

Iran's Missiles DEVASTATE Haifa Port & Tel Aviv, Trump Eyes Ground War | Elijah Magnier

The US and Israel have opened up a new front in the war that has seen an even more furious retaliation from Iran and Hezbollah. The future of the war is moving rapidly toward even further escalation, and the crises keep piling up for the aggressors. War correspondent Elijah Magnier joins the show to break it all down. Follow Elijah: <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 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 am joined by veteran war correspondent, military analyst, and independent journalist Elijah Magnier. Elijah, great to be back with you today.

#Elijah Magnier

It's a pleasure to be with you. Thank you for having me.

#Danny

Yes, everyone, hit the like button — that will boost the show in YouTube's algorithm and help this conversation be seen far and wide. But without further ado, Elijah, I want to get started with Operation True Promise, waves 27 and 28, as announced by Iran. You might have seen the images earlier, of course, of Iran after the U.S. and Israel struck oil refineries in the south of Tehran. There are now black clouds of smoke, supposedly raining black rain, which is very unsafe. In retaliation, Iran fired ballistic missiles — and they say more advanced ballistic missiles — at Haifa.

I'll just put the images up here. This is Haifa's oil refinery burning after those attacks. We also know that Hezbollah has been additionally attacking Haifa over the last 24 hours. And Iran has announced

that it's going to increase its attacks, Elijah, in the coming days and weeks — by, they say, 100 percent. So talk to me about where the war stands. What's the significance of oil infrastructure now becoming involved? And what do you expect?

#Elijah Magnier

First of all, this war is illegal and unlawful. There's no mandate from the United Nations. The Americans decided to go to war thinking it was going to be a promenade — just a few days, as Donald Trump said at the beginning, maybe three or four days — expecting that Iran wouldn't respond or retaliate. He started by telling us this was a war to change the regime. He has no experience compared to Benjamin Netanyahu, who has a lot of experience. And he said, "We are preparing the ground for regime change," without putting a time limit on it, because he knows a campaign doesn't really change a ruling system in a country.

But Donald Trump then went on the next day saying, "Oh no, I don't want to change the regime because we killed the Grand Ayatollah, Sayyid Ali Khamenei. I want to be part of the selection of the new leader." So, I mean, in my decades of war experience and covering Iran — even on the ground during the Iran-Iraq war and the Iranian presence in Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, etc. — I was not aware that the Assembly of Experts has to have 88 members. There were 59 at the beginning, but now they've become 88. And I didn't know that Donald Trump had become a Grand Ayatollah to join them and be part of the decision-makers.

So it indicates he's really completely absent in his knowledge of how Iran functions — the culture, the system, the constitution. And he thought that, well, actually, like in Venezuela, he could just ask the vice president to continue running the country, and they'd accept it, and that's it. He doesn't understand he's dealing with an ideological state. They have rules and a constitution, and they're very proud people with thousands of years of ancient civilization. They're not going to be ruled by someone treated as less than a child.

#Danny

Elijah, I think I've lost you. Are you still there?

#Danny

Nope. Hello? Yep. Are you still with me? Yes, I am. You might want to refresh and come back into the show if possible, if you can hear me at all. Without further ado, everyone, we're going to try to get Elijah back here ASAP. I'm going to message him right now and hopefully he can come back to the show. Without further ado, though, I wanted to continue with this coverage. Is he here? No? Okay. Yes, let's continue with this coverage. Elijah, please refresh if you can hear me. Okay, I think he's going to refresh. So, yes, Iran hit Haifa in retaliation for the Israeli and U.S. strikes on Iran's oil facilities. And we're going to get Elijah back in here now. Hi, Elijah, can you hear me? Yes, I can.

Okay, all right, continue. I had lost you there, but you were talking about how Iranians are proud people with an ancient civilization. Trump doesn't understand that. Maybe you can get into what we're witnessing now with this retaliation on Haifa and elsewhere.

#Elijah Magnier

So the retaliation from Iran today is an existential war. They will retaliate against Haifa, they will retaliate against Tel Aviv — that's what they're doing. And actually, they don't need more than 10 to 20 missiles per day to keep the war going and force a ceasefire when the Americans get tired of it and its consequences. Because today, we see the consequences are extremely heavy on the Arab countries, and they're questioning the American presence — that they can't even defend themselves. According to the New York Times satellite images, the U.S. bases are either completely destroyed or severely damaged.

And also, the Iranians are following U.S. personnel in hotels in Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Riyadh, and other places in the Gulf. That means the Americans are no longer capable of protecting themselves, and they're certainly not trying to protect the Arabs. They're relying on the Arab defense system, but the bulk of all the interception missile systems is in Jordan and Israel to make sure that even if the interception missiles in Jordan are intercepted, the debris falls on the Jordanians, not on the Israelis. So for Iran, this existential war will not stop without a deal ensuring that the Israelis and the Americans will not start the war again.

So far, this duel is inflicting serious damage on the Iranian economy because they're not going after an Iranian nuclear bomb — Iran doesn't have a bomb. And they're not targeting the Iranian missile program, because Iran produces its own missiles; they have the knowledge and can reproduce them. Instead, they're going after the Iranian economy to destroy it, to make sure that whoever rules Iran after the war — whether it's the same system or not — will be busy for the next 20 years rebuilding the country.

#Danny

Yeah, that's really important, Elijah. Now, I'm just going to pull this up, because as Iran was targeting Haifa, it has also escalated. I think, as we speak, there have been multiple rounds of strikes on Tel Aviv in the hours before our show. I wanted to get your assessment of this as I pull up some of the images of the damage. What exactly are the costs that Iran is imposing? Because I think a lot of people are concerned about, as you said, the costs Iran is paying from these strikes by the U.S. and Israel. But what are the costs that Iran is inflicting on Israel? You named some in the Gulf, but in particular, how does this strategy by Iran — and what it's doing in Operation True Promise 4, now more than 20 waves in — fit with what Iran is trying to achieve here?

#Elijah Magnier

The U.S. and the Israelis are bombing Tehran like nobody's business. For Iran, the Americans and the Israelis couldn't threaten the Iranians with a bucket of water if they were in the middle of the ocean. Because of that, the Iranians will keep bombing where it hurts Washington the most. In Tel Aviv and Haifa — that's the industrial area, the naval base, and also the oil depot. And they're going to keep hitting facilities in the Arab countries they can reach, where those sites are less protected, because the Americans didn't really invest in defending them. They sold the Arabs the protection and interception systems, but not for a long war like this. And it shows they really didn't foresee an attack from Iran using drones.

They're not experienced in how to handle drones. That's why, in Kuwait, they shot down three F-15s in friendly fire — they're confused by a kind of war they're not used to fighting. The Iranians, on the other hand, have been preparing for this. They were engaged in a war before, back in June 2025, and they'll keep bombing Haifa and Tel Aviv because 81% of the population in Israel supports Netanyahu, including the opposition. That's why they want to push Israeli society to the point where people stand up against Benjamin Netanyahu and demand he stop. Now, that's going to be extremely difficult to achieve — and even harder for Netanyahu to accept, because it would mean he'd lose in the upcoming elections.

And since he didn't ask forgiveness for his corruption cases, the president can't pardon him — because he never asked to be forgiven. So he'll go to jail and face three corruption cases. For Benjamin Netanyahu, this is an existential political fight for his future, but for Iran, it's about survival. Either the country ends up in ruins, with nobody paying or compensating for the damage, or Iran keeps firing until the last IRGC man, with the last missile, at Israel and the Arab Gulf — to put pressure on the Americans, because they started the war on behalf of Benjamin Netanyahu. Iran doesn't really pose a threat to American national security.

#Danny

Yeah, and Elijah, of course we know Israel and the United States' CENTCOM are working overtime to censor any kind of images, videos, and information coming out about what Iran is doing. I just wanted to show that this is becoming increasingly hard to do. So here we have an NBC clip where the pundits are talking while showing Iran launching and successfully hitting Tel Aviv. I'll just play that really quick.

#Elijah Magnier

The Israelis — I think that's what the calculation is now: regime preservation. Could you get a more pragmatic figure presiding?

#Danny

So there's that evidence. And then we also have, of course, on the bases — there was that brief period, Elijah, when President Raisi and Iran said they weren't going to hit the Gulf states or surrounding countries in the region, as long as their bases and assets weren't used — the assets of the United States — to fire on them. Of course, that was immediately shot down by the United States, and they kept using them for those purposes. But here are Americans actually in Kuwait, at an air base, showing and demonstrating exactly what Iran is doing. So it's getting harder and harder to hide these things, Elijah. What do you see in terms of — there are a lot of people who watch this channel who are concerned about Iran. How long can Iran go? Do you believe them when they say they can go six months, a year? And can the U.S. last that long? Because they're talking about this now as a long war. Oh, hold on — sorry about that.

#Elijah Magnier

The Israelis and the Americans are going very heavily on Iran because the Americans are in a hurry, and the Israelis want to make sure they destroy Iran's civilian structure and economy. But the Iranians are not in a hurry. To give you an example — which isn't funny, but it's true — when I used to cover the Iran-Iraq war, I would visit Iranian officials asking for interviews. I'd be a guest at the foreign ministry, sitting in the office of the director general, waiting to see the foreign minister. He would offer me a mandarin, and then, for an hour, he'd sit there peeling it piece by piece, carefully cleaning off every little bit of skin — to the point that it made me nervous.

That is the Iranian patience. The Iranians are not in a hurry to finish this war. They want to end it on their own terms, the ones they find acceptable. They'll bring back Donald Trump to the table, to the situation as it was before the war, and they'll set harsh conditions that suit them, with all the guarantees. And to do that, they want to make sure they're conducting this war the way they'd weave a carpet — something that takes a year or two to finish — because they're not in a hurry to bomb Israel, like they did on the first day, showing their capability to launch 220 missiles in one day.

But then they went back to that rhythm — to make sure that day and night the Israelis are spending their time in shelters, and day and night the Israeli interception missiles are being exhausted, being used up. Because to shoot down a bullet with another bullet, you need to fire three to five interception missiles from the Israeli side. And this is exactly what the Iranians are doing. So we haven't seen any sign of weakness or depletion in the Iranian missiles — only from the American and Israeli media. But what's actually falling on Tel Aviv, Haifa, and other parts of Israel doesn't really match what the Americans and Israelis are saying.

#Danny

No, it doesn't. And maybe you can talk about the role of Hezbollah here, because I think a lot of people were surprised when Hezbollah entered as it did and has shown a ferocity that, both on the ground and in their missile attacks, has really shocked Israel. Israeli officials have said they weren't

expecting this. And I want to show, to your point, Elijah, about the Israeli air defenses — the Iron Dome, the Arrow, all of these — they're working overtime against Hezbollah too. And here's just one example of that. We can see — I'll just show the audience — they'll be able to see how many Israeli interceptors are going up.

This is, I believe, in quote-unquote northern Israel. That's a lot of interceptors being fired in response to Hezbollah's own strikes. So, you know, a lot of people, Elijah, have been wondering how long both the United States and Israel can last, given that these are all U.S. assets in the Gulf. You have Hegseth and Trump saying they have unlimited supplies and that unconditional surrender is the only aim they're going for when it comes to Iran. Do you want me to start with Hezbollah first? Sure. Yeah, definitely. Okay.

#Elijah Magnier

Let's take what the Israeli Defense Minister, Katz, said. He said, "We were prepared to start the war on Hezbollah in December 2025, but we waited until the Americans joined us in the war against Iran," which indicates that the Israelis were prepared for war. But let's see if what he said fits with the events on the ground, and whether he's saying that just to show off or in reality. Before Hezbollah joined in, the Israelis said they had called up 100,000 to 110,000 reservists to the border with Lebanon to prepare for a ground attack on Lebanese territory before the beginning of the war. Now, to gather 100,000 to 110,000 troops — military experts understand this very well — you really need to mobilize everyone and call them up immediately. The Israelis are very efficient, and they can do that in less than a week.

But then what about all the equipment? How about the units they have to join? What about the ammunition? What about the logistics support—fuel, food, ammunition, and all that needs to follow the troops while they're advancing? What about the air coverage and the allocation of enough munitions for that, while they're also engaged in the war with Iran? What about the updates to intelligence information? What about the artillery that needs to clear the ground for the advance of the infantry? I can go on and on to tell you that this takes months of preparation. So it's not like one day Hezbollah launches six missiles across the border and 24 hours later the Israelis push their forces in. That means the Israelis were prepared, confirming what the Israeli defense minister told us. Now, why would Hezbollah engage in this war?

For Hezbollah, this is perfect timing and an existential war. Let me explain the two aspects. Domestically, the Lebanese government issued a directive agreeing to arrest any Hezbollah members and to consider Hezbollah's military branch as outlawed, which means any member of Hezbollah could be arrested anywhere, even in his own house. We were told by Hezbollah that they have around 100,000 men. Now, the Shia community in Lebanon felt they were next on the list. They believed that, actually, in October or November 2024, when the war stopped with an agreement that Israel and Hezbollah would respect United Nations Security Council Resolution 1701, Hezbollah halted its operations. But Israel failed to respect the UN resolution and started bombing Lebanon

again, violating Lebanese sovereignty 15,000 times and killing 500 Lebanese — about one per day over the last 500 days.

And for Hezbollah to have the Lebanese government consider it an outlaw, with the Israelis preparing for an attack and the atmosphere in Lebanon overwhelmingly pro-Israeli and anti-Hezbollah—that's the end of Hezbollah. Therefore, to protect its society, it needs to force Israel to impose a ceasefire under United Nations Security Council Resolution 1701, which the American negotiator Barak Thomas Barak said is null and no longer valid. The Israelis now recognize no borders between Lebanon and Israel and can move in freely as they wish.

That's the U.S. envoy who said that—Thomas Barak—announcing that Lebanon is a failed state and that the Israelis have a free hand. Because of that, Hezbollah, and the Shia in Lebanon, are unable to rebuild their homes in the south since Israel prevents it. They can't invest money in providing shelter for Lebanese Shia whose homes were destroyed, because the Lebanese government has blocked Iran from supporting Lebanon's reconstruction and has stopped all flights between Lebanon and Iran for a year.

So they're caught between the Lebanese army, which is preparing to attack Hezbollah but not the Israeli occupation forces, and the Israelis, who are also prepared to attack Hezbollah. They're right in the middle. If they prove themselves capable of holding their ground and protecting the Shia, even amid all this destruction—because the Israelis kind of, I don't want to sound cynical, but in a way render a service to Hezbollah by asking all the Shia to evacuate south of the Litani River and from all the suburbs—then Hezbollah no longer has anything to fear for. They can freely attack the Israelis without worrying about their people or the society that protects them.

And Hezbollah set a condition. Hezbollah said, if Israel returns to the agreement stipulated in October–November 2024, respects Lebanese sovereignty, and allows the reconstruction of Lebanon, then I stop. I'm not involved in the war on Iran. So for Hezbollah, seeing the Israeli Air Force divided between Lebanon and Iran is a luxury, because then the Israelis can't bomb the hell out of Lebanon—particularly the Shia areas. Hezbollah took this opportunity to confront Israel and make sure they wouldn't stop, like Iran. It's a survival and existential war unless Israel accepts United Nations Security Council Resolution 1701.

#Danny

Yeah, well, I think that's all incredibly important to note, Elijah. And, you know, I wanted to ask you now, given where we are in the war—or at least in this iteration of the war, this massive escalation—do you find, I don't know if you've seen reports of this, because there are now talks of a possible escalation by the United States with ground troops? Now, Trump is privately saying that this wouldn't be a massive surge, this wouldn't be a general, quote-unquote, invasion, but rather a strategic operation, so to speak. There are friends of this show who have said deployment orders have already been given. And I'm just wondering, given the shape of this war and the costs and

consequences so far, what do you make of this possible development, and what might transpire here?

#Elijah Magnier

Well, Donald Trump is saying that he's contemplating a ground invasion. I'm not surprised he said that, because he has no clue about the geography of Iran or what the Kurds can or cannot do. First of all, Iran is 1,640,000 square kilometers. Kurdistan Province, including part of Iranian Azerbaijan, is around 70,000 square kilometers. And the Kurdish area in Iran is about 28,000 square kilometers. So, pushing the Iraqi Kurds to cross the Iranian border and join other Kurdish separatists in a war to topple the Islamic Revolution that spans 1,640,000 square kilometers—that's very poor thinking.

Secondly, the Iranians said they would destroy Erbil and Sulaymaniyah, the two Kurdish provinces in Iraq. First, that would wipe out the Kurdish oil resources. Second, it would whet Baghdad's appetite to move into Kurdistan, impose its power, and that would be the end of the Kurdish semi-independent federation there. Third, this plan would involve ground forces from the Americans, Mossad, the CIA, and the Kurdish side—but also Iranian ground troops, who have stayed out of the war so far because it's been a missile war. It's a war between Iranian missiles and drones and American and Israeli missiles.

One could argue that they've bombed Iranian barracks, but who said the Iranian ground forces—numbering several million, including the Basij, not just the regular army—are going to be completely wiped out from the air when the Kurds advance into Iranian territory? This plan is really the work of someone whose IQ isn't higher than room temperature—him and all his assistants around him, including the war minister—because this is absolutely not a feasible plan and would really destroy the Kurds.

#Danny

Yeah, well, you know, Elijah, you mentioned that this is a missile war, and I'm wondering if you could help the audience understand exactly what we know about Iran's capabilities right now—or its remaining capabilities. Because I don't know if you've seen, but Israel, especially Channel 12 in Israel, keeps saying that Iran's missile launchers are gone, eradicated, that they don't have any more capability. But yet, daily, we see the Gulf being hit, we see regional countries being hit, of course Israel being hit, and now Iran is saying they're going to increase the pressure and the number of strikes, in line with U.S. and Israeli escalation. So maybe you can help us understand exactly what we know—because I know Iran isn't publicly sharing a lot of information—but what we do know about Iran's capabilities and what's left.

#Elijah Magnier

The quick answer to that is maybe there's someone up in the sky sending these missiles toward Israel—because someone is firing them. And if the Israelis are telling us that Iran's capability has been destroyed, and Donald Trump is saying Iran's missile program is destroyed, then I really don't know who's firing all these missiles. Unless, perhaps, the Americans are firing them at Israel and claiming Iran is doing it, so they can keep bombing Iran. So one has to look at the facts, not the wording of the Americans and the Israelis. The Israelis are telling their people—because there are two different languages, one for domestic use and one for international use—that domestically, while people are sitting in shelters, their leaders are saying, "We've destroyed it." But then the question is, who's firing at us?

Someone is doing it. And then, for the international community—for those who aren't really following the news, and rightly so, they're not that interested—it's easy to repeat this narrative and pretend that Iran's missiles have been destroyed, that the program is gone, and that they have no more capability. Now, there are different kinds of launch pads: some in silos underground, and others on trucks. The ones on trucks are very easy to spot, but not across the kind of geography we're talking about—1,640,000 square kilometers. So they really need to locate a missile launcher before they can destroy it. They can do that only if they have enough coverage of the entire surface area of Iran. The more vulnerable ones are the liquid-fuel missiles, which need between 40 and 70 minutes to be prepared and launched.

But Iran is now launching solid-fuel missiles at Israel that need only about five minutes to be ready. They can be launched from silos underground. So when a missile is leaving from under the ground, it's not going to be protected, and it's not going to be hit. This is why the Americans and the Israelis have placed all their interception missile systems in Israel and in Amman, in Jordan. They've also put them in Cyprus and Greece, and in other Gulf countries. They tried to place them in Iraq, in the desert of Al Anbar, but they were caught there by the Iraqi security forces—the French and the Americans—putting interception missiles in the desert of Al Anbar, very close to the border with Saudi Arabia, to intercept Iranian missiles coming through that corridor, which is the shortest distance between Iran and Israel.

So everybody is joining the Israelis and the Americans to intercept missiles. And if the Iranian missiles have been destroyed, why are the French sending a frigate as a defensive measure to intercept them, while the British are doing the same, the Italians are doing the same, and the Australians are also involved? So all these countries are involved in intercepting missiles that are supposedly completely destroyed. That doesn't make sense to me, and I don't think it makes sense to anyone. But what we're seeing in Tel Aviv—missiles destroying a building just this morning, and debris falling on Israelis—shows something important that people need to understand: the interception systems for ballistic missiles can intercept them outside the atmosphere.

If they're intercepting them above Israel and the debris is falling on Israel, it means the missiles are fast enough to reach the upper atmosphere above Israel before they're intercepted by the third

missile, for example, or another layer of the missile system that Israel has. Therefore, we understand that these ballistic missiles are hypersonic—they can reach Mach 15 all the way, and some of them reach Mach 19 without slowing down during the descent phase, which makes them impossible for the Israelis to intercept. Sometimes the Israelis hear the sirens and the missile falling simultaneously, which means the interception system's alarm didn't detect the missiles in time to warn people to take shelter. So we look at signs and signals to draw conclusions, but we don't rely on what the Iranians, the Israelis, or the Americans are saying.

#Danny

Yeah, yeah, definitely. I think it's really important to note what you just said, and I can actually show some of the results of that. We're seeing here, in videos like these, the results of those missiles that can—well, I'm wondering if you could describe them, because everyone's sharing these. I'm not sure. Here they are—no, not that, let me just stop the screen. This missile right here—everyone's sharing this. These are impossible to intercept. Cluster missiles. Are these the Kheibar? I don't know how to say it. But these are missiles that are essentially cluster munitions, and they break apart.

Uh, and essentially one missile event actually serves as—I don't know, you can do the math up there, audience. We can't count from here—maybe a dozen, maybe more. And that shrapnel just hits everywhere. And, of course, Israel and the United States—there have been people who've commented that these missiles, Elijah, are against international law. But at the same time, this is war. Israel has essentially made itself one big military target, given its history, how it wages war, and also its colonial status and the way it positions its military installations, infrastructure, and hardware.

#Elijah Magnier

Well, I would argue differently—not because this is a war, but because Israel first dropped one million cluster bombs on Lebanon. The number of bombs comes from how many bomblets are in each missile that spread out. They have very little explosive power, but enough to cut off the leg of a person or a child. When children play in the fields, that's where they're mostly hit. And the large majority of those who suffer from cluster munitions are civilians. Now, there are several points you mentioned. First, Iran and Israel did not sign the treaty that forbids the use of cluster arms. So they both technically have the right to use them against one another, because they never agreed not to and therefore didn't violate any agreement.

For them, it's not illegal. For the rest of the world that signed the agreement, it is illegal and against the law. That's one. Two, the type of missile is the Kheibar Shekan, and it has a family of versions—one, two, three, and four. It goes from 550 kilograms of explosive in the warhead—I'm not talking about the weight of the missile itself, just the explosive—to 1,800 kilograms of explosive. And the Kheibar Shekan 4, or "Kheibar Gate," is a reference to the Islamic battle when Imam Ali opened the gate of Kheibar against the Jews he fought in the early period of Islamic conquests.

This missile's warhead can carry between 25 and 80 cluster bombs. When it opens up above Israel, what's interesting for people to know is that the missile actually reaches the space above Israel before releasing them. That's when the warhead opens and drops dozens of cluster bombs. Each of these has around half a kilo to one kilogram of explosive, depending on the type and which family of Kheibar Shekan the missile belongs to. It's impossible to intercept them unless the missile itself is intercepted in space, before it reaches Israel. So these are lethal for the Israelis and cause extensive damage over a wide area because they spread across a large surface.

And that is something directed toward civilian property—similar to what the Israelis are doing, though not really equal, because the Israelis are using 2,000 pounds of explosives against every target. Every day they carry out between 80 and 200 attacks on Iran. So you can imagine the quantity of bombs falling on Iran, plus the American B-52s and B-2 jets dropping tens of bombs on Iran, particularly on Tehran. The difference between the Iranians, the Americans, and the Israelis isn't in the quantity of bombs; it's in how long the Iranians can absorb these shocks and how long the Israelis can absorb them.

Who can last longer than the other? That's the key to the war. If the Iranians can endure the damage they're suffering for longer than the period set by the Israelis—which was the case in June 2025—then Iran doesn't need to win; Iran just needs not to lose. In academia, we define defeat as raising the white flag, surrendering, or being completely destroyed. If one side keeps fighting without surrendering, then that side hasn't lost. It may be severely damaged, but it hasn't lost. It can rebuild its capabilities and stand on its feet again. That's what Iran needs. If Iran doesn't raise the white flag, it hasn't lost the battle.

#Danny

Yeah, that's a great point. I mean, this is a very different kind of war than, let's say, Vietnam. While there were ground troops there, there were, of course, significant American losses—but far more Vietnamese losses, far more damage to Vietnamese infrastructure. Vietnam wasn't really able to lay a hand on the United States itself, but it did hit its military. At the end of the day, it was the U.S. that had to pull out first and stop the war because the costs were just too great, even though Vietnam ended up taking the heavier hit.

So Iran finds itself—I agree with you—I think it's in a similar position, just a different kind of war, where if it can defend itself and stand afterward, then maybe that's a kind of victory for Iran. Now, Elijah, I wanted to ask you about some of the escalations. Of course, I mentioned the hits on Iran's oil infrastructure, but the U.S. and Israel are still going after desalination plants in Iran, which has caused, I think, more than 30 areas—villages and localities—to be cut off from their water supply. That's a dangerous precedent.

Here's a post I found interesting. It shows a map of all the desalination plants in the Persian Gulf, and you can see how dependent many of the countries in the region that host U.S. military assets are on these kinds of plants. All of them are essentially within range of Iranian missile and drone fire, which begs the question: where is this war heading? It seems like these kinds of escalations only raise the stakes for even more catastrophe in the region. And will this escalation backfire and put pressure on the Gulf states to stop their very dependent and subservient position to the United States? Because the damage could get far worse from here for them.

#Elijah Magnier

Well, as you rightly pointed out, the minimum level of dependence on desalination in the Gulf countries is 95%. In some countries, like Kuwait, it's 100%. So what Israel did was invite Iran to retaliate and strike back against the Gulf countries, so everybody suffers and everybody pays the price, while Israel remains the strongest country in the Middle East. This is Benjamin Netanyahu's objective, and he said it. He said, once I destroy Iran with the Americans, then all the Arab countries will crawl back to me because they'll all want my support and want relations with me. He didn't hide his objective—that was his goal. And this is what he said.

Therefore, for Iran to retaliate against the desalination systems in the Gulf countries is a possibility, because Iran also wants the Arabs to turn against the Americans and do everything they can to stop the war. Unfortunately, the Arabs can do very little with the Americans, even though they were the ones who provided Donald Trump, when he visited the Middle East, with \$3.5 trillion—not billion, trillion dollars—as an investment in the United States to boost the economy. But for him, Israel comes first. Now, attacking these targets is prohibited by the United Nations and many other organizations. It's against Article 54.2—it's not allowed to hit civilian targets that would starve or deprive the civilian population.

It's under the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, Article 8, number 8. The principle of distinction between civilian and military targets is also under Article 48 of Additional Protocol I. Proportionality, again, is under Article 51. Every single country in the world avoids targeting civilians at this level. However, I'm not surprised, because what Israel did in Gaza—considering Gazans as not human, flattening Gaza, punishing the population—and the result that the International Criminal Court considered Benjamin Netanyahu as a fugitive and a war criminal, along with his former defense minister Yoav Gallant, is not a surprise given the war crimes and crimes against humanity they have committed.

They're using the same approach with Iran—attacking civilian infrastructure, places where people get drinking water. They're attacking hospitals, schools, ambulances, and police headquarters, because the police are not considered military since they're not engaged in combat. So everything related to the basics the Iranians need, including the flour and corn industries, is being targeted and destroyed. That is not a clean or fair war. These are war crimes. And because the war is already

unlawful and illegal, some countries that are engaged in a legal war still have some respect for the rules of war. That's why the Geneva Convention says if a soldier is captured during wartime, that soldier has rights. But here, we see there are no rights for anyone, and everything is permitted.

#Danny

Yeah, and I'd like to get your reaction to that. I think those are really important points, especially given that Iran, considering how it's being targeted, has every right to inflict pain to defend itself. That is within its rights. And here, I want to play this from Fox News, Elijah, if you can bear and stomach it, because I believe there's a heavy push. This war is so unpopular in the United States, and likely across the West, that we even see Fox News trying to spin developments as a big victory already—an attempt to frame this as maybe a war that should end a little bit sooner than what's being portrayed. Here's the list that a Fox News commentator ran down.

#Elijah Magnier

What's happened? Let's list it out. We took out the Iranian regime leader, the Ayatollah Khamenei, and then forty of the top leaders. We degraded their military. You can see we've been laying that out all day, all morning, because they decided to attack their neighbors, and we've kind of unified them behind us. So that's worked in our favor to some degree. We've outed fake allies—Spain, England, right? Why should we ever help them again? This is a way to reveal that. We talked a little about the insurance situation for ships coming across the Strait of Hormuz, so there's that angle as well, which is very interesting. To me, this already looks like victory.

#Danny

So, Elijah, help me out here. This is the kind of—well, as the kids say these days—the kind of slop that's going around in Western mainstream media, U.S. mainstream corporate media. Maybe you can break down the myth from the reality here. Even that last point, the "victory" scene in what's happening in the Strait of Hormuz—I don't know if the global economy, and especially American and European pocketbooks, would agree with that.

#Elijah Magnier

First, I'd like to say about the leaders that they claim to have killed all the leaders of Iran. But someone is still running the show—someone is giving the orders, someone is making the decisions about who to fire at and why. Now, it's important to understand that both ideological state and non-state actors have a horizontal leadership, not a vertical one. And Grand Ayatollah Sayyid Ali Khamenei did not leave his house, which is also his office, as he serves as a source of emulation. As a reference for tens of millions of people in the Islamic world—like the pope for Christians—he

cannot leave his house and appear afraid of the Americans or the Israelis. And at 86 years old, for him and for his ideology, the highest honor he could reach would be to die not in his bed, but at the hands of his enemy.

And for him, this is martyrdom. So for the Americans or the Israelis to kill him is actually not a big deal for Iran, because Article 111 of the constitution states that if the leader of the revolution dies or is removed, they have to appoint another one. There's a council—the Assembly of Experts, made up of 88 members—who meet to select and approve the new leader. They've done that today and completed the selection. So killing the leader doesn't really change much. Back in December 2025, the leader of the revolution had already appointed all the deputies for the various leadership positions in Iran. In fact, the head of the IRGC today, Brigadier General Ahmad Vahidi, was appointed as deputy head of the IRGC in December, and he's the one leading the battle now.

So killing the leaders did not cripple Iran. It did back in June 2025, when Iran retaliated after 18 hours. It created a big surprise and a lot of confusion because Donald Trump started the war with Benjamin Netanyahu during a negotiation. He did exactly the same this time—when they said they would meet on Monday in Vienna, he started the war on Saturday. But Iran was better prepared. In the first hour after the assassination of several leaders, Iran responded forcefully against Tel Aviv and all the U.S. bases in the Middle East, which means the plans were already on the table, ready to be executed—and they executed them. From that angle, it means Iran is prepared for war, ready to continue it, and not willing to back down.

The decision-makers in Iran today are the IRGC—the military. If something new comes up diplomatically that fits with the plan already laid out by the leader of the revolution—that the war doesn't stop unless they reach their objectives: lifting the sanctions, having the right to enrich uranium, getting compensation for the damage of the war, and recovering tens of billions of dollars frozen in different banks—then the war is not going to stop. We don't see any indication, from what was on Fox News, that matches the reality on the ground—that the leaders have been killed, that the Iranians are ready to surrender, or that the Americans have the upper hand and total control. They have total control of the sky, but they can't stop the missiles coming.

What they're saying about Iran bringing all the Gulf countries together with the Americans on their side—I think that's either disinformation or misinformation, and the presenters don't know what they're talking about. First, the Gulf countries are receiving mainly drones, and they're incapable of defending themselves. Secondly, they've been threatened by Ansarullah and by the Iranians that their infrastructure will be destroyed if they join the war. They're extremely fragile in this conflict; they can't defend themselves. Third, Iran has taken into consideration the possibility of attacking the Gulf countries if they participate in the war. And the Gulf countries wouldn't hesitate for a second to bomb the hell out of Iran if Iran were defeated.

Another point is that Ansarullah in Yemen said they will close the Bab al-Mandeb if the Arabs join the war, and they will bomb the Arabs. And the last point is the Strait of Hormuz. Iran has not closed the

Strait of Hormuz—it's still open—but any ship crossing that strait needs to respond to the Iranians. The Iranians invited the American military and naval forces to cross the Strait of Hormuz so they can deal with them and take revenge for the frigate that the Americans bombed with their submarine during a joint military parade with India. The ship was unarmed, returning through international waters, and was sunk by the Americans, killing 84 sailors—60 missing and 23 recovered alive by the Sri Lankans.

So, going into the Strait performance—today, if a tanker costs 100 million and used to pay 250,000 in insurance, that same tanker is now paying 12 million. All these repercussions fall on us, on the population, because this is raising the price of oil, gas, and everything related to transport. The price of gas here in Europe has already increased by 50 percent. So we're paying the price for the war the Americans started for the glory of one person in Israel, Benjamin Netanyahu, to keep him from going to prison.

#Danny

Yeah, and those prices are going higher and higher, Elijah. It topped \$90 yesterday—the price of oil—up 14% in the United States. But I think it's gone even higher. It's rising by the day, given the crisis that the United States and Israel imposed on the region by launching this war. Elijah, is there any final point you want to make about where this war stands as we wrap up, since there are so many things happening and maybe I missed something?

#Elijah Magnier

We're dealing with a person, Benjamin Netanyahu, who is willing to destroy Iran—not to free the people of Iran. He's freeing them from all their natural assets, destroying everything. We're also dealing with another person who's quite unpopular, someone who was elected only because he said he wouldn't go to war and criticized Barack Obama for being engaged in and preparing a war with Iran. I like what Senator Van Hollen said: for 40 years, Benjamin Netanyahu couldn't find a foolish president to drag into a war. And then Donald Trump came along—Netanyahu found one in him.

That is a U.S. senator. Now, the Americans are against this war. Many of them have very little knowledge of what's happening and really don't care. Only a small number of people are engaged on social media. They come to podcasts, they want to learn something, they want to express their opinion. Good or bad, it's good, because at least they educate themselves and can have their own opinion and disagree. But what's happening today is a war that the United States has nothing to do with, and it has created a level of hate in the world against the United States because they are the ones who choose their leader.

Now, the leader was not honest when he said he wasn't going to go to war. But there's still power in the American university students who went out and protested outside their campuses because of the genocide in Gaza. They can do the same with a person who is accused, according to the record, of

being a pedophile and who is really dragging the United States, the entire Middle East, and the world economy into tatters. This is something the American people need to take responsibility for and feel sorry about—what’s happening in Iran—because they are the ones who elected a president with no knowledge of politics and no understanding of geopolitical strategy.

#Danny

Well, without further ado, everybody, I want to make sure you know that Elijah Magnier’s website is in the video description. You can check out all of his work, his updates, his articles—everything he’s doing on this war and, of course, on geopolitics and the rest of West Asia. Be sure to hit the like button before you go. In the video description, you’ll also find all the places where you can support this work. I just want to make sure I thank all the Super Chats, everyone who became a member, and, of course, all the moderators who did a great job in the chat today. Without further ado, everybody, I’ll be back tomorrow with Scott Ritter at 12 p.m. noon Eastern—what is that, March 9th? We’ll be back for the daily updates. Okay, everyone, take care. Have a good rest of your Sunday. Bye-bye.