

US 'locked and loaded' after Saudi attacks as oil prices surge

President Donald Trump said Sunday the US is "locked and loaded" to respond to attacks on Saudi oil infrastructure that Washington blamed on Iran, which have sent oil prices soaring.

It is the first time the president has *hinted* at a potential American military response to the *drone* attacks, which slashed Saudi oil production by half and led both the kingdom and the United States to announce they may tap their strategic reserves.

hint 暗示; 线索

drone 无人机

"There is reason to believe that we know the *culprit*, are locked and loaded depending on verification, but are waiting to hear from the Kingdom as to who they believe was the cause of this attack, and under what terms we would proceed!" Trump tweeted.

culprit 犯人

Tehran 德黑兰

The *Tehran*-backed Huthi rebels in Yemen, where a Saudi-led *coalition* is *bogged down* in a five-year war, claimed Saturday's strikes on two plants owned by state energy giant *Aramco*.

coalition 联合

bog down 陷入困局

Aramco 沙特阿美

squarely 直接地

But US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo pointed the finger *squarely* at Tehran. "The United States will work with our partners and allies to ensure that energy markets remain well supplied and Iran is held accountable for its aggression," the top US diplomat said.

That drew an angry response from Tehran, where foreign ministry spokesman Abbas Mousavi said: "Such *fruitless* and blind accusations and remarks are *incomprehensible* and meaningless."

fruitless 不成功的; 徒劳的

incomprehensible 不能理解的

Saudi's energy infrastructure has been hit by the Huthis many times before, but this strike was of a different order, abruptly halting 5.7 million barrels per day (bpd) or about six percent of the world's oil supply.