

Israel holds cards in Trump-Iran negotiations

The Grayzone's Max Blumenthal wonders why a couple of dedicated pro-Israel zealots with no official position are heading up the Trump administration's negotiations with Iran, and references a new Epstein file which puts Jared Kushner's role in context. ||| The Grayzone ||| Find more reporting at <https://thegrayzone.com> Support our original journalism at Patreon: <https://patreon.com/grayzone> Facebook: <https://facebook.com/thegrayzone> Twitter: <https://twitter.com/thegrayzonenews> Instagram: <https://instagram.com/thegrayzonenews> Minds: <https://minds.com/thegrayzone> Mastodon: <https://mastodon.social/@thegrayzone> #TheGrayzone

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Jared Kushner and Steve Witkoff, who hold no formal position in the Trump administration, are negotiating through Oman's foreign ministry in Oman with Abbas Araghchi, the foreign minister of Iran, down the hallway. I think Kushner shook hands with Araghchi in a sort of breach of protocol, but they're exchanging notes through the Omani foreign ministry as they negotiate over Iran's nuclear file—apparently over Iran's ballistic missiles. Here are some photos of Kushner and Steve Witkoff with the Omani foreign minister, raising a lot of questions.

The whole reason this is happening is because Donald Trump has decided to threaten Iran with war, since he's being nudged by Israel—by Netanyahu—and by his largest donors: Miriam Adelson and Ron Lauder, a figure named constantly in the Epstein files as an associate of Epstein. Lauder was part of Netanyahu's "mega group" of millionaires and billionaires who supported his political fortunes from within the U.S. while pushing pro-Israel institutional activism across the West. This is only happening because Israel is demanding that the U.S. attack Iran, which poses no threat to U.S. national security. It's also happening because the U.S. instrumentalized protests to foment riots alongside Israeli intelligence—and, I would assume, British intelligence—which left thousands dead.

Two days of rioting, from January 8th to January 9th. As Wyatt Reed and I detailed in an article at The Grayzone, the death toll has been fabricated and concocted by sources close to the clown prince, Reza Pahlavi, who incited those riots—calling for Iranians to kill government workers, kill government media workers, and take over institutions. Trump also called for Iranians to take over institutions. These monarchist sources are pushing a phony death toll of 30,000. U.S. media started reporting it in *Time* magazine, and then *The Guardian* began reporting it to legitimize it through the voice of the left-liberal London intelligentsia.

And then E.U. ministers followed by designating the IRGC as a terrorist organization, giving a European green light to a U.S. attack on Iran on behalf of Israel. It's being stalled through

negotiations in Oman. The idea that Iran would give up its ballistic missiles—wait a minute, actually, let me make one quick point about those protests. Scott Besant, the U.S. Treasury Secretary, for the second time—after saying something similar in Davos—has taken credit for the protests that mutated into very violent, deadly riots in Iran through the instrumentalization of sanctions, or financial terrorism, against the Iranian economy. And this is his most blatant confession yet.

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The Treasury—and what we've done—is create a dollar shortage in the country. At a speech at the Economic Club of New York in March, I outlined the strategy. It came to a swift, and I would say grand, culmination in December when one of the largest banks in Iran went under. There was a run on the bank, the central bank had to print money, and the Iranian currency went into free fall. Inflation exploded.

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Watch the woman nodding behind him, right here.

#Bessent

Currency went into free fall, inflation exploded, and that's why we've seen the Iranian people out in the streets. We will continue monitoring all our partners—all the Iranian partners. The good news, Senator, is that we've seen it, and we can see it with our friends in the Treasury.

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So, I mean, he admits again that the sanctions were designed to destabilize Iran and drive riots, and he's taking credit for those riots. These were not peaceful protests. This was a bridge between the 12-day war and the coming assault on Iran. And in many ways, the riots themselves were a more devastating act of war on Iran than any Israeli assault—an Israeli assault last June 2025—because it pits Iranians against one another. It pits neighbor against neighbor through economic warfare, through desperation. And what many Iranians are telling me is that this was much more psychologically damaging because it's coming from within their own society. It reminds me a lot of what took place in Nicaragua in 2018, which the Nicaraguan government defeated. But these negotiations are ongoing.

Steve Witkoff, whose family is very close to the Zionist movement—Steve Witkoff, who praised the former director of the Mossad at a fundraiser for United Hatzalah, the Israeli pseudo-rescue group that hyped up a lot of the October 7th hoaxes—is there with Jared Kushner, the presidential son-in-law who's overseeing the Board of Peace to transform Gaza into a series of high-tech, biometrically enforced concentration camps and data centers. Jared Kushner literally was in bed with Netanyahu—or almost—when he was a boy. His father, Charles Kushner, a fraudster who was pardoned by

Trump and is now the ambassador to France, used to host Netanyahu when Netanyahu was in New York as the opposition leader. Jared would be asked to give up his bed so Netanyahu could stay over in his bedroom.

And I guess Jared would sleep on the couch or somewhere else. So that's how close Jared Kushner is to Israel. And these are the two figures negotiating on behalf of the U.S. with Iran. What is Iran being asked to do? They're being asked to give up some of their ballistic missiles—especially their long-range ballistic missiles—at a time when they're introducing a new hypersonic missile that can reach targets in Israel in less than five seconds. They're being asked to give up their deterrence, just as Gaddafi gave up his deterrence and was met with bayonets in his backside by NATO-backed death squads—literally backed by NATO. The Libyan Islamic Fighting Group was under NATO air cover when they beheaded Gaddafi's guards and sodomized him with a bayonet. That was Gaddafi's price for normalizing and giving up his deterrence.

The Syrian government struck a deal to give up its chemical weapons. Well, there's almost no Syria left, and it's been replaced by a rebranded al-Qaeda government. What reward will Iran get if it gives up its ballistic missiles, or if it stops enriching uranium and gives up on potentially becoming a breakout nuclear power? It's pretty clear Iran would be destroyed as a country and balkanized. And they can't allow that. They're not going to do it. So I expect these negotiations to fail, given how compromised the U.S. negotiators are, the real forces they represent, the demands the U.S. is making, and the position Iran has been placed in. After seeing what took place in Venezuela, I think it's pretty clear that the only language the U.S. and Israel understand is force.

If you don't use force, they'll come in, kidnap your head of state or kill them, and then take over your country. And if Trump's operation in Venezuela had gone wrong—if there had been a Black Hawk Down incident—I don't think Donald Trump would even be attempting this in Iran. But he was on some kind of psychological high after an operation where special forces literally marched into Caracas and picked up the head of state and his wife as though they were catching an Uber ride. So Iran has to demonstrate strength here and deploy real force. The message they're sending is that if the U.S. attacks or attempts to assassinate its leader, there will be a regional war. And all of Iran's regional cards—the Popular Mobilization Forces in Iraq, Yemeni Ansar Allah—they'll be put on the table.

And Iran has been conducting naval exercises in the Strait of Hormuz, a major economic choke point. The global economy would suffer massively, and it would all be because Israel decided to activate Trump to carry out this war. Donald Trump, who is referred to in one of the more interesting recent Epstein files as having been co-opted by Israel—according to FBI file 1023 and a confidential human source—and again, I think I know who that source is, but I can't confirm it because they won't respond to me, was co-opted by Israeli influence networks, with Jared Kushner functioning as the central power broker during Trump's first term. The CHS report comes from an FBI-validated informant, giving it a higher credibility threshold.

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It says here that Kushner is the real brains behind Trump's organization and his presidency. There's also an interesting section about how Chabad is doing everything it can to co-opt the Trump presidency. Chabad is basically state-sanctioned Judaism. On the day Trump was elected president, Ivanka Trump and Jared were at the gravesite of Rabbi Schneerson, the most powerful rabbi in the Chabad network. Jared didn't disclose his stake in Cadre because of its ties to the Russian state. The CHS believed this is the real Russian collusion story.

Kushner—it goes on. But yes, Jared Kushner is heavily involved with Chabad. I think Chabad helped convert Ivanka to Orthodox Judaism. Chabad is a settler, a fascistic, settler-oriented religious nationalist cult that believes the late Rabbi Menachem Schneerson may be the Messiah. And many Trump-affiliated figures and Trump administration cabinet-level secretaries are Chabadniks—one of them, besides Jared and Ivanka, is Howard Lutnick, the Commerce Secretary. Here they are.

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They're paying tribute to Menachem Schneerson at his grave. Lutnick brought Trump there. By the way, who was Lutnick's neighbor in New York? It was Jeffrey Epstein—and Epstein and his buddy Les Wexner from the Mega Group helped Howard Lutnick buy that townhouse. Lutnick's sons are involved in all kinds of shady business deals through Trump Incorporated. This is such a bizarre scene. So that confidential human source, I think, was really on to something. It's Netanyahu who wants this war with Iran. It's Israel's military intelligence, and the U.S. military is functioning as their proxy in this case. So I expect war. I wouldn't be shocked if these negotiations fail. A war with Iran would be potentially devastating for the region and for the global economy. There's no reason for it at all—from an American point of view. I mean, from the point of view of a realist American perspective.