

# Will Iran Fight a Long War? IRGC Missiles, Drones & US-Israel Attacks

The ongoing confrontation between Iran and the alliance of United States and Israel has escalated into one of the most dangerous crises in the Middle East. Support Independent media to remain bold: <https://patreon.com/IndiaGlobalLeft> Link for donation: <https://paypal.me/sankymudiar> In this interview, Iranian political analyst and professor Foad Izadi discusses the impact of the US-Israeli attacks on Iran, the situation inside the country, and how Iran is preparing for what could become a long regional war. We discuss the daily life of ordinary Iranians under the attacks, strikes on oil depots and refineries, and the diplomatic stance of Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian regarding Iran's relations with neighboring Gulf countries. Izadi also responds to reports from the United States National Intelligence Council suggesting that bombing campaigns or decapitation strikes would not change the Iranian government. We examine the statements from the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps that military operations will continue despite diplomatic messaging. Key topics in this interview include: • How the war is affecting everyday life inside Iran • US-Israeli strikes on Iranian energy infrastructure • President Pezeshkian's diplomatic strategy toward regional neighbors • The role of the IRGC's drone and missile capabilities • Whether Iran is preparing for a long war of attrition • The role of Iran's regional allies including Hezbollah and Hamas • The impact of the war on Palestine and Gaza • Whether the Global South can play a role in supporting Iran • Izadi's message to Americans about propaganda and public perception of the war Professor Izadi argues that despite political tensions, Iranians do not hate Americans, and that the conflict is rooted in geopolitical power struggles rather than hostility between peoples. This interview provides an important perspective rarely heard in Western media about the US-Israel-Iran war and the broader Middle East crisis. 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>

## #Mudiar

Hello and welcome to another episode of \*India and Global Left\*. If you want to support our channel, please consider becoming a YouTube member, a patron, or donating a small amount through the link in the description box. Without further ado, let me welcome our guest tonight, Professor Foad Izadi. Professor Izadi teaches at the University of Tehran. Professor Izadi, welcome back to \*India and Global Left\*.

## #Foad Izadi

Thank you. Thank you for having me.

## **#Mudiar**

I'll come to my geopolitical questions, but I wanted to start by asking you about the impact of the war on Iran as a whole. In what ways have people's daily lives been affected by the war?

## **#Foad Izadi**

It's been very difficult today. We had rain forecasts, and you know, in this part of the world, we don't get a lot of rain. So when rain is forecast, people generally pay attention. The Americans and Israelis hit oil depots just a couple of hours before the rain. That created huge smoke, and with the rain, it turned into acid rain—black rain all over the city. Our dams and water systems are polluted. The Iranian Red Crescent has asked people not to go out. They've told those who were outside when the rain started to change clothes and follow other instructions. The Americans and Israelis seem to have no limits—they want to pollute the water of a city of 15 million people. They kill as many people as they can.

A few days ago, Netanyahu visited an Israeli military base, and he used the same term for Iranians that he used before launching his genocide in Gaza. You know, in twisted Zionist ideology, if you label a nation "Amalek," then you can kill their women and children. That's what he called Palestinians before killing over 70,000 women and children in Palestine. And now he's labeled Iranians the same way. On the first day of the attacks, they targeted a primary school—little girls. One hundred sixty-five were killed. We've lost over 1,400 civilians; that's yesterday's data. We're dealing with the Epstein class—they like to rape little American girls, and they like to bomb and kill little Iranian girls. So it's been very difficult.

## **#Mudiar**

I wanted to ask you about the significance of the U.S.-Israeli strikes on Iranian oil depots and refinery facilities, particularly since yesterday we heard from President Bezzian that Iran is cautious about attacking its neighboring countries. What's your interpretation of President Petrescu's message, and what's the significance of all this, including its impact on the global economy?

## **#Foad Izadi**

You know, this is part of Eastern culture—that when you create discomfort, you apologize. And since this is a war that the other side started, but we still live in a war zone, there's discomfort for the neighboring countries as well. So the apology goes back to the culture we have here. Trump thought this was a sign of weakness. He made a Truth Social post saying that Iran had apologized, that they were surrendering. Then he said he would hit new targets, which he did this morning. After that, Iran's president issued another statement responding to what Trump said, clarifying that Iran is not

surrendering. So the goal they have is to change Iran's government. This isn't just an Iranian professor's analysis.

This is what Trump and Netanyahu said on the first day of their attack. There was a political, a diplomatic solution at hand. The Omani foreign minister was going to Washington—I don't know if you saw his interview with CBS News; it's on YouTube. He said an agreement was possible within 24 hours, that Iran was offering concessions it hadn't been willing to give in 2015, and that people should avoid war. He basically begged Trump not to attack Iran, and Trump attacked Iran just a few hours after that interview. Which, in a way, is understandable—if you want to change a country's government, you don't pursue a diplomatic solution with the government you're trying to replace. They failed. They thought they could overthrow the Iranian government quickly.

In fact, they've created this "rally around the flag" effect in Iran, like last time in June when they attacked. Netanyahu had asked Iranians to come out into the streets in the millions, and now they're chanting every night against him and Trump. Even people who didn't like the government's policies don't want to send their little girls off and never see them again. They don't want their hospitals to be bombed. They've bombed at least ten hospitals. They're repeating what they did in Gaza—they bombed every single school, every single hospital. They're doing the same thing in Iran. People don't like that. So it was foolish for them to think they could have a nation like them while they're bombing that nation. How foolish can you be? But this is what they did. So they're going to fail. They're not going to be able to achieve their goals.

They're going to kill a lot of people in the process. Iran has no other choice but to respond. If Iran doesn't respond, then they'll attack Iran again and kill more Iranian people. The Israeli leaders said yesterday that they would kill the new Iranian leader. So you need to create enough pain to make sure this isn't repeated, and the only way Iran can do that is by hitting U.S. bases in the area. Those become legitimate military targets under Article 51 of the UN Charter. This is the right to self-defense—if your country is attacked, you can fight back. How do you fight back? By targeting legitimate military targets. So these bases are legitimate military targets.

It's unfortunate that these bases are located in these countries, but Iran has no other choice. They decided to provide these bases with places to be stationed. Iran has hit hotels. What they did was evacuate a number of hotels in these cities and put American soldiers there. They evacuated the bases and moved the soldiers to these hotels. If you have a hotel full of American soldiers, that's a legitimate military target. CIA officers in office areas in these cities are legitimate military targets. The CIA is providing the data for all these killings that the U.S. military is doing. And then we have this issue of debris—you know, they shoot down some of these missiles that Iran is sending, targeting Iran.

The U.S. military shoots these drones and missiles down, and that creates debris. Iran has no control over where that debris falls. I was watching CNN—we had an oil facility in the UAE burning because of the debris, not because Iran hit it. So if they don't like these unintended consequences, maybe

they shouldn't target Iranian missiles; let them reach their intended targets. And then we had Tucker Carlson, the American journalist, reporting that Qatar and Saudi Arabia have arrested Mossad agents trying to blow things up in those countries and blame Iran. So the Israelis have basically managed to get American soldiers to fight Netanyahu's war for him. He wants to do the same thing with Saudi soldiers and Qatari soldiers—have them fight his war against Iran for him.

The hope people in Iran have is that the leaders of these countries realize being on the same side as Netanyahu is not a good idea. They're hoping they don't fall into that trap. So now we have a war zone—a war that was not necessary. And this is going to have, yes, international economic consequences. For every debt, Iranian or otherwise, for every dollar that oil becomes more expensive, for all the different consequences that a major war brings, Trump and Netanyahu are responsible, because they could have avoided this war. They could have reached an agreement with Iran. And, you know, this idea of changing Iran's government is just wishful thinking. They shouldn't have tried doing that. It was foolish to start that project.

## **#Mudiar**

I'm not sure if you've read the Washington Post reports about a study by the U.S. National Intelligence Council, which compiled data from 18 different intelligence agencies. It said that any kind of attack—a bombing campaign or a decapitation strike—was unlikely to change the government in Iran, and that the weak opposition wouldn't be able to do anything. The attack came despite that. I wonder.

## **#Foad Izadi**

Trump has this tendency to ignore his own intelligence community—the same intelligence community that, two months before the June war, presented its assessment. The head of the U.S. intelligence community went before the Senate Intelligence Committee—the video is available—and provided another consensus of U.S. intelligence. It's called the Worldwide Threat Assessment, and it's available at [dni.gov](https://www.dni.gov). It says three things about Iran's nuclear program: first, that Iran doesn't have nuclear weapons; second, that Iran doesn't have a nuclear weapons program; and third, that Iranian leaders have not decided to start one.

And when they asked Trump about the report—the consensus of the U.S. intelligence community—he dismissed it and fell for Netanyahu's propaganda points. They did the same thing again with regard to the report the Washington Post is pointing to. Because, you know, if you listen to the U.S. intelligence community, you wouldn't be serving Netanyahu. I think what he's doing is probably related to some video they have on him connected to the Epstein file. The Mossad probably has a video of him raping little girls. He's really not interested in the intelligence assessment; he's interested in serving the people who have blackmailed him.

## **#Mudiar**

Several attacks, quote-unquote, as you described—there's debris that ends up hitting different areas in the Gulf countries. There are reports of one hitting a desalination site in Bahrain today. This is, of course, after a day when a desalination site in Iran was also hit. That's been reported widely. What's your interpretation of that, given that many IRGC officials said attacks on legitimate targets in the region would continue? What's your interpretation of that?

## **#Foad Izadi**

The attack on the Iranian side came out of Bahrain. That's what the Iranians have said—that if these countries allow the U.S. to attack Iran, then Iran has no choice but to respond. They were saying they're not doing that, but we saw—on, I think, day two of the war—U.S. jets falling over Kuwaiti airspace. And the Kuwaitis said they shot them down by mistake. But the question is, what were they doing in Kuwaiti airspace? Because the Kuwaitis had said they wouldn't be allowed there. So the fact that they got shot down shows they were there. Although these countries have said they don't want to provide services to the U.S., in practice it seems some of them are doing that. So if Iran realizes that's happening, then that becomes a legitimate military target, because you have to respond to the place the attack came from. And that's what Iran did—that's a legitimate military target.

## **#Mudiar**

I wanted to quickly ask you about the impact of the assassination of Ayatollah Ali Khamenei on Iranian society. There are reports that his successor has been elected. What's the general impact on the people of Iran at large, or maybe even beyond Iran and in the region?

## **#Foad Izadi**

He was a political figure, a spiritual figure. You're not supposed to kill leaders of other countries, and this was quite heavy. Even people who didn't like his policies didn't want the leader of their country to be killed in this manner by someone like Netanyahu, a war criminal. On the first day, we had millions of people out in the streets. And since that first day, every night—around eight or nine o' clock—if you open your window, you'll hear people chanting slogans against Trump and Netanyahu. People haven't gotten over that assassination. The kind of reaction, you know, since you're in India—the way Indians reacted to Gandhi's assassination—it's something similar to that, something like that.

## **#Mudiar**

And also beyond the region, we saw protests in Bahrain that were crushed. We saw similar protests from Karachi to Kashmir. So this had implications beyond the region as well.

## **#Foad Izadi**

It was a huge mistake. It was a huge mistake. You know, these are Shia Muslims. I was looking at this CIA report from about 50 years ago. Some people were saying the CIA should assassinate Imam Khomeini, the first leader of the Islamic Republic. And then I saw an analyst writing a note saying, "Don't create a martyr for the Shias." So Americans knew better 50 years ago. They've now created a martyr. And when you create a martyr for this community, it's not a good policy choice. You're going to see consequences for many years to come.

## **#Mudiar**

I wanted to ask you a little bit about your assessment of the Iranian response so far, in terms of missile attacks and drones, given that the mainstream media has been completely giving us a one-sided report—as if Iran hasn't been able to respond, as if Iran is on the brink of collapse. So, if you could give us a realistic assessment of Iran's missile strength, drone strength, and how Iran is gearing up for a long-term fight.

## **#Foad Izadi**

You know, we're facing two nuclear regimes. The U.S. spends a hundred times more on its military than Iran does, and Iran has been under sanctions for forty-seven years. It's amazing that, with all those sanctions, this is still indigenous technology. It shows you can survive American hegemony and even thrive at the same time. Iran's stockpiles aren't unlimited, but the Iranian military leaders have done a good job creating these missiles, dispersing them, and using them wisely. Because the numbers aren't unlimited, you have to pace the kind of response you give. We heard the spokesman for Iran's military last night saying that Iran can keep firing at the other side for six months.

The hope is that Trump and Netanyahu realize they made a mistake. The hope is that they stop today. They can—because they started this. They can stop today, declare victory, and go do other mischief. If they stop today, Iran will assess whether they've created enough pain for the other side to make sure this isn't repeated. And if their assessment is that they've done enough, then Iran will stop. That's how you can bring this to an end. But with genocidal people, I'm not very optimistic that they'll do the right thing, because they didn't need to start this war in the first place.

## **#Mudiar**

I wanted to ask you about Iran's allies. Given that the West has collectively mobilized—from Australia to Spain, to Italy, to France, to Britain—everyone has been contributing to this unjust war. We know that Iran has many allies in the region. What have the responses from those allies been? Some pro-Iran commentators seem frustrated, particularly with the Iraqi allies—the Sadrists—who had a heroic response during the occupation, resisting the American presence after 2003. They say the Sadrists haven't been forthcoming enough. What's your assessment of the role of Iran's allies so far?

## **#Foad Izadi**

You know, not all European countries have been as bad as some. Spain, for example—the Spanish prime minister has been saying repeatedly that this is an illegal war. But then again, Spain has also said...

## **#Mudiar**

I wanted to put this on record, but Spain has also said it would send reinforcements to the Akrotiri and Dhekelia bases in Cyprus, which, as we know, are not just British bases but NATO bases—and very important points for West Asia.

## **#Foad Izadi**

True, true. But we're talking about Europeans. They have this history of colonialism, so if we get even one good sentence out of some European politician, that's something. With regard to Iran's friends, they've done a lot, and they've been under a lot of pressure. You know, the U.S. has been killing and bombing people in Iraq for the last nine days since the start of the war. In Lebanon, same thing—the Israelis have been bombing southern Lebanon and Beirut without any limitation. So I don't—you know, this is a fight for humanity, basically. If Trump and Netanyahu manage to get away with what they want to do, then they become emboldened, and they'll do other things.

So Iran is fighting for Iran. Iran is fighting for the civilized world. And these organizations are doing their best. What we hope is that people all over the world realize who Trump is, who Netanyahu is. These are fascists. They engage in major criminal behavior. Public opinion is important. Sympathy toward Iran is important. People need to realize that this kind of mayhem and murder should not succeed. This should not become the norm. We shouldn't be in a new normal where countries attack other countries, kill their leaders, and balkanize. These things should not happen.

## **#Mudiar**

A lot of countries from the Global South have expressed solidarity with Iran. People are talking about possible Russian and Chinese help—particularly technology transfer and other kinds of support. What kind of help does Iran expect, not just from China and Russia, especially them, but also from other Global South countries?

## **#Foad Izadi**

You know, Iran is also fighting for China. One of the reasons they want Iran is because they want to totally dominate West Asia. They don't have any leverage against China right now. Trump thought he could use tariffs, but after the Supreme Court ruling, that's not possible anymore. China gets over 50% of its oil and gas from the Persian Gulf. They think if they can take over this region completely,

that's a leverage they don't have. Right now, they don't put pressure on Saudi Arabia or Qatar for selling oil to China, because that would increase the value of Iranian oil. But if they can take over Iranian oil, then they'd make sure that leverage is used against China.

The same thing is true with Russia. They use Ukraine to put pressure on Russia's western borders. If they managed to get away with their plans for Iran, they would use a disintegrated Iran as a place to put pressure on Russia's southern border. When you look at the map, you have Turkey, which is a NATO member; you have Iran, Afghanistan, and China in the southern parts of Russia. So Iran becomes important for many reasons, including trade. And these countries realize this. There are people in Iran who were hoping they could do more. They are doing some; they are not indifferent. But given the severity of the situation, the hope is that they will do more.

## **#Mudiar**

It's important to talk about Palestine, given that the root cause of all this is Israel. We know it's ultimately linked to settler colonialism in Palestine, in the occupied territories, and so on. Since Iran helps build solidarity and supports resistance in Palestine, I wanted to ask you: what could be the impact of this conflict on Palestine in the near or distant future? And if I could throw in one more question—on one of the Piers Morgan shows, you said that Iran supports Hamas and other resistance forces in Palestine, and you were cut off. Could you update us on what happened after that, and, in general, what the impact of this war is on Palestinian resistance?

## **#Foad Izadi**

You know, as I said on that show, it's both an honor and a responsibility for Iran to support Palestine, including the Palestinian resistance movements. These are freedom fighters trying to get their land back. It's legal under international law. It's illegal to occupy other people's land, and if they want it back, they can use military force to do that. Iran continues to support the Palestinian cause. For many years, Americans have been telling Iranian leaders, "If you lower your support for Palestine, we'll lift the sanctions and open trade with you," and so on. Even today, Trump says that if you have leaders who are nice to Israel, then he'll stop the war. He wants to see Iranian leaders who are friendly toward Israel. But Iranian leaders decided many years ago that support for Palestine should remain a major part of Iran's foreign policy.

The reason is that we live in the same neighborhood. If you have fascists, sooner or later, if they get away with their atrocities toward Palestine, they'll come after you—as they have done. So that prediction was correct. Iran shouldn't be the only country supporting Palestine. Some countries are just paying lip service. Let me say, we're worried about India—India's prime minister's visit to Israel was not a good idea, given the history of anti-colonialism in India. Getting too close to someone who's under indictment in international courts for war crimes is not a good idea. Some countries are supporting Israel, some are opposing it but only talking, not doing much. It's difficult to carry the burden of supporting Palestine for Iranians and for Yemenis.

## **#Mudiar**

They've also done a good job.

## **#Foad Izadi**

But the hope we have is that the people who were internationally supporting Palestine should now be supporting Iran at the same level. Because if they manage to take over Iran, you can be sure the cause of Palestine will be finished forever. The reason the cause of Palestine is still alive is because of the heroic resistance of the Palestinians and the support they've received from Iran. So if they get rid of Iran, they can get rid of Palestine much quicker.

## **#Mudiar**

The primary reason Netanyahu and the Zionists want to break up Iran is because Iran supports the Palestinian resistance. My final question—yes, that's true—my final question, Professor Izadi: about a third to half of our viewers come from the Global North collectively. We saw tremendous support pouring in from people in the Global North, not from the establishment, in support of the Palestinian resistance and solidarity during the genocide. We haven't seen as much during this conflict, even though it's important to note that this is probably the first American war that's been extremely unpopular in the U.S. right from the start. That doesn't usually happen. But as an Iranian, what would be your message to those in the West who have been completely brainwashed—who've been told that Iranians hate Americans, who've been given a total misrepresentation of what the Islamic Republic of Iran is? What would be your message to Americans at large?

## **#Foad Izadi**

Iranians don't hate Americans. You know, we get visitors from the U.S. in Iran, and I encourage you to talk to them. Iranians are generally some of the nicest people—hospitable, with no animosity toward Americans. They have animosity toward U.S. foreign policy. So when you hear Iranians chanting "Death to America," it means "Death to American foreign policy." It's a chant, so they have to make it short; they can't do the long version. But they don't mean any harm to the people of the United States. Sometimes they wonder why Americans elect war criminals every time they get a chance—but that's another story. Overall, there is no animosity toward Americans.

And I don't really blame these Americans for having misgivings about Iran, because the U.S. media is very much controlled by the Zionist lobby—Zionist interests. Every day they demonize Iran. You know what happened in January? We experienced the Mossad color revolution. We had Mossad agents shooting at people—not my words. You had Mike Pompeo sending Mossad agents greetings.

We lost over 200 police officers. The American media calls this “protests.” In English, you don’t call people who shoot at police officers protesters. If someone shoots police officers in the United States, they’re not called protesters.

They're called cop killers. That's what we had. And then, in the State of the Union address, Trump exaggerated the number of people who were killed. The Iranian government has published the names of everyone who was killed, with their ID numbers. Trump, Netanyahu, and these Western media outlets have not been able to add a single name to that list. And the majority of those people were victims of that Mossad operation. We had Pahlavi calling for a general strike, and these people were shooting shopkeepers who didn’t want to close their stores, shooting at police. We lost over 2,400 people like that—the majority of those who were killed were killed by the other side.

But they exaggerated the numbers. Trump said thirty-two thousand—much higher than the real number—to demonize Iran so they could justify an attack today. So, for our American friends, if you fall for the demonization of Iran, they look at public opinion and may decide to attack because they think they can get away with it. So, learn about Iran from sources inside Iran. We have these people outside the country who’ve been away for many decades. Pahlavi stole twenty billion dollars when he left. The link is available—I put it on my Twitter. The Washington Post had a report; that was their estimate: twenty billion dollars when he left Iran, he stole.

So that money has been used to finance these organizations that spread false information and organize gatherings. How can you be in favor of attacking your own country? We have people who are actually cheerful because the U.S. is attacking their country. How can you do that? It doesn't make sense. Even if you don't like your relatives in Iran, you don't want them dead. The Israelis and Americans are indiscriminately killing people. So the hope we have is in people's prayers, solidarity, and getting to know Iran as it really is—not through the corporate media lens, not through the Pahlavi outlets’ lens, not through Netanyahu’s or Trump’s lens.

## **#Mudiar**

Part of the propaganda and misunderstanding comes from the corporate media. But part of it is also a total misunderstanding—or just a lack of knowledge—about Iranian society in the West. For instance, the gun violence, the rioters during those days... it's not fully understood, given the gun culture and gun violence in the West, particularly in the United States. Even an Al Jazeera columnist said that the kind of riots we saw were very unusual in Iranian society. I mean, people don’t go around shooting; that’s not part of the culture. But for the average American, that’s not very unusual.

## **#Foad Izadi**

And these are not ordinary Iranians. As you said, there’s no gun culture here. People aren’t used to having guns. And if you see people with guns, they probably got them from the Mojahedin. They got them because they were supposed to kill police officers and ordinary citizens to increase the number

of deaths, so they could justify a U.S.-Israeli attack on Iran after a few months. That's what they were supposed to do. They weren't able to reach the numbers Trump wanted, but they killed a lot of people in the process.

## **#Mudiar**

We'll leave it there, Professor Foad Izadi. Thank you so much for your time, and we wish you more power. Thank you.

## **#Ayushman**

Hi, my name is Ayushman. 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 and share our videos with your comrades. Finally, don't forget to hit the subscribe button.