanding prevents lost time when we must respond quickly together. Additionally, for the US Naval Command. Robert Watts and USS commander John Paul Jones also highlighted the importance of the exercise in demonstrating the joint US and Saudi commitment to maintaining freedom of navigation as we remain committed to promoting unrestricted access to international waters (imscsentinel, 2021b).

Then it didn't stop there, on June 14 2021 the Sentinel Coalition Task Force (CTF) conducted its fourth exercise. The Sentinel Shield joint exercise in the Persian Gulf was conducted by the Royal Bahrain Navy, Royal Saudi Navy and US Navy. During the exercise, the Royal Bahraini Navy missile corvette Al-Manama (P 50), Royal Saudi Navy patrol boat Al-Farouq (513), and US Navy guided missile cruiser USS Monterey (CG 61) tested systems and communications capabilities, communicated across multiple platforms to merchant ships, and carried out coordinated tactical maneuvers. Exercise Sentinel Shield is intended to enhance the ability of CTF Sentinel partner countries to operate seamlessly together, growing their competence in preventing malicious state-sponsored activity around the region.

For Captain Joseph Baggett, commander of USS Monterey, Consistent Operations and training with regional partners is critical to enhancing the cooperative relationship that exists between US and Coalition forces. Each exercise fosters greater understanding between allied navies enabling them to maintain awareness of the maritime domain that maintains the region's vital link to the global economy. Regular training between Sentinel and Sentries patrols throughout the Arabian Gulf is an important part of the Sentinel CTF mission. Sentinel is a major naval asset, like frigates and destroyers, which oversees two critical hot spots, the Strait of Hormuz and Bab el-Mandeb Strait. Sentries are smaller naval vessels, such as patrol boats and corvettes, that patrol the main transit areas between choke points. Each exercise increases synchronicity between partner nations allowing them to continuously deter malicious state-sponsored activity in the region (imscsentinel, 2021a).

On Wednesday March 9, 2022, the Sentinel Coalition Task Force (CTF) successfully completed its monthly Sentinel Shield exercise. Exercise Sentinel Shield was conducted in the Arabian Gulf and involved the United States Coast Guard (USCG) and Royal Saudi Naval Forces (RSNF). The three warships, USCGC BARANOF (WPB-1318), USCGC WRANGELL (WPB-1332) and HMS ALFAROOQ (PGG 513), conducted high-speed combat, blocking and maneuvering exercises, and synchronized tactical maneuvers while also testing

communications across multiple systems. WRANGELL Commander Lieutenant Brianna Townsend said working with HMS ALFAROOQ was a real pleasure due to the excellent handling of HMS ALFAROOQ and highly motivated to carry out the mission (imscsentinel, 2022a).

A few months later, on September 20, 2022, they again carried out monthly exercises involving Saudi Arabian troops and the United States. The exercise was carried out one day by the International Maritime Security Construct (IMSC), Royal Saudi Navy ships HMS As-Siddiq (PGG 511) and USCGC Charles Moulthrop (WPC 1141) participated in the latest exercise. The ships conducted ship and small ship defense training during the event, which was part of a series of monthly exercises that improve maritime communication and coordination among the nine member countries of the IMSC (imscsentinel, 2022b).

Explaining further in the previous discussion that the fact is that until 2022 no merchant ships belonging to the country where the country is a member of the IMSC have been attacked since the formation of the US Maritime Coalition or IMSC. Since the inception of the IMSC there have also been no attacks on IMSC-flagged vessels (imscsentinel, 2020). This certainly benefits Saudi Arabia because it can anticipate threats that could disrupt global oil supplies in the Persian Gulf.

### **Saudi Arabia Holds Emergency Meeting With Gulf Countries**

With the sabotage attacks on two Saudi Arabian tankers taking place off the coast of Fujairah and drone attacks on processing fields in the cities of Khurais and Abqaiq, Saudi Arabia's King Salman bin Abdulaziz al-Saud invited the leaders of the gulf countries to attend an emergency high-level meeting on 30 May 2019 to discuss threats in the region, especially related to global oil supply. According to the Saudi Arabian Foreign Ministry, the emergency high-level meeting was to discuss the impact of the sabotage of four Saudi tankers in the waters of the United Arab Emirates and two days later the drone attack on Saudi Arabia's oil installations in Riyadh. The meeting was held in the holy city of Makkah ahead of the 14th OIC Summit. King Salman revealed that because of the sabotage attacks on four tankers off the coast of the United Arab Emirates and drone attacks on the oil fields in the cities of Khurais and Abqaiq, the Persian Gulf is of course a route for Oil shipments can also be threatened from terror attacks such as sabotage and drones. Considering that the Persian Gulf does not only have one security interest, namely as an oil shipping route and there are ports which are oil facilities or oil export facilities in the Persian Gulf, of course the Persian Gulf must be guarded so that it can anticipate terror attacks such as sabotage attacks on 2 Saudi Arabian tankers and drone attacks on Saudi Arabian oil fields in the cities of Khurais and Abqaiq. Therefore, Saudi Arabia, through King Salman, emphasized that in an emergency meeting with the relevant Gulf countries, serious efforts or actions were needed to protect the security of shipping in the Persian Gulf (Syah Utomo, 2019b).

The existence of this emergency meeting then prompted other Gulf countries to show their seriousness in protecting oil shipments in the Persian Gulf after the emergency meeting. Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar and Kuwait have joined the United States maritime coalition to protect oil shipments in the Persian Gulf. On 19 August 2019, Bahrain announced it would join the US-led maritime coalition in the Persian Gulf. The announcement coincided with a meeting between General Frank McKenzie, commander of US Central Command, and Bahrain's King Hamad bin Isa Al-Khalifa. Then on September 19, 2019 the day after Saudi Arabia joined the US maritime coalition, the United Arab Emirates announced it would follow

Saudi Arabia and join an international maritime mission to protect commercial shipping in the Persian Gulf. Emirati Ministry of Foreign Affairs official Salem al Zaabi says the UAE will join the coalition to ensure global energy security and a sustainable flow of energy supply (Primer, 2019). Then followed by other gulf countries such as qatar and kuwait which joined the US maritime coalition on Monday 25 November 2019 (Staff, 2019). Saudi Arabia's step in holding an emergency meeting with the Gulf countries on May 30 2019 in Mecca is part of a strategy and effort that indirectly maintains global oil supplies by Saudi Arabia.

## E. CONCLUSION

Based on the explanation above, it can be concluded that Saudi Arabia's efforts to maintain global oil supplies in the Persian Gulf consist of two efforts, namely military and non-military efforts. Saudi Arabia's military efforts are joining the United States maritime coalition to carry out sentinel operations and conducting Sentinel Coalition Task Force (CTF) exercises as an increase in security cooperation between Saudi Arabia and the United States to protect oil shipments in the Persian Gulf. As for the non-military efforts made by Saudi Arabia, namely by holding an emergency meeting with the Gulf countries to inform them that a serious effort or effort is needed to protect the security of shipping in the Persian Gulf because of attacks that have occurred before, namely on two Saudi Arabian tankers which were sabotaged and released. the coast of Fujairah and drone attacks on oil fields or oil processing facilities in the Saudi cities of Khurais and Abqaiq. So, with these attacks it is very possible that in the future these attacks will threaten the existence of the Persian Gulf as a global oil supply line. Therefore it is important for Saudi Arabia to inform the gulf countries by holding an emergency meeting regarding the need for serious efforts to protect the security of shipping in the Persian Gulf because even though there has not been any disturbance of security or insecurity in the Persian Gulf, the gulf countries including Saudi Arabia must make efforts to prevent or anticipate non-traditional forms of security threats such as terrorist attacks such as sabotage attacks on two Saudi Arabian tankers and drone attacks on Saudi Arabia's oil fields in the cities of Khurais and Abqaiq

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