

Mohammad Marandi on US–Israel Attack on Iran: Scale of Assault

In this exclusive interview, Professor Mohammad Marandi analyzes the ongoing US and Israeli attack on Iran — breaking down the scale of the assault, Tehran’s possible response, and the broader geopolitical consequences. Support Independent media to remain bold: <https://patreon.com/IndiaGlobalLeft> Link for donation: <https://paypal.me/sankymudiar> We discuss: • How extensive is the US–Israel offensive on Iran? What are the real targets and objectives? • What kind of retaliation can Iran launch — direct, regional, or strategic? • Did Iran anticipate the attack, or was it caught off guard? • What role will Russia and China play? Will they diplomatically support Iran, provide strategic backing, or avoid direct confrontation? • Could this escalation reshape relations with Arab states in the region? This conversation explores the risk of wider regional war, the balance of power in West Asia, and what comes next for Iran, Israel, and the United States. Subscribe for in-depth geopolitical analysis and expert perspectives on global conflicts, US foreign policy, and shifting world power dynamics. Follow us on Substack: <https://substack.com/@indiagloballeft> Twitter: <https://twitter.com/Indiagloballeft> Instagram <https://www.instagram.com/indiagloballeft/> Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61559411353392> Spotify: <https://open.spotify.com/show/69Y9iCWUv8ha3ATsPWtWk0?si=ee1f0de3de094f17> Telegram: <https://t.me/+WNIqoiv1Rhg5NjEx> #Iran #Israel #USA #MohammadMarandi #MiddleEast #Geopolitics #Russia #China #WestAsia #usforeignpolicy

#Mudiar

Hello and welcome to another episode of *India and Global Left*. If you’re new to the show, please hit that subscribe button. Also, consider becoming a YouTube member, a patron, or donating a small amount using the link in the description box. Without further ado, let me welcome our guest tonight, Professor Mohammad Marandi. Professor Marandi teaches at the University of Tehran. Professor Marandi, welcome back to *India and Global Left*.

#Mohammad

Thank you very much for inviting me. It’s always a pleasure.

#Mudiar

The world has witnessed the joint U.S.-Israel attack on Iran. How would you describe it?

#Mohammad

It was expected. The Iranians know that the United States government is completely dishonest, and we saw that before the 12-day war as well. As the Iranians were negotiating with the United States, the U.S.—Trump—was conspiring with Netanyahu to carry out a blitzkrieg attack. So this time around, during the negotiations—actually, before this last round of negotiations—when the U.S. Vice President went out and started behaving like it was 2003, talking nonsense about Iran, saying there were signs that Iran was developing a nuclear weapon, and when Witkoff said that Iran was a week away from assembling a nuclear bomb, people were pretty confident. People I interact with were quite sure they were going to attack.

When the Omani minister went to Washington and spoke about progress and showed optimism, I think that actually had the reverse effect. People here were confident this would lead to a U.S. strike, because the people who have the real power in the United States don't want peace. They're Israeli-firsters, the Epstein class, Zionists. So when the attack took place, Iranians, I think overwhelmingly—from my anecdotal experience and from what I've heard from others—were not really surprised. That's why the attackers weren't able to do what they did during the first day of the previous war, when they managed to murder many senior officials, academics, and scientists, along with their families and even their neighbors, because they would wipe out entire apartment blocks.

So they didn't have that success this time around. Of course, this time it's both the United States and the Israeli regime. Iran's firepower, I think, is quite significant. But what's interesting is that Iranian generals have been saying they're using old weapons. And from what we're seeing—strikes on buildings in the Persian Gulf—these are old, very old Iranian drones. None of them are the new-generation drones. And the missiles being fired at the Israeli regime are old missiles, built 10, 15, maybe more than 15 years ago. So they're dirt cheap for Iran, but they force the Israelis and Americans to use up their anti-aircraft missiles, which are very expensive.

And that allows the Iranians, in the future, to use their more advanced capabilities. Most of the Iranian underground bases haven't been used, just like during the previous war, because Iran is obviously planning for a long conflict. The Persian Gulf hasn't been closed yet, but apparently ships aren't passing through it out of fear. Anyone who knows the region knows it would be very easy for the Iranians to block it permanently. What's even more dangerous for the global economy is if the ships, the tankers, and the oil and gas installations are destroyed. Because if they're destroyed, even if there's a ceasefire or a halt in hostilities in a week's time, or in a month, or in three months, it could have a...

#Mohammad

very permanent effect.

#Mohammad

So the longer this continues, the greater the chances that the destruction in the Persian Gulf will be permanent. At the moment, ships are not passing through the Strait of Hormuz. They're probably too afraid to, because it's very narrow and you can hit the ships without using missiles—you can hit them with very light weapons. So as the war continues, this is going to drive the price of oil up. And if Iran decides to shut the Strait of Hormuz, it will drive prices even higher. But if the war intensifies, then Iran will have to destroy the ships, the tankers, the oil facilities, and the gas facilities. If that happens, then let's say we have a ceasefire a week from now, or a month from now, or three months from now, or a halt in hostilities.

There will be no oil or gas to go through. There will be no ships to take them. So the damage that's already being done to the global economy, the U.S. economy, and the Iranian economy, of course, is significant—but it's going to get much worse. As I said, if the assets in the Persian Gulf are destroyed, the damage will be so great that it's not something we can really calculate. These Arab family dictatorships in the Persian Gulf have only themselves to blame. They hosted U.S. bases. They can't have their cake and eat it too. Those bases were used to conspire against Iran until today, and they're still being used against Iran. Sadly, this is the reality of our region.

The countries in the Persian Gulf, as well as Turkey—AWACS planes are flying, NATO AWACS planes are gathering intelligence against Iran over Turkish airspace. U.S. bases in Turkey are being used against Iran. In Jordan, U.S. jets, U.S. defenses, and both defensive and offensive capabilities are centered. So all these countries are in the U.S. camp, whereas the axis of resistance is on the other side. But the point is that these tiny Arab family dictatorships are too vulnerable to do anything about Iran. And if push comes to shove, these regimes will collapse. I don't think any of them will ever really recover, because the damage has been done. Dubai will never be Dubai again, for example.

#Mudiar

I'll come back to some of the possibilities and implications of the Iranian response. But if we could stay and discuss for a bit the nature and scale of the Israeli-U.S. attack, given the media propaganda in the West about it. Talk about that—the number of cities or provinces in Iran that have been attacked, and particularly the elementary girls' school in Minab, in the southern province of Hormozgan in Iran.

#Mohammad

Yeah, unfortunately, I wrote it down. Yes. Until an hour ago, the latest casualty figures for those schoolchildren—elementary school girls—was 85 dead. And it's extraordinary. They wiped out the schoolchildren, the girls at that school, in a small city. It's unbelievable. This is just one example. I mean, they bombed in Fars, in a small city—they bombed a sports club with kids. Fifteen were killed there. In Tehran, they've been bombing buildings, civilian targets, apartment blocks, and in other

cities as well. They're ruthless. This is the Epstein class. They have no regard for humanity. We know what they do to girls—the Epstein class. We know what they do from the Epstein documents. They bomb them too now. The other things they've done, that I don't want to mention on your show—they bombed them as well. This is what we're up against.

And so, the ruthlessness of the regime in Washington, the Tel Aviv regime, and the entire collective West—they all support them. Western media will continue to demonize Iran. Even those who pretend to be opposed to the war contribute to that demonization, whoever they are. They'll say, "Iran is evil, but this is a bad policy." "Venezuela is evil, but they are the evil ones," because they feed into this narrative. The West is evil. The ruling class in the West is utterly evil. They're strangling the people of Cuba as we speak—women and children—and no one in the Western media cares, whether it's The Guardian or Fox News, Breitbart or The Independent. It doesn't matter. The United States is carrying out ruthless attacks, murdering people shamelessly, and the Western media will go along with it.

Although opponents of Trump, as this war goes downhill—and I believe it's going to intensify, I think from tonight it's going to intensify the war—but as the war goes downhill for the United States, because they're not going to win this war, the Iranians are steadfast and determined. And you know, as Muslims—Shia Muslims in particular—they have a particular steadfastness in opposing oppression, opposing the oppressor, supporting the oppressed. The grandson of the Prophet, his martyrdom—people should go and research that. They'll better understand where the culture of resistance comes from. Iran is not going to bow down to the United States. And the West—the idiocy, the foolishness of the West—is that they believe their own propaganda: "Iran is about to fall." They've been saying that for decades.

I actually did a show on Al Mayadeen—it was broadcast yesterday—and I spoke about the never-ending narrative of Iran's collapse. Since the 1980s, they've been saying Iran is about to collapse. Since the 1990s, they've been saying the youth have turned against the revolution. All the things you hear today—the exact same things—were said 40 years ago, 30 years ago, 20 years ago. So as the narrative continues, they start believing their own propaganda. They hire tens of thousands of Iranians to work in their Persian-language media, or as agents, or as trolls. In just one base in Albania, there are literally 4,000 Iranians who are online trolls. Imagine the kind of money they're spending. They hire these Iranians.

The Iranians tell them what they want to hear, and they believe their own propaganda. They create or formulate policy based on that propaganda, and every time they hit a brick wall, they wonder why. But they never change, because the narrative is too powerful. So now they think, "Oh yes, the Iranian regime," as they love to say. Whenever you hear someone say "the Iranian regime," I get suspicious of that person. I don't trust that person—that's someone influenced by Western narratives. I mean, I'm sure some of them are good people, but in general, that's... So when they talk about the Iranian regime being evil, unpopular, and about to collapse, this is a very old narrative.

But it shapes their policies. And in this war, the same thing happens. They believed their own propaganda—that the government gunned down innocent people, all that nonsense. I mean, we don't need to go through this again. We discussed it on the last show: Mossad and the CIA were behind it. They themselves admitted it. The former head of the CIA admitted it. The footage shows the violence—it was a coup, an armed insurrection, a semi-coup. And it failed immediately. People came out into the streets in the tens of millions to support the Islamic Republic, both on January 12th and February 11th.

But they don't look at those protests or those demonstrations of support. They just stick to their narratives. They'll say, "Oh, that's just nonsense." So they believe their own propaganda. They engage in war, and then they hit a brick wall. The war will intensify. The United States is going to fail in this war. But then we'll have to see what happens, how things play out. There are people in the United States who hate Iran—the establishment, the Epstein class—but they hate Trump too. So they'd like to see Trump fail just to hurt him. There are many things at play right now inside the United States.

It's not as if most of the people in the Democratic Party are decent. They're the same people who supported Trump and support the genocide in Gaza—except for Thomas Massie. But they see what Trump is doing to the United States. They see what this war is going to do to the United States. They hate Trump, so the pressure may start to build on him. But the Iranians are not going to count on internal pressure. They're planning for a very long war. And as I said, Iran is using its old missiles. Most of its underground bases are still untouched, so it's clear they're preparing for a war that could last months.

#Mudiar

Donald Trump, in his speech, called on Iranians to rise up against their own government. Following that, the New York Times and the Washington Post—the lapdogs of the empire—ran their own editorials and reports. The New York Times, in fact, I'm not kidding, ran an editorial titled "Why Did You Attack Iran?" I mean, it kind of criticized Trump, but it said that a U.S. president can justify a war on Iran because of how bad and evil Iran is, and so on and so forth. I haven't read it, but I explained how it works—I'm not kidding. And they put in bold "Iranian regime." They literally put the phrase "Iranian regime" in bold. And they went on. The Washington Post basically repeated what Trump said, claiming that the mood in Iran is so bad that a large number of people are excited about the U.S.-Israel attack on Iran. So, just to dispel the propaganda, could you briefly tell us a little about the mood in Iran regarding the attacks?

#Mohammad

Iranians are disgusted and outraged, and they're united. We've had spontaneous demonstrations across Tehran and other cities, even on my own campus, by students supporting the government as we're being bombed. People are coming into the streets. In Mashhad, there's a huge crowd right

now. As I said, the Democratic Party and the Republican Party are the same—they're all the Epstein class. They'll watch the demonstrations on the anniversary of the Iranian Revolution on February 11th. Their reporters will watch, but it won't change their views. You know, it's Orientalism. It's so deeply embedded that when they see reality, they still don't comprehend it. They can see it, but the narrative, their comprehension, their knowledge—it doesn't change.

It's still reality—what it used to be. It's still that Orientalist, racist, Eurocentric worldview that dominates. So the BBC reporter came to Tehran—I know her—during the February 11th demonstrations. Four million in Tehran. I was in Moscow at that time, but it just couldn't register for her. Her report from Tehran was completely negative. Why? Because it's not just her; it's the whole BBC. Even if she wants to say a few positive things, it's not something that's acceptable. If people in Iran were supporting the United States, they'd take this opportunity to go into the streets and seize, I don't know, police stations or whatever it is the Americans want them to do. Why is no one doing that? People support the state. They've always supported the state.

Yes, there's a minority who don't support the state and the Constitution—like in every country, like in India, like in the United States itself. And there are people the West supports who will carry out violence. The West doesn't face this because no foreign country does that to the United States. The United States does that to Iran. But Iran has—during the previous war that was imposed on the country—people rallied. The Israeli regime had to beg for a ceasefire. Right now, you have a combined force of the United States and the Israeli regime trying to defeat the Iranian people, with the help of regional states, as I explained earlier. So why can't they succeed? It's because they believe their own propaganda. And that propaganda is part of the reservoir of knowledge that has accumulated for decades and centuries.

I told you, if your viewers go and watch my program on al-Mayadeen, which was broadcast yesterday, they'll see that the same things being said about Iran today were being said 40 years ago—35 years ago, 30 years ago, 25 years ago. People are tired of the regime. The youth dislike it. There's another revolution brewing. All the things you see now, you saw in the 1980s, the 1990s, and so on. Nothing has changed. And it's basically because they cannot see the world in any way except the way we see it today. Trump is more crude, but in essence, his Eurocentric worldview is really not all that different from that of the rest of the political establishment—the Epstein class in the United States, or across Europe, Australia, New Zealand, Canada, and so on.

#Mudiar

I wanted to come briefly to the Iranian response to the attack, given that Western media outlets have always minimized Iran's capabilities and real responses. I mean, partly it's lies and deception, but partly it's also a misunderstanding of Iran's capabilities. We've seen Iran respond immediately this time—much quicker than was the case in June and before. There are reports about the attack

on the U.S. 5th Fleet in Bahrain and the destruction of a sophisticated FP-132 radar system in Qatar. And *Haaretz* has written about near-relentless barrages of Iranian drone and missile attacks in Israel. Could you briefly tell us about the Iranian response we've seen so far today?

#Mohammad

Well, the Iranian response, as you said, has been quite devastating. But Iran is not hitting hard yet. As I said, the Iranians are warming up. They're using old weapons, trying to probe the enemy and deplete their surface-to-air capabilities. Then they'll start using more sophisticated, newer technology. I think from tonight it's going to get more devastating. The Americans will brutalize Iran as much as possible in the coming hours, but Iran will hit back very hard. And at the end of the day, Iran has the upper hand because its people are fighting an existential war—they have to win.

The United States is waging a war of choice for the sake of a genocidal regime—to support a genocide, to support the Epstein class—at a time when the world is turning against the Israeli regime, and Americans are turning against it too. Look at the polls that have been carried out for the first time in the United States, which is the most propagandized nation in the world: more people now support Palestine than the Israeli regime. This is huge. So for Iran, this is a fight for survival, and they've been preparing for a very long time with all these underground bases and drone capabilities. And the Persian Gulf is extremely vulnerable—it's probably the most vulnerable and sensitive place in the world, because 20 to 25 percent of global energy comes from this area.

Twenty percent in the Persian Gulf, and let's say twenty-five percent in the Caucasus and West Asia together. So if the United States pushes too hard, it could blow up in their face—it already is. And this is going to have economic consequences. I mean, already the price of oil has gone up, and it's going to go up further. So Iran knows its advantages. As I said, it has been planning for this since the United States invaded Iraq. Iran's missile capabilities against Israel are just a small portion of its overall strength. Its medium-range and short-range missiles, drones, speedboats, underwater drones, torpedoes, and mini-submarines—Iran has built all sorts of capabilities for asymmetrical warfare. And the Americans are pushing the world toward a very dangerous place.

#Mudiar

And on the Iranian pushback or retaliation against the GCC countries, do you think it will be limited to U.S. bases and military assets, or would it be all-out against those allied countries as well?

#Mohammad

Well, the Iranians have already said that anything that is...

#Mudiar

One of the officials said there are no red lines.

#Mohammad

Anything that can be considered a U.S. asset—how do you define that? And if the war becomes more intense, you know, these countries are part of this aggression against Iran. They cannot pretend that they're innocent. The United States is carrying out these attacks with the help these countries have been giving it for many years. In the case of Qatar, for example, Qatar pays for the U.S. base. Not only does it provide the location, it pays for their expenses. So when they murder Iranians, when they destroy Iranian assets, they can't expect Iran to say, "Okay, we'll leave you alone because it's U.S. bases." We'll have to see how things play out in the days ahead. But if I were living in the Persian Gulf region, I would leave immediately. If there are no flights, I'd drive across Saudi Arabia and just find a way to get out.

#Mudiar

What kind of support would Iran be looking for from Russia and China? Last question.

#Mohammad

Okay, sorry. Well, Iran is fighting its own fight. But obviously, Iran's relationships with Russia and China are very good. The Russians and the Chinese see the United States as a threat. They see the U.S. president as erratic and the United States as increasingly unpredictable—a dying empire that's lashing out. So, obviously, they have a vested interest in supporting Iran, and the relationship is close. Also, Iran's allies across the region are preparing for war. So we can argue with the Americans.

#Mudiar

We'll leave it there. Professor Mohammad Marandi, thank you so much for joining us, and stay safe.

#Mohammad

Thank you for having me, and I hope you stay safe too.

#Ayushman

Hi, my name is Ayush Mann. I, along with Mudiar Jyotishman, have started this platform. Over the last two years, we've tried to build content for the left and progressive forces. We've interviewed economists, historians, political commentators, and activists so far. If you've liked our content and want us to build an archive for the left, I have two requests for you. Please consider donating to the cause—the link is in the description below. And if you're not able to, don't feel bad. You can always like our videos and share them with your comrades. Finally, don't forget to hit the subscribe button.

