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Putin Chides West on Energy

By The Moscow Times

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Prime Minister Vladimir Putin said Tuesday that the West is largely responsible for high energy prices, citing unrest in North Africa and the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq in 2003.

"Who is doing North Africa? Us? No. Who is doing Iraq? Us? No? ... We have nothing to do with it," Putin said after talks on the natural gas trade with his Ukrainian counterpart. Putin has sharply criticized the NATO-led air operations in Libya.

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