

# Iran's Missiles SMASH US Bases | Elijah Magnier & Mohammad Marandi

The US and Israel launched strikes into Iran in the early hours of February 28th in an attempted regime change operation that both Trump and Isarel officials say will last days. Iran has already retaliated in a massive way, leaving several US bases and Israel itself under heavy fire. War correspondent Elijah Magnier joins the show to break it all down. <https://ejmagnier.com/> FOLLOW ME ON RUMBLE: <https://rumble.com/c/DannyHaiphong> FOLLOW ME ON TELEGRAM: <https://t.me/dannyhaiphong> SUPPORT THE CHANNEL ON PATREON: <https://www.patreon.com/dannyhaiphong> Support the channel in other ways: <https://www.buymeacoffee.com/dannyhaiphong> Substack: [chroniclesofhaiphong.substack.com](https://chroniclesofhaiphong.substack.com) Cashapp: \$Dhaiphong Venmo: @dannyH2020 Paypal: <https://paypal.me/spiritofho> Follow me on Telegram: <https://t.me/dannyhaiphong> #iran #trump #israel

## #Danny

Welcome, everyone. Welcome back to the show. It's your host, Danny Haiphong. As you can see, I'm joined by independent journalist and war correspondent Elijah Magnier. Thank you so much for joining me, Elijah. We have a lot to get to because the U.S. and Israel have begun their kinetic war, their all-out war on Iran. Thanks so much for joining me today.

## #Guest

It's a pleasure to be with you.

## #Danny

Yes, everyone, hit the like button. That helps boost the stream as we get into this critical show. So, Elijah, first, your overall assessment. I think what Israel is calling it is "Roaring Lion," their operation. The U.S. says this is "Operation Epic Fury." They've conducted major airstrikes in Iran, targeting civilian infrastructure. We've seen over 40 children, I believe, at a school bombed by Israel. And we know that the United States was sending Tomahawks through Iraqi airspace. We could go on and on. Iran has now retaliated as well. So, how about we start with your assessment before we pull up anything—your assessment of what's happened here and where we are now.

## #Guest

Thank you for having me. Well, first of all, let me start by saying it's actually not an Israeli war, because the Israelis didn't go to war on their own. When they did that in June 2025, they failed, and

they asked President Donald Trump for support to stop the war. And it's not "fury" from the American side either, because this is a war on behalf of Israel. Actually, it's meant to impose Israel—or rather, to try to impose Israel—as the only power in the Middle East that can intimidate, bully, or impose its will on all the countries in the region. This is Benjamin Netanyahu's theory. He said, "I don't really need to bother asking the Arabs to sign a deal. Once Iran is gone, everyone will knock on my door." So that's what this is all about.

It's a war to cripple Iran's economy and military infrastructure so that it can lead to the fall of the ruling system in Iran. And the reason I'm saying that is because both leaders, Benjamin Netanyahu and Donald Trump, said this morning that the objective of this war—what I call it—is to change the regime in Iran. Now, Benjamin Netanyahu was a little more careful than Donald Trump. He said he wants to create the circumstances to change the regime. In my understanding, covering different wars around the Middle East, it reminds me of the 1990s—the war on Iraq—when the bombardment of Iraq and the sanctions imposed on Saddam Hussein, the "oil for food" program, led to the fall of his ruling system after a few years, when the country's economy was completely crippled.

So basically, what we've seen today are two operations. The Israelis went on a personal attack to kill the leaders. Benjamin Netanyahu loves the theatrical side of any war, and Donald Trump selected the objective of a military position, a military target. So on one side, you have the Israelis killing political and military leaders. This is not something that happened in June 2025, because Israel told us they went to kill the foreign minister, the president, the Iranian leader—all the top senior commanders—as they had tried to do in June 2025, when they killed senior military commanders. And now they're killing the political leadership. Therefore, it is completely different, and we see how the Israelis are acting.

We imagine that in the coming days, the war is going to get much nastier, and that the Americans and the Israelis will target the infrastructure—the energy, electricity, gas, oil, harbors, transport, communication systems—everything that sustains a country. They want to make sure Iran will never be able to stand on its feet, especially with sanctions imposed at the same time. It would be extremely difficult for Iran to recover quickly, and they want to create the perfect scenario for the Iranian people to stand against the ruling system and try to change it from within, after the Americans and Israelis have set up the conditions for people to turn against their government because the country will no longer be able to provide what it should for its population.

## **#Danny**

Yeah, that's a great point, Elijah. Now, here we have some unsuccessful attempts. The Israeli airstrikes you mentioned did not succeed in assassinating Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, and the same goes for the president of Iran, Massoud Prezhshkin. Of course, this is just the first day of the strikes, and I'm sure there are going to be many more, as you said. But I wanted to ask you—what has happened,

Elijah? What have the U.S. and Israel struck first? Let's get to that before we talk about the Iranian retaliation, which was also quite rapid. So first, what have the U.S. and Israel hit so far, and does it fit with what you believe is going to happen in the coming days as well?

## **#Guest**

Well, at the very beginning, the normal procedure is to hit all the defense systems so the jets can have free control over Iranian airspace. For that, the Israelis and the Americans need to destroy any potential threat to their jets so they can operate anywhere in Iran, because Iran, at the end of the day, is 1,640,000 square kilometers. It's huge—almost like a continent. And they have four seasons, which means Iran's forces are spread across the north, south, east, and west. We've seen today some of these strikes in different parts of the country. There were strikes in Sistan and Balochistan, on the Pakistani-Afghan border, so that's in the southeast.

And then we've also seen strikes in the northwest, in Kurdistan; in the center, around Tehran, Isfahan, and Karaj; and in many other cities, some of which are known to host parts of the military missile program. This is what Donald Trump said he would destroy—the Iranian missile program. Now, from the June 2025 war, the Iranians understood that they couldn't keep their missiles on trucks and move them around because of the ability of the Israelis and Americans to dominate the skies. So they shifted to underground silos, where they can launch missiles from different parts of the country. That makes it much more difficult for the Israelis and Americans, even with total control of the skies over Iran, to stop those missiles from being launched.

Now, I think both sides—the Israelis and the Americans—understand that it's impossible to destroy the entire Iranian missile program. So they're going to try to destroy as much as they can, wherever they have information, wherever they detect a missile launch, because with satellites today it's very easy to identify the launch sites. Nevertheless, Iran has thousands of ballistic missiles. What we've seen from the Iranian side today is interesting. Well, we can talk about that separately, but yes, you made some comments. The objective of the Israelis and the Americans now is to try to kill the Minister of Defense, the head of the IRGC, and the commanders in the command and control centers—which they've obviously failed to do, judging from the Iranian reaction. We'll come to that.

And then they would hit the radars. They'd destroy the Navy to make sure it doesn't pose a threat to their carriers. For that, they also need to destroy the surface-to-surface missiles that can hit those carriers. And here we're talking about hundreds of kilometers. If we're talking about surface-to-surface and ballistic missiles, we're talking about ranges of 1,700 to 2,000 kilometers. So this is not an easy battle. That's why Benjamin Netanyahu, having learned from the mistakes in Gaza and Lebanon, didn't set the bar very high—unlike Donald Trump—and said they should create the conditions, because he knows this might not succeed today.

But for Netanyahu, since we're talking about him, this is a personal war. It's not only about the destruction of Iran and his control, but also about covering up his failure on the 7th of October. This

is the only way he can get away with it in front of Israeli society and say, "Hey, look, I failed on the 7th of October, but now I've succeeded with Iran." Because so far, although he destroyed Gaza and set back Hezbollah, he hasn't managed to destroy Hamas. He's still talking about disarming Hamas or destroying Hezbollah, because neither has raised the white flag, and both keep building up their forces.

## **#Danny**

Well, uh, let's then—you know, we can of course circle back to all of this, Elijah—but let's now get to that Iranian retaliation, because, um, I'm seeing reports that U.S. military analysts have been a bit surprised by how rapidly Iran was able to strike back. Actually, I believe during the 12-day war it took about 18 hours for Iran to recalibrate after the surprise attack by Israel, with U.S. help of course. This time around, not so much. An operation was launched very rapidly. It's called, I'm probably butchering this, \*Qatal al-Tufan\*, meaning "putting it into the storm" or "the deluge."

So I'm saying "putting it into the flood," in reference to the Al-Aqsa Flood that began on October 7th, 2023. I'm just going to play a few—I'll keep them on mute—just a few of the videos as you're speaking. For example, we can look at Bahrain being hit. This one is actually from a U.S. personnel who's panicking quite a bit because he's seeing—let me turn the volume up a little—he's seeing what's going on outside his window in Bahrain, where he can actually see missiles coming down on the base there. Then we also have another image of the same area, I believe.

The base there is called, Elijah, the Fifth Fleet, I believe. Is that correct? That's where we're seeing reports of hits by Iran. Here is—I believe—Al Udeid in Qatar. We see plumes of smoke rising. This is all happening within a very short period of time after Israel and the U.S. struck. And then here's Abu Dhabi in the UAE also experiencing Iranian retaliation. So, yeah, maybe you can talk about, Elijah, what you've assessed in terms of Iran's response to these strikes—how rapid they were, and whether the reports are true that this caught the U.S. by surprise, and maybe Israel as well.

## **#Guest**

Well, first of all, let me make one point clear. Last night, the Iranians and their allies knew that the bombardment was going to come today and that the war was coming, so that was not a surprise. However, it's very easy to say that when it's not possible to prove it. Nevertheless, in June 2025, the Iranians were taken by surprise. During the negotiations, the Americans gave the go-ahead to the Israelis to start the war, and the Israelis managed to kill most of the top leaders. Now, in this position, it was important for the \*Grand Ayatollah\* Seyed Ali Khamenei to rename and appoint a new leader. They've understood the mechanism now, and that's why it took a long time.

Also, many of these command and control centers were destroyed in June 2025, in the first hour of the attack. This time is different because we're seeing several points in the Iranian retaliation. First, there's a need to assess what the attacking forces are targeting—sorry—because we've seen Iran

targeting the Israelis in the same way. So, if Israel targets only and exclusively military objectives, then the Iranians are going to target exactly the same type of site: a research center, a military base, an IRGC center. On the other side, they target the elite forces, the Israeli elite centers, and so on. So they really create a balance, and for that, they need an initial assessment. During June 2025, most leaders, particularly the missile commander, were killed in the first attack.

What Iran did is exactly what its allies, like Hezbollah, are doing. So there isn't one commander who controls the whole unit; instead, there are several sub-commanders who can replace the commander and his deputy. You have at least four people in every position who aren't in the same place but have the same knowledge, the same information, and the same instructions—what to target and when—depending on the capability of each unit. That's why we've seen such a fast reaction from the Iranians, launching missiles from different locations. But another point we've noticed, from this morning until just an hour ago, is that Iran has been using older types of missiles.

How do we know that? Because the missile used to take between ten to twelve minutes to reach its targets in Israel. However, in the last launch, when the Israelis were warning people to go to shelters, the missiles were already over Israel. That means we're now seeing a specific kind of ballistic missile that reaches Israel in about five to six minutes. So the Iranians are mixing in a few new missiles with the older ones, showing they're in full control and trying to overwhelm the Israeli and American interception systems—and their allies, including the British—so they can't intercept all the missiles.

But we've also seen Iran launching, I'm not going to say primitive, but old missiles against Gulf countries and U.S. military bases in Qatar, Al-Udeid, and in the Emirates—particularly the Emirates, because of its very close relationship with Israel—as well as in Kuwait, Bahrain, and Jordan, but not Oman. We've also seen strikes in Erbil, in Kurdistan. The Iranians are making sure the message gets through—a political message aimed at the American people and politicians, turning them against Donald Trump and saying, "Look, the Iranians are fighting back. They promised to bomb Kurdistan, even if it was evacuated."

And they kept their promise, just as they did in 2020 when the Israelis killed General Qasem Soleimani. In January 2020, in Iraq, the Iranians bombed the Al-Asad U.S. airbase. Then again, they struck in June 2025, after the Americans bombed the Iranian nuclear site, and Iran retaliated against the U.S. base at Al-Udeid in Qatar. So now we're seeing the first move from the Iranians, saying, "This is what I'm going to do." All the countries in the Middle East will be involved. For now, we're only talking about U.S. bases. The Iranians haven't started with navigation or sea blockades—at least, not yet.

Therefore, this is a card that Iran is showing it's fully capable of using—damaging the world economy. And it's also an invitation to all the Arab countries to put pressure on Donald Trump to stop the war, because they know what's coming if this war lasts for weeks or months. Donald Trump has 60 plus 30—90 days—to act without the approval of Congress. I don't think it can last for 90

days. I think if the Americans want to bomb for four days to a week, then they really have to use all the power they have to cripple the Iranian economy and cause real economic damage to Iran without bringing down the ruling system.

But for that, the Iranians will also bomb the energy resources in the Gulf that they know well—resources the Americans, Europeans, and the rest of the world depend on. They'll do it to make sure everyone pays the price, not just Iran. And the reason I'm saying that is because the Americans and the Israelis told Iran their objective is to destroy the current ruling system. In other words, they're telling the Iranians, "We're going to kill you and destroy you." That's why the Iranians now have their backs against the wall, and the only option they have is to fight—fight with all their power.

## **#Danny**

Yeah, yeah. And I'm sure you remember, Elijah, that the head of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Mark Milley, as he calls himself, said to Donald Trump—according to reports—that once this thing begins, it's not clear where it ends because of U.S. limitations as well as unknown Iranian capabilities. And now, I think what we're seeing—and it seems like what we're seeing—is that Iran has responded so quickly that it's obvious. I'm wondering if you could comment on this: it was thought that Iran's missile system was actually heavily depleted, and you're telling me that Iran is actually just beginning with older missiles, which means there are likely more advanced ones still yet to be used. So maybe you can comment on that.

## **#Guest**

Well, my knowledge of how Iran acts is that Iran never plays all its cards at once. It has a lot of patience. This is why it's important to understand how the interception missile system works. One missile can't necessarily bring down another missile. The interception system may need to fire three or four, and it's not perfect. The Israelis said that today because we've seen many missiles falling on Israel and exploding, and they invited residents to seek shelter, admitting the interception system is not perfect.

So when the Iranians launch older missile systems and sneak in two or three, those few are enough to cause serious damage to their targets and slip past the interception systems. The interception system can't stop the modern Iranian ballistic missiles, and we saw proof of that in June 2025. We also saw the large-scale destruction these missiles can cause, and the limits of Israel's interception missile supply—even though the Americans made sure to meet all of Israel's needs and installed additional systems in Greece and Cyprus. They have carriers at sea and jets in the air to intercept incoming missiles, but not in the areas where they're falling, because that would also endanger allied jets in the air.

So this is not a war that the Americans and the Israelis can sustain for very long, because they really don't have enough. But for Iran, Tehran needs to think as if this war is going to last for many

months ahead. It can't use all its power in the first week and then say, "Okay, now I have nothing to fight back with, and the Americans can keep bombing me with the Israelis." For the Iranians, it's important to launch between 100 and 200 missiles on the first day—those are the older missile systems—and then to launch between 15 and 20 per day after that, no more. These are the modern missiles that can hit those 15 to 20 targets and inflict real pain.

In Iran, they understand that every missile that falls on Israel—the ones who are going to scream are not the Israeli citizens, but the Americans, because that's where it will be felt, in Washington more than in Tel Aviv. However, it doesn't mean the Americans will get away with it. Their image has already taken a hit, because Iran is the first country in modern warfare to attack so many American bases simultaneously and challenge the most powerful country in the world, ready to fight back and keep going without being inflexible. This is something that Donald Trump brought to America—it's shaking its image, even if it hits Iran. Iran doesn't need to win. Iran doesn't need to lose. It just needs to keep fighting back. That, for Iran, is a victory.

## **#Danny**

Yeah, I mean, that's what I was thinking as I was going through all of it. I'll pull some more up—all the images of Iran's retaliation. You know, some may scoff and say, "Oh, can you hear me? Hello? Hello? Elijah, can you hear me?" I believe—okay, let's see. I don't know why we lost him. Maybe he can come back. Hold on, I don't know what's happening, but maybe go to your settings. Maybe reload, refresh—check the private chat, see if that works. Okay, maybe refresh. Hold on. Go to—what? Do you have your... okay, refresh. Can you go to your phone and check? Refresh, and I'll bring you back. Okay, I'll bring you back. All right, so Elijah will come back, because I was going to ask him that. As I was watching the retaliation by Iran, I was thinking to myself that Iran is indeed making history. And here is Elijah right now—let's see if he can hear me now. Can you hear me now, Elijah?

## **#Speaker 03**

Yes, I can.

## **#Danny**

I don't know what happened there, but I wanted to ask you—given everything you said—as I was going through all the footage and reports of Iran's retaliation, I was thinking about how this is historic. You can look back at all the wars the U.S. has waged in the past. We often say, even on this show, that the U.S. has lost a lot of wars. However, the U.S. has never been hit back with this kind of technology, with this kind of weaponry, this fast, in response to its own assault. I don't think ever in its history. I mean, Vietnam, Afghanistan—we can go on and on—all the wars the U.S. has lost.

This time around, though, the United States has to contend with its bases—from Bahrain to Kuwait to, they report, Saudi Arabia—being hit, on and on. And then, Elijah, I'm just going to pull this up. We haven't even gotten into the potential of this turning into a problem for the United States in terms of—let me find it here—here we go, the naval assets. Elijah, there have been reports that Iran has already sent out drones toward the USS Abraham Lincoln. Now there are breaking reports that they've struck a combat support vessel with missiles. We know the USS Gerald Ford is backing up Israel right now and has its own internal problems. So, any reaction to this? Because all of these developments are still ongoing.

## **#Guest**

Yes, we're going to see a lot of drones and other missiles, including Tomahawk missiles, used in this war—not only jets or ballistic missiles—because it's important for both sides to keep engaging one another to make sure the defense systems are exposed or overwhelmed. And for that reason, we know the U.S. carriers are not really a game changer in this war, because the Americans and the Israelis need to send at least 30 to 50 jets bombing at the same time. They also need much more escort and in-air refueling. So there's going to be a lot of pressure on the Americans and the Israelis to conduct this war effectively. Timing is going to be crucial for how long they can sustain it.

If they want to go for a long war—which I doubt Donald Trump can sustain, and certainly Israel cannot—then in a long war they could lose what they gained on the first day. But if they want a short war, then the outcome won't be achieved. In every war, we don't just look at what's been damaged; we look at whether the objectives were achieved. If the Israelis and the Americans achieve their objectives, fine. If they fail, then this war is not a win for them, even if they're coordinating on this scale for the first time. But it's not the first time they've coordinated—every war the Israelis started, the Americans were present.

Even in Gaza, the Israelis couldn't do it on their own. At the beginning, Joe Biden sent 2,000 Delta Force troops to Israel, along with cargo planes and Navy support to help the Israelis intercept missiles—everything, all the support Israel could get. Israel cannot conduct a war on its own. Because of that, this is either going to be a failure for Israel and the Americans, or they're going to succeed together in changing the ruling system in Iran. But that's not going to happen overnight, and it's certainly not going to happen during this war, because the riots and demonstrations already took place at the end of December and the beginning of January, and they were brought under control by the Iranian authorities.

Therefore, we cannot think that the Israelis and the Americans will have local support, but inevitably there will be people unhappy about the economic situation they'll be left with. I remember the Iran-Iraq war that I covered on the ground when Hashemi Rafsanjani was president. He lost at the end of the war because there are always consequences after a war—economic consequences that people stand against and want to change. So how do they want this change? Do they want to change the entire ruling system, or do they want to change the people they voted for? And even that is not

confirmed. So basically, the Israelis and the Americans are not moving toward anything confirmed or concrete that they can achieve in this war, apart from having a very strong military power that is capable of destruction. To destroy—they can achieve that.

## **#Danny**

Yeah, yeah, they can achieve that. We've already seen they're targeting a lot of civilian infrastructure. Of course, they've gone after government institutions and tried to assassinate the leadership. But at the same time—and I don't know—there have been some reports that maybe some of the IRGC's top leadership has been assassinated by these strikes. But there's also, Elijah, this fact—or at least this claim, a very strong claim—by IRGC General Ibrahim Jabari, who says Iran is going to unveil weapons we've never seen before. Trump should know that Iran is equipped to fight the U.S. for years, which maybe we shouldn't be surprised by, because the United States has been launching a war of aggression in many different forms for years against Iran, and all the wars the U.S. has fought have gone on for years. But this war seems like it's going to be different if it goes on for years. And as you said, the U.S. and Israel likely can't go on for weeks, let alone years.

## **#Guest**

Yes, that's true. They can't continue for weeks. However, there is one advantage the Americans and the Israelis have: because they started this unlawful, unprovoked war, they're also the ones who can end it. At the end of the day, if they say to Iran, "Okay, we want to stop this war," well, they're the ones who attacked Iran. Therefore, the Iranians won't say, "Oh no, we want to continue," because for Iran it's important to preserve the country, to stop the war, to rebuild, and to make sure the Israelis and the Americans don't achieve their objectives.

Therefore, unfortunately, the Israelis and the Americans are the ones who started this war, and they can stop it—even if Iran might say, "When you start something, you can't just stop," particularly if the Israelis and the Americans are failing to achieve their objectives. However, in my experience, Iran will not continue bombing if the Americans and the Israelis have had enough. At the end of the day, for Iran, as long as the country and its resources remain intact, they would stop the war. So yes, the Iranians can continue, because they've thought about how to run this war for a very long time, thinking that if the Israelis and the Americans want to continue, then they can continue. Nevertheless, I don't think Iran is going to agree to stop the war without a proper deal.

The June 2025 war stopped without a ceasefire. It ended simply because Benjamin Netanyahu contacted Donald Trump, asked him to stop the war, and Trump called the Omanis and the Qataris to mediate—and that was it. There's no treaty, no deal, nothing. Today, the Americans and the Israelis have violated international law. They attacked a UN member, a sovereign country, unprovoked. And because they violated international law, they don't care. Even if a ceasefire has little meaning—since America proved untrustworthy by restarting the war during diplomatic negotiations—nevertheless, the Iranians can always say, "Well, we've signed a deal, and this is the

end of it.” But I mean, we’re still in the first hours of the war. It’s still too early to talk about the end of this foolish campaign.

## **#Danny**

Yeah, I mean, Israel and the United States—Israel itself has said this is going to last. I mean, you said it earlier, Elijah, this feels like, and it seems like, it looks exactly like Israel is at the head of the operation, or at least the brains of it. The United States is very much behind it, you know, being the great father of Israel and helping it where it needs to be helped. And I just wanted to pull up some other breaking developments here. There are reports from Al Mayadeen saying that among the targets of Iran’s strikes so far has been the American radar station at a U.S. base in Qatar—the FPS-132. The radar is used to detect ballistic missiles.

It has a range of 5,000 kilometers and an approximate cost of \$1.1 billion. So again, the damage keeps coming, and we haven’t gotten too much into Israel, but Israel is being hit. Israel was among the first retaliatory strikes that Iran launched, and here you see Haifa, as during the 12-day war, getting the brunt of a lot of the damage—Tel Aviv as well. You know, Elijah, I wanted to ask you this: Iran said it was going to become a regional war if it occurred. And we immediately saw Yemen’s Ansar Allah come out and say that they have now joined the war. They launched, I believe, a missile salvo at Israel. There are also some reports saying they’re closing the Red Sea and the Bab al-Mandab Strait, or at least they’re going to target the aggressor parties there. So talk about this— is this going to go regional? And are we about to see the Axis of Resistance, led by Iran, conduct a coordinated campaign against this act of aggression?

## **#Guest**

Well, it's too early to say, because it's already regional, given that there are five Gulf countries involved so far in this war. The U.S. bases in these countries have been bombed, so one can safely say those countries themselves have been hit. So it’s not really a war limited to Iran alone. It’s Iran, it’s Israel, and then there’s Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, the Emirates, Kuwait, and Jordan. So we have six countries involved so far, plus Iran, Israel, and the United States—not as a country, but as forces active in the Middle East. If the Yemeni Ansarullah Houthis come into this battle, most probably yes.

The day Iran feels the need to close the Red Sea, the Red Sea will be closed. And if the Strait of Hormuz is closed, most probably yes—it depends on how long this war lasts. But not from day one. As I said, the Iranians don’t play their cards immediately. Hezbollah—well, I think this is a great opportunity for Hezbollah to join the battle, regardless of the destruction, to impose a rule of engagement on Benjamin Netanyahu and stop his continuous daily violations of international law and Lebanon’s sovereignty. Nevertheless, it’s not going to happen from day one, because Iran has just started to fight back against those who attacked the country.

We need to give it more time to see if Iran decides to diversify its retaliation on different fronts—diversify the forces or the attacking targets, in this case, the U.S., Israel, and their allies in the region. Then they might open different fronts to show that the risk of spillover is real. The bigger this war becomes, the easier it will be to stop, because that's when other countries will intervene and ask the Americans to stop fighting on behalf of Israel. The first to do that already was the Omani foreign minister. He's the one who acts as an intermediary between Iran and the U.S., hosting negotiations in Muscat, Oman, and in Geneva and Vienna. He said the Americans are fighting this war on behalf of the Israelis and that they should stop, because he was told the Americans were honest in the negotiations and later discovered they were not.

So yes, it's becoming larger—the war is expanding. More countries are getting involved, and more forces are expected to join if this war lasts much longer than expected, or if the damage to Iran keeps increasing. Because if Hezbollah and Ansarullah don't fight back and join the battle along with the Iraqis, then after Iran, it will be their turn—and they're fully aware of that. So it's in their interest to spread the damage across different countries simultaneously and hope they can impose a ceasefire that prevents Benjamin Netanyahu from violating it in Lebanon or bombing Iraq, as he did today against Hashd al-Shaabi in Jufa Safar, south of Baghdad. And for Yemen, certainly, its turn will come after Iran—unless Yemen joins in and there's a global deal to stop this war.

## **#Danny**

Yeah, no, the stakes are incredibly high, Elijah. I wanted to ask you what you believe caused this whole process. We saw reports coming out of \*Politico\* saying that the United States wanted Israel to initiate the first strike because it looked better politically for the Trump administration. But then all of this happened so fast—Donald Trump came out and said that Americans are going to die in this war, and to me, that's shocking.

I'm curious about your thought process in your analysis of why the U.S.—because I think we should really put that out there—that the U.S. is what makes all of this possible. Why is the U.S. going so hard for this? What caused this rush? Do you find that this strike is strategic in nature, or do you think it's part of a calculation that's kind of gone awry? Because we've seen the U.S. come close to striking Iran a couple of times in the last month or so, and now we're here—and this comes after the Pentagon was reportedly, or at least leaking, that it was trying to advise against it.

## **#Guest**

It's not strategic at all for the United States, but it is for Israel—and I'll explain. Iran doesn't pose a danger to the Americans, because the U.S. is far from West Asia, and the Iranians have never taken the initiative to attack an American target. It's the other way around: the Americans took the initiative to attack Iran, and the Israelis did the same. That means there's no real interest for the Americans, especially when they're sitting down to negotiate a nuclear deal after Donald Trump said he had "decimated and obliterated"—those were his words—the Iranian nuclear program.

Because the JCPOA—the nuclear deal signed by Barack Obama in 2015—was set to expire in October 2025, Donald Trump wanted a new deal. Not because the last one wasn't good, but because it had ended; it was going to terminate automatically, even though he had already pulled out of it in 2018. And that's where the whole problem started between Iran and the United States. The Iranians were ready to have U.S. and U.N. inspectors, ready to freeze nuclear enrichment production, to place it under the control of the IAEA—the nuclear organization—and to make sure they weren't enriching uranium beyond 3.75%, or 20% for medical and research purposes.

In fact, Iran went to 60% only after Donald Trump pulled out of the deal in 2018. Then, a year later in 2019, Iran started enriching uranium up to 60% because the Americans imposed maximum sanctions and the Israelis began killing more Iranian nuclear scientists. That's why Iran needed leverage to get the sanctions lifted and expressed its readiness to do so. This is where the Americans were negotiating with the Iranians—but they were negotiating in bad faith. During the negotiations, there was supposed to be a meeting on Monday in Vienna, and the Americans started the war on Sunday. It's exactly like what they did in June 2025. Now, is this going to help America in any way? No, because the Iranians had no trust in the Americans—now even less than before.

Is it strategic for Israel? Yes. Because for Israel, it's important to be the only dominant force in the Middle East. The Iranians started to build up their influence in the region because of American intervention and unlawful wars in Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya, and Syria. So the vacuum was partially filled by Iran, and this is where Iran advanced by capitalizing on the Americans' mistakes. Did that represent a danger to Israel? Not immediately, but for Benjamin Netanyahu, it posed a danger to his political career, because he has elections in October 2026, this year, and he needs to sell the idea that he really destroyed Iran—even if the Americans are the ones doing the job.

And if you look at what he's been saying for the last 16 years—the claim that Iran was just days, weeks, or a couple of months away from a nuclear bomb—we've never actually seen this nuclear bomb. So everything Benjamin Netanyahu is promoting is meant to create chaos in Iran, a country that borders seven others, and to spread chaos across West Asia that the region may never recover from. Even now, Libya hasn't recovered from the 2011 war, and we're talking about 15 years later.

Iraq in 2003 had not recovered, regardless of the war, its end, and everything that happened there. The Americans are still capable of threatening Iraq—of choosing and selecting the prime minister—even if the majority in parliament selects the person. And I'm talking here about Nouri al-Maliki. So the Americans still have leverage, and they still control the income from Iraqi oil. They still have their fingerprints all over the Middle East. That's not Iran representing an existential danger, neither to America nor to the Israelis. And to say, like the American White House spokesperson Levitt, that Iran saying "Death to America" is an existential threat is quite idiotic and ridiculous, for the simple reason that Iran doesn't have a nuclear bomb, while the Americans have thousands of them—the second country after Russia, if not competing with Russia. Secondly, the Americans are the most powerful country in the world. They have jets, airplanes, and carriers, and they're surrounding Iran with

military bases. Therefore, the one who represents the real danger is the United States posing a danger to Iran—it's not the other way around.

## **#Danny**

Yeah, yeah, definitely. I mean, there's no denying this. And everything you just said, Elijah, completely annihilates Donald Trump's justification—the eight-minute justification he gave at an undisclosed location, where he started off saying, "We are doing this to protect Americans from the Iranian regime." I think a lot of Americans are looking around asking, what danger was really there? And now the United States is in this war. Do you find that what the U.S. is trying to do is similar to how it waged previous wars? I mean, it was involved in a lot of aggression in the region—against Iraq and elsewhere—for many, many years. We had the Gulf War, and then the invasion of 2003, and the Gulf War with those sanctions caused a lot of damage. Do you find that this is kind of a repeat of the same model? And does it stand to work in the same way it did with Iraq?

## **#Guest**

Well, even worse, because Iran has a lot of natural resources apart from oil and gas. It's supplying gas to Iraq, selling oil to China and other countries. So it's important for the region to see Iran stable. What the Americans don't realize is that they're creating a destabilized country, and they haven't learned the lesson from the wars in Iraq, Syria, Afghanistan, Vietnam, and Libya. They haven't learned the lesson. We really don't understand what the Americans are trying to do. Donald Trump is saying, "I've decimated and completely obliterated the Iranian nuclear program."

And then we have the UN inspector saying, well, there's no evidence that Iran has a nuclear weapon or can develop one in the coming weeks. And then we have Trump saying, "I want to prevent Iran from having a nuclear weapon." But if you've decimated the nuclear program, how can Iran have a nuclear weapon if there's no nuclear program, according to what you've been advertising since June 2025—with each "beautiful and lovely" B-2 that came "beautifully bombing the Iranian beautiful site"? This is the language of Donald Trump. It's extremely poor, and it doesn't make any sense.

So we're not dealing with a stable president, or someone who's really knowledgeable about geopolitics—someone who understands where he wants to go from here, before the war and after the war. When is he going to stop, and under what criteria? What are his objectives if his main objective is unachievable? We're not talking about a balanced person who understands geopolitics. We're talking about a theatrical person who creates diversions, shows, and distractions on a daily basis—but not a thoughtful policy for the progress of humanity, or even for the benefit of the United States. How do the American people benefit from spending billions of dollars bombing a country far away, like Iran, on behalf of Israel?

What do the American people gain from this? How is it contributing to their daily lives? None at all. On the contrary, the price of oil will rise, the currency will be devalued, and this is what we're left

with—along with Iran’s ruling system as it is. So we’ve seen these actions that are irrational and honestly without any clear objective. They’re just taken because Donald Trump thinks it’s a good thing to go and bomb Iran, while still claiming he’s a peace president who deserves a Congressional Medal or a Nobel Prize. We really don’t understand what the Americans are doing.

## **#Danny**

Well, those are great points, because we’re actually seeing a bit of this crumbling you mentioned—this lack of, you frame it as a lack of strategy—and a lot of the objectives, at least in the initial part of this strike, haven’t succeeded. And this is just breaking, actually: Iran’s Foreign Minister, Abbas Araghchi, was on NBC News as all this was happening, and he’s talking about how the U.S. and Israel didn’t get any of the IRGC or Iranian leadership they had hoped to. Here we go.

## **#Speaker 04**

I appreciate your comments there. We do have a series of other questions I want to ask you, but just for clarity for our audience right now—can you confirm specifically that Ayatollah Ali Khamenei is alive, and separately, that the Iranian president is alive right now following these American and Israeli strikes?

## **#Speaker 03**

As far as I know, yes, they’re alive—and the head of the judiciary as well, the Speaker of Parliament too. All high-ranking officials are alive, including the Secretary of the National Security Council. So everybody is in their position, we’re handling the situation, and everything is fine.

## **#Danny**

So everything is fine. I mean, that doesn’t sound like there’s a lot of fear coming from Iran, Elijah. Is this all talk and bluster? I mean, we hear all the warnings, we hear that Iran is ready to fight this for years, and now we’re hearing—publicly, on Western mainstream media—the Foreign Minister of Iran saying that, at least for now, the U.S. and Israel have failed in this very key objective that Donald Trump announced to the world: getting rid of Iran’s leadership.

## **#Guest**

Well, look, only Iranians can speak for their country—who should rule them or not. If there’s a change in the ruling system, it’s up to the Iranian people to vote for another system or to rise in the streets as protesters, not rioters, to destroy the country. When you stand against the economic situation or the ruling system, you don’t go and destroy your own country. So far, the Mossad and

the CIA have said they invested heavily in trying to change the regime in Iran. They failed. So any change that comes from the outside only makes the ruling system more rigid to any change, because they understand there are Mossad or CIA forces behind it.

This is what the CIA did with Mossadegh, the prime minister of Iran who was elected in 1952. So this is not something foreign countries should be intervening in. The Iranians would say, yes, we're fine. And even if the leaders are not fine, they can be replaced, because leadership in an ideological system isn't very vertical—it's more horizontal. One person goes, another person replaces them. If there's a need to "free" the Iranian people, like Donald Trump said, it's none of his business. It's actually nobody's business but the Iranians'. They're the ones entitled to choose their ruling system. And you can't convince them otherwise, because, as we saw in June 2025, you can't do that by bombing the country. They're a proud people.

And all those who stood with the government and those against it, both inside and outside Iran, stood together against Israel in 2025. That was an unprecedented move from the Iranian population, saying, "We reject outside interference." It doesn't mean they're happy—no, they're not happy. Forty-seven years of sanctions haven't made the Iranian people happy about the economy. On the contrary, the economy is suffering badly. But if you're really concerned about the Iranian people, allow them to survive. Don't intervene, but also don't sanction them so they suffer while you claim to bring the solution, when you're the one who created the problem in the first place. So when Aradji says, "No, we are fine," he's defying the Americans and the Israelis, saying they are determined to fight back.

This is not the way you negotiate a deal with the Iranians. The way you negotiate a deal with them is to sit around the table and make sure you're not offending them, not destroying their pride, and not humiliating them. You don't want them to submit to you. If you have concerns, you express them. It's up to the Iranians to make sure there are no concerns and that there are verified elements and mechanisms—because there's no trust on either side—that can ease the situation between Iran and the rest of the world. So far, since 1980, with Jimmy Carter's first sanctions, we haven't seen this. We've only seen the world using a stick against the Iranians, hitting them with every single sanction to bring them to submission. And the Iranians will not submit.

## **#Danny**

That's a big problem. And I think that's where the question is—well, where does this actually go, Elijah? Because the United States cannot accept Iran not submitting. Israel, of course, in a similar vein, and maybe with even more ferocity due to their overall strategic vision that we know is so dear to them—the Greater Israel Project. So that's the big question: where does this go? Because we knew that this war was coming. We don't know how long it's going to last in this round, but we know that this war is likely ongoing until one side loses and the other side wins. A lot of people maybe look at that as zero-sum, and I think you articulated very well earlier that Iran doesn't necessarily have to win. But it seems like what Iran has to succeed in doing is creating an actual

deterrence through their response—showing that the damage and the cost of this are just far too grave. I'd like to say something here.

## **#Guest**

There are many young people in Iran, women and men, who didn't live through the Islamic Revolution of 1979 and 1980, and who didn't see the Iran-Iraq war. They're young people who want relations with the West to be established on equal ground. The Iranians, during the last negotiation, were aware of that. They know there are many Iranians who would like to have good relations with the rest of the world, and that's why the government said, "We are ready to give the Americans—not the Europeans, because it was the Europeans in 2015—now we're ready to give the Americans contracts worth four to five trillion dollars to invest in Iran." They're bringing America in to help develop the country.

This is what they want. They don't say "death to America" because they hate the American system. On the contrary, they don't want the American regime to impose on them how they should live. And why do they feel that way? Only because they've seen the examples in Afghanistan, in Iraq, in Libya, and in Syria. In Afghanistan, the Americans destroyed the country, and after 20 years they removed the Taliban only to hand it back to the Taliban 20 years later. In Iraq, even today, the war against Saddam Hussein in 2003— not because Saddam Hussein was good, no, his rule was very bad for his people— but they said they were going in for weapons of mass destruction.

It was a lie. The Americans and the British admitted that. But then we see today, during Donald Trump's first term, when the Iraqis asked the Americans to leave, he said no—because he controls 90% of the country's oil revenue, which goes into the U.S. Federal Reserve before reaching Iraq. So he's holding them by the neck, and Iraq cannot be independent. He's using their airspace to bomb Iran. He bombs Iraq whenever he wants. He even bombed Iraqis who don't want the Americans in their country.

So they've seen the example of how the Americans went into Syria and occupied northeast Syria—the oil and gas fields in places like Ghaz, Conoco, and other areas—for years, while pretending they were fighting ISIS. They've seen Libya go from a very prosperous country to a destroyed one. There's no stable government between Benghazi and Tripoli, and the situation is totally unstable. So they've seen all of that, and the Iranians actually don't want this. They want a good relationship with the West, but they don't want the West to impose its agenda and destroy their country because of these examples. And the Americans are not using the language of rapprochement; they're using force. They're using the stick.

They're saying to the Iranians, either you do what we want—because they impose it on them—or we're going to bomb you, and then they bomb them. This shows the West's lack of understanding of Iranian culture and how to approach Iran, to engage it and bring it closer to the international community. For years, the world has treated Iran as an enemy only because the Americans keep

imposing sanctions and want to control the oil. But the Iranians are ready to sell oil to the Americans and allow American companies to come and develop Iranian energy—just not under American conditions, and not if the oil money is sent to the U.S. Federal Reserve like in Iraq, but instead goes toward Iran's own prosperity.

This is the problem between Iran and the United States. Now the Americans are conducting a war on behalf of Israel, which means they're ready to sacrifice American citizens for the benefit of another side—a foreign side like Israel—only because Israel wants to be the only power in the Middle East and wants to use the Americans' stick to do so. This is why this war isn't going anywhere. The basis of this war is wrong. And even if it stops, that doesn't mean the problem is solved. On the contrary, the problem remains.

## **#Danny**

Elijah, it was great being with you. We're going to have to use another platform for Professor Marandi, so I'll do that now and get him here. But I want to make sure everyone knows to visit your website in the video description before we go. And we'll definitely be in touch in the near future as things develop. Thank you so much again, Elijah. I really appreciate you taking the time. My pleasure. Thank you for having me. Yes, of course. It was wonderful. All right, everybody, stay tuned. We're going to go to Professor Marandi. I'm going to admit him into the Zoom so I can start to share the screen. I'll just say hello to him now as he comes in. Let's see how it goes. This is how we're going to get to our dear friend of the show, Professor Mohammad Marandi. I want to make sure my self-view is off. And if you can hear me, Professor Marandi—can you hear me? I'm going to share the screen now, see how that goes. I don't see him yet. Professor Marandi, are you there? There he is.

## **#Mohamad**

Can you see me?

## **#Danny**

Yes, I can. But for some reason, you're not showing up here. I don't know what's going on. It keeps saying you're in picture-in-picture mode. That's so strange. I don't know what's happening with the picture, but let's see if it fixes itself. There we go. All right, Professor Marandi, it's finally working. How are you doing, sir?

## **#Mohamad**

I'm good, thank you. How are you doing, Danny?

## **#Danny**

Well, things could definitely be far better. I know this is a very difficult time for you and your country, and of course, a very shameful time for myself and my own country. So, Professor Marandi, maybe just your initial reactions to what's been going on and how you're witnessing it there on the ground.

## **#Mohamad**

Well, first of all, it's not shameful for you or for anyone who has been opposed to the policies of this extremist regime that's in power. Those who support it, and those who are silent and indifferent, they're the ones who bear responsibility. But they've been responsible for a very long time. Sorry, I just broke my fast and I haven't been checking the news for a bit. But the situation is as you would expect. Many people are leaving the city. I'm in Tehran. I'll remain in Tehran until the war ends or I'm targeted. But the government has asked people who can leave to leave because the United States and the Israeli regime are both targeting civilians.

I'm sure you've heard that this morning they targeted an elementary school, murdering 63 girls. They also murdered schoolchildren elsewhere. They bombed a school in Tehran—fortunately, there were only injuries. So schools are closed. Universities have been closed. They'll probably begin online work in a couple of days, just like during the previous 12-day war, when the Israeli regime and the United States, like this time around, were secretly plotting against Iran while the United States was negotiating. This time around, of course, Iran was much more prepared. We were expecting something like this.

Actually, last night I was speaking to friends, and almost all of us thought that the likelihood they would strike while the Omani foreign minister was in Washington was very high. So this is where we are. The Iranians, of course, after the initial assault, have been striking back at U.S. targets in the Persian Gulf region, and they've also been striking the Israeli regime. Excuse me. Iran's allies are preparing themselves. We've seen statements from Iraq and Yemen, so we'll have to see where things go from here. But the catastrophe at the elementary school for girls—I wrote a few tweets about it, and in one or two of them I said, the Epstein class, they have a particular interest in girls.

## **#Danny**

Yeah, yeah, I mean, that's a very good point. And thank you for correcting me, Professor Marandi, about that. Yeah, no, we have to make that distinction between the people of the United States and what the United States is doing abroad in Iran right now, because this is a very unpopular venture. Barely 20% of people in many polls say they support this. And now the Trump administration is doing it anyway. I wanted to get your reaction—you said Iran has been striking back. You know, top Iranian officials are saying they're ready to go for years. I'm wondering what your reaction has been to the Iranian response. It's much quicker than during the 12-day war, when there was the surprise attack. What has been your reaction to this, given where you are?

## **#Mohamad**

Well, first of all, it wasn't much of a surprise, and very few people were killed in the initial wave. So obviously the country was much more prepared than it was last time around, preparing for war. And the fact that the assassination attacks by the Trump regime and its allied Netanyahu regime failed, I think, is the main reason why the Iranians immediately struck back—and they've been striking back pretty hard. Of course, the Iranians are in it for the long haul, so they're going to take measured strikes. There are many calculations they have to make—mathematical calculations when they fire missiles, how to get through air defenses, how to force the enemy to use its air defenses.

And we've already been told by an Iranian general that the armed forces are only using their very old missiles right now, and that the newer missiles will be used later on—and they'll have a much more devastating impact. Right now, they're using older missiles for obvious reasons: both because now is the time to use them, and also because they can figure out how air defenses work and force the enemy to use its interceptors at very little cost. And then, of course, many of the missiles, as we've already been seeing, have been getting through. When the air defenses are exhausted—as they will be within not such a long period of time—then Iran will start devastating the enemy in a very painful way.

## **#Danny**

Yeah, no, I mean, it seems like that's exactly what's going on, Professor Marandi. What did you make of Donald Trump's announcement after the fact, after this occurred? He made a lot of very grand claims. He talked about this being an operation essentially to protect the American people from the Iranian government—or what they always call the regime—and that there are all these objectives the U.S. wants to achieve, including getting rid of the Navy, getting rid of the missile system, nuclear energy or nuclear enrichment, all of that. Essentially, get rid of everything, Professor Marandi. What's your reaction to this? And do you find it very convincing? Because for many Americans, this was a war that even \*Politico\* had to say was not very well justified from the very outset.

## **#Mohamad**

Well, first of all, I didn't even bother to watch it. I just read a summary—just a few lines of it. This is the person who, during the 12-day war, demanded absolute surrender from Iran. What happened after 12 days? It was the Netanyahu regime that was begging Trump to get them a ceasefire. And from day eight or nine to twelve, the Israeli regime was in serious trouble. So what happened to that "surrender"? I wouldn't take anything Trump says seriously. Of course, Trump is no different from a neocon. Those who believed he was different were naive. And we've already seen him expose himself over the Epstein files.

And he's shown himself to be very much a part of the Epstein class. The entire regime is subordinate to that class. You can shoot women in the face—white, blonde women—and white men in the back who are nurses for veterans, and get away with it. So that 20% you're talking about, that's the sort of people who support Trump, despite the Epstein files, despite the scandal, despite all the lies we've seen over the past few months. The endless wars, of course, have continued. There's no difference between Trump and George Bush. There's no difference between Trump and any other Zionist, neocon, or member of the Epstein class.

They're all the same. Iran, of course, is no threat to the American people—it never has been. And we saw how Witkoff, another Zionist, was lying last week, saying that Iran is about to build a nuclear weapon. Just eight months ago, Trump said Iran's nuclear program was obliterated. So in eight months, Iran can build a nuclear weapon from an obliterated program? That program was, by the way, completely peaceful and under the supervision of, or being monitored by, the International Atomic Energy Agency. All the assets that the American regime and the Netanyahu regime destroyed were monitored by that international body.

And then, of course, we saw the outrageous claim that Iran is building missiles that can strike the United States. This is all 2003 stuff—it's the same lies. But the difference is that Iran is not Iraq, and the axis of resistance is a very, very powerful force. The dedication of the Iranian people and the Iranian armed forces is not like that of the Iraqi armed forces under Saddam. Iranians are united, and we'll see in the coming days where things stand and who, at the end of the day, is going to have to back down. But this is going to come at a very heavy price for the world. And when markets open on Monday, I think we're going to see the beginning of that.

## **#Danny**

Yeah, yeah, yeah. Those are great points, Professor Marandi. And what do you make of—well, I was conversing with Elijah Magnier earlier, and we both talked about how this is, in many ways, a historic response by Iran. Because Iran reacted rapidly—I mean, when we talk about the strikes that Israel and the U.S. began, I don't know exactly what the timing was, but it wasn't more than a couple of hours before we saw the Iranian response. And now that response is hitting U.S. bases, Professor Marandi. In many ways, it's historic. What's been your reaction to this? Because I don't think the United States has ever really experienced something at this scale, at this level. And we're hearing that this is just the beginning.

## **#Mohamad**

I think everyone should have expected it. This is something I've been warning about from the very beginning—that Iran's capabilities are enormous. Iran has been preparing for a U.S. attack for at least two and a half decades, ever since the United States invaded Afghanistan and then contemplated invading Iraq, when Iran was declared part of the "axis of evil." And then, when Bush

and later Obama started saying that all options were on the table, Iran has been preparing itself since then. Most of Iran's military capabilities are not directed toward the Israeli regime—that's a sideshow for Iran. Iran's assets are directed toward the United States.

They're directed toward the Persian Gulf and the Indian Ocean. Why? Because that has always been the threat. So they have countless underground military bases, drones, short-range missiles, and medium-range missiles that are very easily maneuverable. They don't need to be moved around with heavy vehicles. The United States has made an extraordinary mistake. And, of course, the Persian Gulf is arguably the most sensitive place on this planet, because 20% of the world's oil comes from the Persian Gulf itself. And then from West Asia and the Caucasus, roughly 25% of the world's oil is produced and exported. And then, of course, there's the natural gas as well. So Iran has been prepared.

It's been prepared—prepared for a long time—and even people on the streets weren't fooled. Whenever you and I would have a discussion, or on other shows, I would always say that the Iranians are negotiating for two reasons. One, in the highly unlikely chance that the United States behaves reasonably and really wants a deal, the Iranians are prepared for it. But the major reason, the number one reason, is so that the Iranian people, the international community—everyone—would see that Iran tried to solve this crisis. And the United States did exactly what it did during the 12-day war, or right before the 12-day war: it was negotiating not in good faith, as an act of deception.

But this time around, no one was deceived. Last time, I'm not sure we can even say that Iran was deceived. I think what Iran didn't expect was an attack on senior commanders, academics, and scientists in Tehran and other cities. They didn't expect them to target apartment blocks and kill everyone in the building just to get one person. But this time, the Iranians were completely prepared. And as I said, even my friends and I, when we were talking last night as the Omani foreign minister went to Washington, were all saying that the chances of a U.S. attack were high because the United States is a completely discredited rogue regime.

## **#Danny**

Yeah. Professor Marandi, when I saw it, actually—you know, I didn't know what time it was going to happen. I didn't know exactly when it was going to happen, but everyone was telling me, "This weekend, this weekend." And I was like, "Maybe, maybe. Sure, we can see all the writing on the wall." But when the Omani negotiator went on mainstream media and essentially said a deal was close, when he said that, I thought, this sounds almost like a plea. And that, to me, made me think the strike was coming soon. And here we are.

## **#Mohamad**

Yes, and also, it's interesting that they carried out these attacks just as children were arriving at school in the morning. And of course, as I said, there was a major massacre in Minov City. So far, 63 kids have been slaughtered, along with their teachers, at a girls' elementary school. But that's just how it is—that's the United States. That's the Epstein class. That's who these Zionists and these neocons are. They are barbaric. Remember, they already have two ceasefires in Lebanon and in Gaza. Every day they're murdering Lebanese citizens. In Gaza, every day they're murdering multiple Palestinians. The Western media looks away. Why?

Because the Western media is owned and controlled by the Epstein class. So no one in Iran ever believed that Trump was trustworthy, or that the regime in Washington is in any way trustworthy. No one in Iran expected the Europeans to take a principled stance. Iran expected the Europeans to side with aggression, murder, and terror—because that's who they are. Just like during the previous war, that's exactly the position Australia, the Europeans, and the Canadians took. Murdering people is fine with them. The hypocrisy is all gone. And in our region, Erdogan's regime has been allowing NATO AWACS planes to fly and gather intelligence from Iran.

The U.S. is using its base in Turkey—shameless, utterly shameless—as it continues to provide the Israeli regime with cheap oil from Baku. The Persian Gulf regimes, you see, know that the U.S. base is there. They've been plotting against Iran this whole time, and now they complain that Iran is striking back at them. They're part of the problem. Without these family dictatorships in the Persian Gulf, there would be no attack on Iran. The Jordanian regime and the Saudis—they're all heavily involved in this. Right now, I don't know if you heard, but there was an explosion. I don't know if you can hear it.

## **#Danny**

Yes, I can.

## **#Mohamad**

And so that's how things are. This is the situation we're dealing with. We're dealing with Iran, whose sin is that it's independent, that it supports the Palestinian people—and no one else does, except for the Axis of Resistance. No one does. It's all fake. Qatar, fake. Turkey under Erdogan, fake. They're all part of the U.S. camp. They may dislike the Emiratis, and the Emiratis may dislike them, but they're all the same. And the Iranians are opposing genocide in Gaza. They're opposing U.S. policy in Cuba and Latin America. These are Iran's sins. And so they sanction the country, they strangle the country. Western journalists—that's not what they say. They don't talk about the strangulation, they don't talk about the terrorism. They try to demonize Iran to pave the way for these kinds of atrocities.

Even those who pretend to be anti-war—they're with the Western regimes, those in the mainstream media. They say, well, just like I was telling you before, "Maduro is evil, but we shouldn't act, we shouldn't strike." These people are just as evil as the neocons. The ones who are truly evil are the Americans who send terrorists into Iran, the Israeli regime that sends terrorists into Iran, that strangles Iranian people—women and children—through sanctions, and now bombs elementary schools in Iran. These are the evil ones, not the Iranian government. The Iranian government, the state, the leadership in Iran—morally speaking—is infinitely above the entire obscene class that governs the West. And they are fighting to defend the country, and they're fighting to defend the dignity and honor of the Palestinian people.

The Axis of Resistance, for the last two years or more now, has been making sacrifices—whether in Lebanon, in Yemen, or in Iran—in order to stop the genocide. And what do we hear from the other side? We hear the U.S. ambassador in occupied Palestine saying that if they take the entire region, it's fine. That's unofficial U.S. policy. That's unofficial Western policy. Have no doubt about it—that's their unofficial policy. Just like I've always been saying, the two-state solution that they've been, and the West has been, talking about for decades—especially the Europeans—was always a lie. It was always meant to buy time for the Israeli regime to colonize the West Bank. It was always a lie. So this is, you know, just dishonesty from beginning to end, top to bottom.

## **#Danny**

Yeah, well, speaking of honesty, dishonesty, hypocrisy—you know, there are reports, Professor Marandi. There's such a swirl of psychological warfare, information, misinformation coming out. Reports now from Israeli media are saying there are growing signs that Ayatollah Ali Khamenei has been killed. Iran has denied this. Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi was just on NBC News saying they're all fine, and that actually all the top IRGC commanders the U.S. and Israel were targeting are fine. What do you make of these reports?

## **#Mohamad**

We're going to be hearing a lot of disinformation in the next few hours, days, and maybe weeks ahead. I think people should ignore Western legacy media and turn to alternative media instead. On my own Twitter account, the people I follow are the ones I'd recommend your viewers follow as well—yourself included. As I said, there's no difference between Western mainstream outlets—whether it's The Guardian or Fox News—they're all the same. One might be more bombastic and another less so, but they all belong to the empire. They're all dishonest. And I think after Gaza, that should be clear to everyone. So when they demonize Iran and pretend that Iran's gunning down peaceful protesters and all that—those lies—if anyone still believes that after Gaza, then they just want to keep their eyes closed.

In the days ahead, those who are politically aware should ignore Western media. The West will fail. The United States will fail in this war. The Israeli regime will fail in this war. It will turn out to be a big mistake. The axis of resistance will remain intact and strong, and it will be a step forward in the liberation of the Palestinian people. Now, let's go back to the problem. The problem is that the Epstein class says Israel should rule the region, while the Iranians are saying Palestine should have equal rights for Jews, Christians, and Muslims so they can live peacefully side by side. This is the position that Western media and Western think tanks find outrageous and unacceptable—but it's also the position that the Iranians find the opposite of that. So, figure out who is moral and who is immoral.

## **#Danny**

Yeah, and Professor Marandi, I wanted your reaction. You know, I just thought of this—Iran has connected its response, its retaliation against the U.S. and Israel, to October 7th. It said it was going to be a regional war. And I believe—and you speak the language—so I believe the operation is called in English something like “The End of the Flood.” I'm wondering if you could react to that, because it's very historically significant. It's not just called “Operation True Promise 4,” even though a lot of people are calling it that on social media. So, talk about this and the regional part of the war on the axis of resistance side, because we've seen Yemen come into the fray on Saada. And there are reports that, at some point, if it comes down to it, Hezbollah might join. But we also know Iraq has been activated to some degree. So, your reaction to this and the significance of Iran choosing that particular label for its response?

## **#Mohamad**

I don't know if this label or this name has actually been chosen. I've heard “True Promise 4,” but I haven't heard the other one. I'm not saying it's not true—I just haven't heard it. You know, I've been really busy these days, and there are some things I haven't covered properly. So I'm sorry if I can't give you a more precise response. As I said, I've seen Iranian social media accounts and media outlets refer to it as “True Promise 4.” I don't even know if that's the official name, but that's what I've seen on social media.

What's important is that the Trump regime fails, and that the empire fails—recognizing that there is one country on this planet that is not intimidated by the United States, that will not kneel, and that is the Islamic Republic of Iran. The direct threats we've seen over the last few years, especially in the last few months and particularly the last few weeks, did not create any fear among the Iranian leadership. People do not live in fear now. We are in the right, and they are criminal and evil. We are defending ourselves against a rogue regime that is becoming more rogue than ever before.

And we are alone in this fight, except for the Axis of Resistance. The entire region is basically part of the U.S.—it's a U.S.-led constellation. Some of them pretend to support the Palestinian people, but in

reality, none of them do. The fact that U.S. bases are active—as we speak, they're full of American soldiers, and we can see through the surface-to-air missiles they fire—it's clear where they stand. So this is not going to be an easy war. Seeing the images of the dead girls, I think, is enough for us to recognize that there will be a lot of people who die in the days and perhaps weeks to come.

The regime in Washington is completely immoral, and the Israeli regime is the same. Western journalists—basically the legacy media—are foot soldiers for the empire, so we don't expect them to tell the truth. Things are going to go downhill for the United States and for its ally in the region, and I think that's going to increase pressure on Trump. I think this is the end of the Trump regime. In one way or another, this is going to be the end of his presidency. I'm not saying he's going to be removed from power anytime soon, but I think this marks the end of the presidency.

## **#Danny**

Well, Professor Marandi, we said earlier that this is a massively unpopular venture—that no poll shows anything close to a majority of people in the United States supporting it. But even the Western mainstream media has had to, well, I have to say, it's very tepid. The New York Times, for example, wrote a whole editorial board piece about how Donald Trump was being irresponsible and that there are more responsible ways to wage war. I don't know if that's supposed to be a justification or the kind of path they're suggesting. Please, please.

## **#Mohamad**

If I could just add a couple of things. First of all, the New York Times and the other media are completely hypocritical, because they've also been encouraging an attack on Iran. I think what they wanted was to have an attack, but also to attack Trump so they could have their cake and eat it too, because they're part of the same political regime. They'd like to use this as an opportunity to attack Trump. Otherwise, we've seen many articles in the New York Times talking about overthrowing Iran, attacking Iran. So it's not as if they're any different. And the premise, in any case, is that Iran is evil and the U.S. is good—and it's the opposite.

And the New York Times, along with Fox News and everyone else, strengthens the narrative. The only difference they debate is whether this is good policy or bad policy—not whether we're the good guys and they're the bad ones. The New York Times, of course, has been behind the genocide this whole time. No one should think there's any moral position being taken here. They'd like to undermine Trump because of their own rivalries within the Epstein camp. In addition to that, I think the unpopularity of the war actually reminds me—when you said that, it reminded me of General Soleimani, because he once called Trump a gambler.

I think maybe Trump knows how bad things are for him in the United States—how unpopular he's becoming, and how it's probably going to get much worse without a war. So he took a big gamble. He thought that if he wins this war, if he crushes the Iranian people, slaughters people but gets his

way—which he won't—that this might turn things around. So he's betting on some sort of victory. That's how I see it. And of course, I'd like to add that General Soleimani also said we are the nation of Imam Hussain, and we're not going to be intimidated by the regime in Washington.

## **#Danny**

Yeah, yeah. And, you know, Professor Marandi, we have people in the audience wanting to ask you—everyone wants your opinion on what the next step for Iran might be in terms of this retaliation. There have been reports that a U.S. Navy support vessel has already been heavily damaged by Iran's response. And, you know, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said that targeting an aircraft carrier may be in play here. Do you think that could be the case, especially if this goes on for a while, with Israel saying at least four days? I don't think we can believe anything that comes out of the U.S. or Israel's mouth. Trump was talking about it as being a longer-term operation, not just a one-off or two days. So, your thoughts on this?

## **#Mohamad**

Well, as I said, Iran has a lot up its sleeve, and I think we'll see more of that in the days ahead. The Iranians aren't showing their full capabilities yet. What we're seeing right now are strikes with medium- and long-range missiles, drones that are all 10 or 15 years old. But in the coming hours and days, I think you're going to see Iran reveal greater capabilities. Again, the United States and the Israeli regime will continue their slaughter, but they will not win this war.

## **#Danny**

I know you have a very busy schedule, so maybe we can come to a close soon—just a few more final questions. One: what have you made of, you know, you mentioned in the region that all of these Gulf states, these Arab monarchies, etc., that host U.S. bases, have been speaking out of both sides of their mouth in terms of not allowing an attack. Well, now I believe Saudi Arabia has said that it's going to collaborate fully with the United States against Iran. There have been reports that U.S. bases in Saudi Arabia have been targeted. What do you make of this development? And perhaps you can also talk more about the broader regional picture. We talked about the ISIS resistance, these client states of the U.S. and Israel—but this is going to have global ramifications. So maybe we can close on both of those points.

## **#Mohamad**

Well, Saudi Arabia and the Emirates are fully complicit, as are the others. The United States is using Saudi Arabia to strike Iran—many of its aircraft are based there. So the Saudi regime has nothing to complain about. If they get involved in a conflict with Iran, they will definitely lose. They were unable to fight a war despite full Western support; they couldn't even defeat Ansar Allah. And in the end, when Ansar Allah began destroying their oil assets, they accepted a ceasefire—we all remember

that. So none of these family dictatorships in the Persian Gulf are inherently stable or powerful. The smart thing for them to do would be to tell the Americans to leave.

When their bases are being used, and jets are flying, and planes carrying fuel for those jets are taking off from these bases, they're in no position to complain about anything Iran does. Iran will continue to strike as long as it feels threatened, and it will strike wherever it believes necessary. All U.S. interests in the region are fair game—every one of them. That's how the Iranians see it, and that's how they're going to act. The days ahead will be dark, and many innocent people will die, but the Iranians will make sure to see this through. Those in the West who've been supporting anti-Iranian policies should take a look at those little girls who were massacred at their elementary school and reflect on their behavior.

## **#Danny**

Yeah, yeah. And then lastly, Professor Marandi, I think this is the point—it comes full circle. We have these absolutely heinous, genocidal war crimes. It all connects to what's happening, and what's been happening, to the Palestinians. Now, with this war on Iran, we see that the victims are essentially linked, if not mirrors of each other. And then, of course, there's this larger explosion that might come from the war, which all the Western mainstream media—and really all the economists and investors—are saying will have a heavy global impact on the economic situation. Your final thoughts on this as we close out here?

## **#Mohamad**

Oh yes, the global economic situation is terrible. It's already very bad, and it's going downhill—we all know that. But this is going to make things far worse. Depending on the behavior of the regime in Washington and its sidekick in Tel Aviv, things could get much worse. The Iranians will have no difficulty shutting down the Strait of Hormuz, and Iran will have no difficulty destroying tankers, oil installations, and gas facilities. That would mean that even if the war ends and the Strait of Hormuz is reopened, it will take years to get back to where things were before. So Americans should think twice about the regime in Washington—about their foolishness, their immorality aside. But when things go downhill, even the MAGA people, who are utterly immoral and support Trump despite Epstein and everything else—even they, when the economy collapses, will turn against him.

## **#Danny**

Yeah. Well, everybody, I want to make sure—I hope that you all can thank Professor Marandi. I mean, he's doing something incredibly brave, as well as spending so much of his time, especially during Ramadan. Everyone should remember that the U.S. and Israel struck Iran yesterday, during Ramadan, and that they also did so, as Professor Marandi said, during school hours, literally targeting schools. So this is absolutely—I mean, we're seeing the mask, if there ever was one, completely ripped off. And Professor Marandi, I want to thank you so much for joining me today,

especially at this time. And of course, I'm sure I speak for everyone when I say that we hope you remain safe and that we appreciate everything you do.

## **#Mohamad**

Thank you, Danny. And I thank all of your viewers, and I hope they all do what needs to be done. I've advocated that, across the world, people who are politically active should boycott everything that's American, Israeli, and, of course, even Western as much as possible. People should be protesting wherever they can, and hopefully we'll see better days ahead. Many will die, but for those who survive after this war, I think things will be much more difficult for the empire—and that's a good thing for humanity.

## **#Danny**

Indeed. Well, everybody, I'm actually back in three hours with our mutual friends Rachel Blevins and KJ Noh, which was planned ahead of this absolutely criminal war of aggression on Iran. So join us in about three hours, 2 p.m. Eastern time. You can find that already on the page. Hit the like button before you go, so Professor Marandi's conversation with me, as well as Elijah Magnier's, gets pushed in the algorithm. We're going to head out together, everybody. See you in a couple of hours. Bye-bye.