

# Seyed M. Marandi: Israel & U.S. Launch Surprise Attack on Iran

Iran is under attack in what will likely be a massive regional war that cannot be contained. Seyed Mohammad Marandi is a professor at Tehran University and a former advisor to Iran's Nuclear Negotiation Team. Follow Prof. Glenn Diesen: Substack: <https://glennDiesen.substack.com/> X /Twitter: [https://x.com/Glenn\\_Diesen](https://x.com/Glenn_Diesen) Patreon: <https://www.patreon.com/glennDiesen> Support the research by Prof. Glenn Diesen: PayPal: <https://www.paypal.com/paypalme/glennDiesen> Buy me a Coffee: [buymeacoffee.com/gdieseng](https://buymeacoffee.com/gdieseng) Go Fund Me: <https://gofund.me/09ea012f> Books by Prof. Glenn Diesen: <https://www.amazon.com/stores/author/B09FPQ4MDL>

## #Glenn

Welcome back to the program. Today we're joined by Saeed Mohammed Marandi, a professor at Tehran University and a former advisor to Iran's nuclear negotiation team. Thank you for coming on. We're seeing reports from both Israeli and American media that, within the last hour, they began attacking Iran in what they're calling a "preemptive strike." We're now hearing about explosions in Tehran, and if I'm not mistaken, they're also happening in other cities. I was wondering if you could tell us what's happening there on the ground.

## #Seyed M. Marandi

Well, as we all know, the United States and the Israeli regime are completely dishonest and deceptive, and we've already seen that an infinite number of times before. We saw it during the 12-day war, as we were negotiating between rounds five and six of talks. The Israeli regime and the Trump administration carried out a blitzkrieg attack against the Iranian people. During this period, people have been expecting that such an attack would take place. Iranians, of course, negotiated—as you and I have discussed before—both to see if a solution was possible, but also so that the international community and their own people would feel safe and understand very clearly that it is not the Iranian side that's seeking death, destruction, and murder.

And the talks, by all accounts, were making progress. The Omani foreign minister did an interview in the United States and spoke of optimism and progress, yet the establishment class was unhappy. They are not seeking peace between Iran and the United States, or peace in our region. As the U.S. ambassador today—I can't say admitted—he basically said openly, and no one has condemned or punished him in the U.S. government, that if the Israeli regime takes the entire region, that's fine with the United States. So, when we have this mentality among Americans, among American officials...

And when they constantly attack while they're negotiating, the Iranians have no option but to strike back—and strike back very, very hard. Now, I don't know, at this moment as we speak, what role the United States is playing in this attack—whether its own missiles are being used or its own jets are being used. But without a doubt, the Iranian response against the Israeli regime will be very harsh. People have been murdered today in Tehran and in other cities. This is an unprovoked war. But the Iranians, as we saw when they were far less prepared eight months ago, struck back, and ultimately it was the Netanyahu regime that agreed to a ceasefire.

So I have no doubt that Iran will strike back—and strike back hard—with success today. The question is, what is the United States going to do? Has it played a role? I don't know yet. Will it play a role? Because you and I both know the Americans apparently have been seen—since they have no excuse to carry out this unprovoked war—they're trying to find a scenario where the Israelis would attack, and that would give them an excuse to attack. Now, what excuse does that give them? I have no idea, because that would be aggression. And joining in on aggression does not enhance the logic of war or the logic of a just war. It only creates a justification for war.

It is pure and ugly aggression. And it comes at a time, Glenn, when we see that in the United States, for the first time, the Israeli regime has less sympathy among Americans than the Palestinians. I think this is significant. The regime sees that time is not on its side. It sees that the world has turned against it. And even the American people, who are the most propagandized people in the world, are seeing through the propaganda. They're seeing through the censorship on social media and the one-sided propaganda of mainstream media. And that is not good news for the regime at all. So I think they are behaving in a very desperate manner.

## **#Glenn**

Well, regarding the U.S. not having a good reason, Politico recently had an article where they made the point that many people in Washington, according to Politico, believed it was better for Israel to attack Iran first. That way, when Iran retaliates, the U.S. would have a reason to join the war under the guise of defending Israel, rather than being seen as the aggressor. But that kind of begs the question—how do you, I know you're not part of the Iranian government, but how do you expect Iran to retaliate here? Will it strike Israel and then wait to be attacked again by the United States? Or do you think the Iranian government will not consider Israel and the United States to be two separate actors in this war?

## **#Seyed M. Marandi**

I don't know, because it depends on what happened. There's no doubt that Iran will strike the Israeli regime—that will happen shortly. It may even be happening as we speak right now, I don't know. But regarding the United States, I think we'll have to see what role it played. Maybe the United States is saying this was a joint operation to provoke Iran—we don't know. Maybe it was just the Israelis, and the Americans are saying, "We were in on it too," or the Israelis are saying, "We were

part of it too.” That could make the Iranians strike the Americans, and then the Americans would say the Iranians attacked them. We don't know what games they're playing yet. Maybe right now the commanders and leaders of the country have figured it out.

But speaking to you now, I don't know. What is certain is that Iran will punish the Israeli regime. What's unclear is what role the United States has played so far. Maybe they have played a role, or maybe they're pretending they did to provoke Iran. It's unclear. But what is clear is that the United States, the Zionist elements that control so much of it, want to join in on this. So we have to be very careful about what they mean when they say this was a joint operation. It may have actually been an Israeli regime operation, but the Americans might want to deceive Iran into striking American targets. Nothing is clear at the moment, but I think in the next few hours, things will become much clearer.

## **#Glenn**

What do we know so far, though, about what the Israelis have hit? It started with some reports saying they struck Tehran, but from what I understand, other Iranian cities have been hit as well. So do we know what the targets are? Are they military, infrastructure, or political targets?

## **#Seyed M. Marandi**

It's still unclear to me, because I'm sitting here with you and not really following the news that closely. What I've seen online is that they've struck the Ministry of Intelligence, the Guards, the police—possibly the leader's office, maybe even the president's office. That's not clear to me. But the Iranians have been taking precautions. While they can't completely shut down the government and business as usual has to go on, it's not like it was eight months ago. The Iranians are far less vulnerable now, comparatively speaking. But at the end of the day, this is a blitzkrieg attack. When you have a blitzkrieg attack, you're going to have casualties.

You're going to have innocent people murdered. You're going to have government officials murdered. But I don't think this is going to play out well for the Israeli regime at all. It's going to be worse than the 12-day war for them. The big question, of course, is what the United States is going to do. Iran is prepared for war with the United States, and we've discussed this earlier. But if there is a war with the United States, it's going to bring down the global economy. The Iranians are going to fight for their survival. So people across the world have to recognize that whatever happens, it is the fault of the Trump regime, the Epstein class, the Netanyahu regime.

And I think this is going to mobilize the world further against the United States and the Israeli regime. The United States is a rogue regime. It's strangling the people of Cuba as we speak, and U. S. media is quiet about it because they're all captured. They're owned by the Epstein class. We see that the people of Venezuela are being forced to carry out policies dictated by Washington. We see that the U.S. ambassador is basically saying Israel can take whatever it wants in the region, and he's

not rebuked, he's not removed, what he says is not rejected by Washington. Why? Because that is unofficial policy. It's not official policy, but it's unofficial policy.

## **#Glenn**

Well, is it possible? I've seen the argument too—that Israel might attack to provoke an Iranian strike on American forces, which would then pull in the United States. This, of course, assumes the Americans aren't aware of what the Israelis are doing. But it does put Iran in a dilemma, because on one hand it would be easier to fight the Israelis first, yet it seems very unlikely the Americans would sit this one out. So then Iran also loses the benefit of, I guess, not waiting to be hit first. Do you know if there have been any policies or expectations for what Iran could do?

## **#Seyed M. Marandi**

I don't think there's any dilemma at all. The Israeli regime has attacked, and we will punish it. If the United States attacks, we will punish it too. The question I have—and this is just a personal question, maybe not one for those in charge right now, since they know exactly what's going on—is this: when the Israeli regime and people in the media are quoting American officials saying this was a joint attack, maybe what they're trying to do is provoke Iran to carry out an attack on the United States, thinking it was a joint operation. That's just my personal guess. But I think Iran's policy is quite clear: Iran will strike the Israeli regime very hard. If the United States attacks, it's going to be an all-out war.

## **#Glenn**

In terms of the scope of this, do you think—given that the missiles are, well, I wouldn't say they're coming in slow—but do you think this is something the Israelis and Americans might try to sell as a limited attack? You and I discussed before that they'd prefer a limited strike, just to hit Iran a little bit and then tell the Iranians, "Okay, we're done now, if you don't retaliate." Do you think that's what they might be going for here, given that the U.S. and Israelis didn't come in with everything they have right away in a massive attack? And if so, how do you expect Iran to respond? Do you think there's any appetite to accept this limited attack?

## **#Seyed M. Marandi**

If it's just an Israeli attack, Iran will punish it thoroughly and pound it until it's finished—beaten so badly that it begs for a ceasefire. That's scenario A. Scenario B: if the United States attacks Iran, then the Iranians have said this will become a regional war—an all-out war. So my assumption is that the Iranians are not going to play that sort of game. They will strike back very hard, and they've built up a very powerful capability to do so. Remember, this would be a war for Iran's survival. If the

United States attacks, it will be a war for Iran's survival. For the United States, it would be a war of choice—to help the genocidal monsters in Tel Aviv, to help ethno-supremacism, to help Israeli expansionism.

That's what it's for, for the Americans—despite the fact that their own people don't want the war, and despite the fact that their own people are increasingly coming to despise the Israeli regime. But for Iran, this will be a war of survival, so it will hit back hard. But again, we're talking about scenarios, and maybe as you and I are speaking, this is being played out—I don't know. So far, as we speak, the strike has come from Israel. They claim it's a joint strike, but it seems to be coming from Israel. So Iran will respond to Israel. If it is indeed a joint attack, then Iran will respond to the United States, and we'll have a regional war. But it could be that this is an Israeli attack, and the Americans want to label it as American in order to provoke Iran.

## **#Glenn**

I've seen in the Israeli media—the Jerusalem Post, for example—they refer to this as a U.S.-Israeli strike. But again, as you said, it's unclear in these early stages if this is just to get the Iranians to launch an attack on America, so that it becomes seen as the aggressor.

## **#Seyed M. Marandi**

By the way, Glenn, after the show remind me to give you a couple of phone numbers, just in case something happens in the days ahead, so you'll have people to contact.

## **#Glenn**

I will do. Well, many countries announced just yesterday that they have to evacuate immediately from Iran and Israel. Some also extended this to other parts of the region. I guess this is obviously predicting the retaliation that's coming. So if it turns out now that the United States, as Israeli media reports, joined in on this attack on Iran, what do you see happening—not in the days ahead, but today, essentially?

## **#Seyed M. Marandi**

If the United States attacks, I think we'll have a regional war. If I were in the Persian Gulf region, I'd leave immediately, if it's still possible. I don't think it's smart for anyone to stay—or even for Westerners to stay in Iraq. I think they should all leave. If the U.S. attacks, I think Iran will shut down oil and gas from the Persian Gulf. Iran will strike American targets and anything connected to U.S. interests. In other words, that's a very broad position for Iran to take—it could mean anything. I assume it will depend on U.S. targeting as well. Assuming the United States attacks Iran, the types of targets Iran chooses will depend on U.S. targeting. I don't know these things. But what I do know is that if we have all-out war—if the United States attacks Iran—it's all-out war.

It will be a regional war, and the Strait of Hormuz will be shut down. If the United States attacks, Iran will do whatever it needs to survive this war. All those countries in the Persian Gulf region that host U.S. bases—they're all complicit. In the Caucasus, they're complicit in this war too. They were part of it; they can't have their cake and eat it too. The Jordanian regime—it's quite stunning that all these countries in the region, even as the U.S. ambassador says it's fine with the United States for the Israeli regime to take Jordan, Syria, and parts of Saudi Arabia and Egypt—continue to be so complicit with the United States. And of course, Turkey continues to transport oil from Baku to Netanyahu.

## **#Glenn**

Well, I guess the dilemma for the United States in launching an attack on a large country like Iran is that it needs a lot of military resources. I think they have around a hundred aerial refuelers, simply because their fighters and bombers can't reach Iran without them. But with all this military hardware in the region, it also gives Iran a lot of different targets. So it becomes very difficult for the U.S., especially with reports of them having limited air defenses because, you know, they're also fighting in Ukraine and... we're fighting everywhere now.

So how do you see the priorities for Iran? Have they set out any targets they want to go for first? I mean, the Gulf states—obviously there's been a lot of tension with Bahrain or the United Arab Emirates. I mean, who... Again, the Iranian military command is probably not whispering in your ear, but, you know, as an Iranian there in Tehran, knee-deep in these issues, how do you see it? Do you think Iran will just launch at everything at once?

## **#Seyed M. Marandi**

Well, again, I'm just guessing. If it's the Israelis alone, then Iran will focus on battering the regime. But if the United States gets involved, then Iran will do whatever it takes to make sure the Americans regret attacking Iran. So I'd imagine that striking empty bases wouldn't be a priority. They'd strike places where it would hurt the most—cause the maximum suffering. And since all these regimes have been completely complicit, from Qatar to the Emirates—even though those two countries hate each other—they're both American proxies. Qatar was never a supporter of the Palestinian people, nor is Erdoğan or anyone else. We see how they're all in the U.S. camp. So Qatar, just like the Emirates, is a possible target, depending on what happens.

I don't want to say anything, because I don't know what's happening. I don't know what the involvement of the United States is or how things will play out. But if there's all-out war, all I can say is it will be a regional war. Iran's allies across the region, which are powerful and many, will engage. The Iranian missile and drone capabilities are second to none in this region, by far. They will engage. And there are so many soft targets that the United States cannot defend, that can easily be destroyed. You have oil and gas installations everywhere. You have tankers and ships everywhere. And each one of these that's destroyed—shutting the Strait of Hormuz—that's one thing.

But if the assets in the Persian Gulf region are destroyed—the oil, the gas, the tankers—then even if the Strait of Hormuz remains open, it could take years, depending on how long the war goes on and how widespread the damage is. It could take years for oil exports to return to previous levels. And that would create very, very long-term damage and misery for people across the globe. This is from the Persian Gulf region, from West Asia and the Caucasus combined. If I'm not mistaken, almost 25% of the world's oil comes from this area. Imagine what that will do to the markets. Imagine what that will do to industries, to companies, to corporations, to people at home—ordinary people.

It will have a devastating effect—from the southern tip of the Americas to the southern tip of Africa, to, you know, everywhere, to New Zealand. Everyone will be affected, and this will be the doing of the United States. But until it becomes clear to me what role the United States is truly playing, I really can't say much more. Because again, the claim that this is a joint operation sounds very satanic to me. It sounds to me—and I may be wrong—that the Israeli regime is carrying out this attack and they're saying it's a joint operation so that the Iranians will attack or hit something American, and then the Americans can say, "Oh, they struck our target, so we're part of this war now." That's basically what I think is happening. But, you know, we have to keep this in mind, Glenn, that again, the Omani foreign minister went to the United States and was upbeat about the negotiations, explaining to people across the world what was happening and how progress had been made. And yet, despite that—just like during the 12-day war—the United States, in its support, gave the green light. That part is obvious. But the Israeli regime carried out this blitzkrieg attack.

## **#Glenn**

I think it's a very reasonable hypothesis, because obviously the United States has assisted—it's unthinkable otherwise. But this could be a much more powerful strike if the U.S. were more directly involved, with all these assets in the region. The only reason one can think of why they would assist but not be directly involved is for the optics. As I mentioned before, politically it's better to have Iran attack, Israel attack first, and then the U.S. simply helping Israel's right to exist. It's kind of like that.

## **#Seyed M. Marandi**

Just my last question. If anyone is sane, anyone reasonable and logical, it doesn't help the case. It doesn't make sense to say, "Okay, if the Israeli regime—we don't have justification for war, so if the Israeli regime attacks and then we attack, that will give us justification." It doesn't. It actually does the opposite, because in a sane world, the aggressor would be condemned and marginalized. But they want to join in, saying that this is their justification. It's the exact opposite. But that's how logic works for the Epstein class. And that is why the United States has become a threat to the world. It's not just Iran. It's not just Cuba. It's everyone. All the rules have been cast aside.

The United States expects Russia, China, Iran, BRICS—everyone across the world—to abide by the rules, yet they are now openly and explicitly above the law. And that's why governments and

ordinary people, from top to bottom, have a role to play. People have to protest, have to boycott everything American—markets, supermarkets, anything. And governments have to seek solutions that marginalize the United States. Iran will play its part. If the United States attacks, Iran will hit back hard. It will be bloody, it will be brutal, it will be painful. People like me may not survive. But this is the only thing we can do. The United States must be forced to back down. Otherwise, if the United States succeeds, there will be nothing stopping this madness.

## **#Glenn**

Well, as a last question, what do you see as external support? Because Iran doesn't stand alone either. On one level, it has regional allies in Yemen, Iraq, Lebanon, and Palestine. On a more global scale, it also has at least indirect support, I guess, from the great powers—China, Russia—in terms of intelligence, possibly targeting, weapons, air defenses, those kinds of things. What do you expect to see, based on how this war is starting?

## **#Seyed M. Marandi**

Could you ask the question one more time?

## **#Glenn**

Well, what do you expect to see in terms of international support for Iran—both from its regional allies, from Yemen to Palestine and Lebanon, and also from the great powers, meaning China and Russia?

## **#Seyed M. Marandi**

Well, again, if it's the Israeli regime, I think that for Iran, beating them back, punishing them, and bringing them to their knees can be done without any intervention from anyone else. That's my personal understanding. But if the United States gets involved, then all of Iran's allies will be at war. It will be a regional war. It won't be like an RPG attack somewhere—no, it will be an all-out war. From Yemen, which has been preparing itself, to Iraq—Iran's allies have been preparing themselves, and so on. So this will be something very big, something the U.S. cannot manage, because there are just too many people involved. Iraq is a huge country. Yemen is a huge country.

The United States already lost the seven-week war to Yemen, and Yemen has been preparing itself for the next stage. In the United States, its resources are divided in different places right now. There's Iran, there's resistance in Iraq, there's Yemen, and there are others in the axis of resistance. So this will not be something the U.S. can manage. I think the international community—well, I don't know exactly how it will play out—but I think it's only going to make countries across the global

majority tilt away from the United States, move away from it, because the United States is becoming increasingly dangerous. It's becoming, really, a rogue regime. And I think the hatred for the Israeli regime is only going to increase.

I think today was another turning point, where people across the world are seeing this rogue regime once again trying to slaughter people, trying to destroy attempts to bring about peace and stability—because that is the nature of the regime. And people are seeing it. This is not the first time. They had a ceasefire in Lebanon, and every day they're murdering Lebanese citizens. They have a ceasefire in Gaza, and every day they're murdering multiple people there. They're expanding their presence in the West Bank, murdering people, stealing their homes and land. And they attack Iran as the U.S. and Iran are talking—and they do it once again as the U.S. and Iran are talking, even as the Omani mediators were saying that things are moving forward well. This is not going to end well for the Israeli regime.

## **#Glenn**

I guess, sorry, just a last very short question. Often you see countries wanting to operate in the gray zone—that is, they don't want to be either attacking or not attacking. So, for example, what does U. S. involvement mean, as well as the Gulf states? Because once Iran begins to retaliate against Israel, it seems very predictable that the U.S. will help intercept whatever Iran launches back. And in the way they help, it means they'll also use the airspace of the Gulf states to do so. In other words, they're participating—indirectly or directly, however one wants to define it. But how do you expect Iran to see this kind of involvement? Because that's operating in that gray space, where it allows portraying Iran, whatever it does, as either being aggressive or weak.

## **#Seyed M. Marandi**

You're right, that is a gray zone. Turkey's airspace is being used with AWACS, and the U.S. bases in Turkey are being used against Iran. The same is true in the Persian Gulf and in Jordan—they're all being mobilized against Iran. All of these countries are complicit. But we'll have to see what the Iranians decide. Last time around, the Iranians focused on the Israeli regime, and despite U.S. attempts, Iran was able to devastate the regime and force it into a ceasefire. I can't comment on this right now because I really don't know. But obviously, any sort of cooperation by countries in the Persian Gulf region in particular, or in the Caucasus, is going to be treated differently this time around than last time. It's too early for me to say, and since I'm not a government official, I don't want to say something that may be inaccurate.

## **#Glenn**

Well, thank you for taking the time. I know things are quite chaotic and stressful there in Tehran this morning. So yes, stay safe, and let's hope this doesn't get out of control.

## **#Seyed M. Marandi**

Hopefully, the Israeli regime will be defeated. But more importantly, people around the world have to start acting instead of being passive—they need to be much more active.