

# Iran Defies US Attack | Pezeshkian, Mojtaba & Modi-Israel Alliance

We interviewed Iranian political analyst Mohammad Marandi on the latest developments in the US-Israeli attack on Iran and the political meaning of Quds Day. Support Independent media to remain bold: <https://patreon.com/IndiaGlobalLeft> Link for donation: <https://paypal.me/sankymudiar> Despite ongoing US-Israeli strikes, millions of Iranians took to the streets across the country for Quds Day in solidarity with Palestine. Western mainstream media largely ignored these demonstrations. In this conversation, Marandi explains: • The political significance of Quds Day demonstrations during wartime • Why Iranian leaders including President Masoud Pezeshkian appeared on the streets alongside ordinary citizens • The importance of the first public statement by Mojtaba Khamenei • Why the Iranian leadership's response to the crisis has been described as calculated and strategic • His critique of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and India's alignment with Israel — comments that have gone viral across India Marandi also reflects on how the Iranian public views the war, the regional implications of the conflict, and the broader geopolitical struggle unfolding in West Asia. Topics covered 1. Quds Day demonstrations across Iran 2. Iranian leadership appearing on the streets 3. Mojtaba's first statement 4. Media silence on Iranian mobilization 5. Critique of Modi's Israel alignment Subscribe for more interviews on global politics, imperialism and West Asia. 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/+WNlqoiv1Rhg5NjEx> #Iran #QudsDay #IranIsraelWar #MohammadMarandi #Palestine #Geopolitics #IndiaIsrael #WestAsia

## #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 to be on your show.

## #Mudiar

I wanted to start by asking you about the massive event in Iran today—the International Quds Day celebration—which mainstream Western media has totally blacked out. Given the landslide change in public opinion regarding Palestine in the West, it's quite perplexing that it's been completely ignored. So, if you could tell us a little about the significance of this day—the last Friday of Ramadan—and what happened in 1979 with regard to Palestine. And since it comes in the middle of a war, what is the significance of all of this?

## **#Mohammad**

As I'm sure many of you know, ever since the revolution, Iran has had a national day of solidarity with the Palestinian people. It takes place on the last Friday of Ramadan, the holy month of Ramadan. Before the revolution, the revolutionaries were always supportive of two key foreign policy issues. One was, of course, the resistance in southern Africa and the support for the struggle against apartheid, and the second was Palestine. The Shah, meanwhile, had excellent relations with both the Israeli regime and apartheid South Africa. So after the revolution, we had this.

And every year, we have a major gathering of people in support of Palestine across the country. It's not just in one city. And this year, it was extraordinary—under missile fire, under airstrikes across the country, tens of millions of people were on the streets. In Tehran, they bombed the International Quds Day demonstration. So I have to add to what you said: the Western media has been completely silent about it, about the rallies. But it's also been completely silent about the fact that this Zionist coalition bombed the rally in Tehran. One of the demonstrators, a woman, was killed.

You'd imagine this would be the top news story—excuse me—you'd imagine this would be the world's top news story. Millions of people in Tehran gather under the threat of airstrikes, and then the enemy actually carries out airstrikes, killing and wounding protesters. It's extraordinary. It's unbelievable. The same Western media that lies about Iran, that claims Iranian police gunned down peaceful protesters and all that nonsense, allows their overlords to bomb demonstrators in Iran and then hides it from the international community. They ignore the entire story altogether.

I think this is just another clear example that the West is not only demonic, but that its media is just as captured as the state—by the same oligarchs, by the same Epstein class. So today was another moment when the West was exposed, and the Iranian people showed their courage and how steadfast they are in the face of aggression and in their support for the Palestinian people. Because this is really what constitutes Iran's "sin": that Iran wants to be independent and that it supports the oppressed—in particular, the Palestinian people, but also the people of Cuba, Venezuela, and others who are under the boot of Zionism and imperialism.

## **#Mudiar**

Talk about the significance of all this coming after the strike on the school in Minab, where 175 girls were murdered and the building burned down—and given that Palestinians throughout the genocide have faced similar or even worse things. Press TV in Iran says there's a personal resonance for many Iranians with what's been happening in Palestine. Talk about the significance of that.

## **#Mohammad**

Well, that has always been the case. Iranians have always been very sympathetic to the Palestinian people. And, of course, there's always a small minority in Iran that supports the West, that has been supporting the West for decades. We saw them in the riots—some of these people accompanied the terrorists who were gunning down police officers. Foolish young kids, for the most part. But even those young kids, their worldview has changed. I have my own anecdotal experiences, and so do colleagues at my university.

Three students from my faculty contacted me during this war period, in the first few days of the war. All three of them had been involved in the riots. They weren't among those using weapons or carrying guns, but they were out on the streets in the excitement, probably doing foolish things. I didn't ask them what exactly they did. Two of them were quite emotional. All three wanted to know what they could do to make up for what they'd done—they wanted to help. I advised them to speak with certain people who could help them find a way to be useful to the country.

And other professors and colleagues have also—well, some of them have given me examples of their own. So the mood has changed even among that minority that's been under the influence of Western propaganda. The West has united ordinary Iranians in a way I've never seen before. Right now, they're bombing Tehran as we speak. I don't know if you can hear it, but they're bombing the city. So people recognize that the young people were deceived by the West through its Persian-language media empire, based in Western capitals, where billions of dollars a year are paid to these so-called Iran expats to spread propaganda against Iran.

But in any case, the Iranians have overwhelmingly been supportive of the Palestinian people and the Palestinian cause. What we're witnessing today in Iran is a taste of what was done to the Palestinian people. The U.S. and the Zionist regime have been bombing. Today, the U.S. bombed a storage facility full of medicine and dry milk in the city of Hamadan and destroyed it. They know what they're doing, and these are terrorists. They've been bombing hospitals and schools and all that, as you know. And of course, I should also stress that the heroics of the Lebanese are beyond belief.

And the Israeli regime is trying to do to Beirut and southern Lebanon what they did to Gaza, because Hezbollah and the resistance are fighting against the regime to stop the genocide in Gaza. We must always remember the heroics of Hezbollah, its supporters, and those in Lebanon who stand with them. We should also keep in mind that the al-Qaeda-linked government in Syria wanted to intervene over the last couple of weeks—over the last few days—on behalf of the Israeli regime and

attack Hezbollah, but it was threatened by the Iraqi resistance. They were also informed that Iran would fire missiles at the al-Qaeda and ISIS leaders if they made such a move.

Everyone has been exposed—everyone in this region. The fake supporters of the Palestinian people, like Qatar and Erdogan, the fake representatives of the people of Syria, the al-Qaeda leaders, and of course the barbarism of the United States regime and the Israeli regime are all on full display in Iran, especially today, as they bombed Tehran and attacked demonstrators, killing a woman protester. So even though these are very dark and painful times for all of us, in order to bring about change in this world, you need awareness—and that awareness is spreading across the world. The Americans and the Israeli regime have made a big mistake.

They've picked a fight with the wrong country and the wrong people. The Axis of Resistance has great faith in their cause. Their religious beliefs emphasize the importance of supporting the oppressed and standing up against the oppressor. Their role models are, of course, the prophets. But the story of the Prophet Muhammad's grandson and the Battle of Karbala is something that resonates with all Iranians and all people of the Axis of Resistance. That gives them a particular strength to stand up against the atrocities and crimes being committed across the region by the Epstein Axis.

## **#Mudiar**

One of the most impressive things about Iran has been its leadership, and I'm being very serious about that. I've been following their behavior, their speeches—how reasonable and well-reasoned they are. They have been for many years. But now they're also showing how defiant they are. Today, I mean, Pete Hegseth has been telling us that the Iranian leadership has been cowering and hiding. But today, on Quds Day, we saw President Raisi out there without any security. We saw Ali Larijani, the head of the Supreme National Security Council. There was the foreign minister, Abbas Araghchi, and also, if I'm not wrong, the Chief Justice, Gholam-Hossein Mohseni-Ejei. Talk about the spirit of defiance we're seeing in Iran.

## **#Mohammad**

Well, Dr. Larijani, I think just a while ago, tweeted—and I think he's someone people should follow. The president, the chair of the Supreme National Security Council, Dr. Larijani, the Speaker of Parliament, Dr. Golubov, the foreign minister as well, and the foreign ministry spokesman—I think these are people who should be followed. But Dr. Larijani, the chair of the Supreme National Security Council, tweeted to Hegseth that our leaders are on the streets. Your leaders go to Epstein Island. And this is the difference between us and them. Our leaders are from the people; they are from among the people. And that is how it should be. That is what our religious and cultural beliefs are. That was what the revolution was all about.

We did not want some Shah who amassed wealth for himself and his family, who was an agent of foreigners and a coward. We want leaders who stand firm and steadfast in the face of aggression, who support the press, and who stand up against aggressors. And that's what we have. We have different leaders with different views, different politicians, and different political camps. But in general, these are the principles we admire and expect our leaders to have. If they don't have them, we don't want them. That's what makes the resistance—the axis of resistance in Iran—unique. And I don't say this because I'm Iranian. If Iran were like one of those other despotic client regimes bound to the United States, I'd be standing against it.

But Iran is the hope of humanity, and the axis of resistance is the hope of humanity. It's extraordinary how, beyond the expectations of people across the world, they've been able over the last two weeks to beat back the evil empire, despite its sheer brutality. And of course, people across the region—their hearts are with Iran. The resistance across the region is steadfast too, whether in Lebanon, Iraq, Yemen, or elsewhere. But we have not escalated yet. If things escalate, you'll see that we'll take this to a much higher level. Our ability to confront the empire is enormous. But we want to end this war with victory—and also in a way that doesn't destroy the global economy. We want the world to be able to continue to thrive, if we can call what exists in the world today “thriving.”

We want the economies of nations across the global majority to thrive. And we should all remember, Iran did not start this war. Iran was negotiating. It is Trump and Netanyahu who have brought about this catastrophic situation. And people in India, in fact, should keep in mind that the Israeli regime is sacrificing their interests. The Trump regime is sacrificing their interests and the interests of the American people in this war. If it weren't for their illegal actions—their murderous actions, the slaughter of children, the murder of our leaders, the destruction of schools and hospitals—if it weren't for this, the price of oil would be what it was three, four, or five weeks ago. We have to fight, and we have to defeat the enemy, because this is an existential war for us.

## **#Mudiar**

The other important event, if you like, was that we saw the written speech of the new Iranian Supreme Leader, Mojtaba Khamenei. I went through the speech, and it was quite impressive. He talked about his own personal loss and used the phrase that he considers his own family's martyrdom as being sent to the caravans of martyrdom. He also spoke about the Palestinians, the heroic resistance, and the support and sacrifice in Yemen and Lebanon. He talked about the need to keep the Strait of Hormuz closed, about the spirit of defiance, and how Iran should continue to punish its enemies—speaking openly about revenge. If you could tell us a little about your assessment of the new leader, what were some of the things that struck you in that written speech?

## **#Mohammad**

I think one of the things he said that I found very important was that during the week when we didn't have a leader, and we had, in accordance with the Constitution, that three-man council leading the country, the country was calm. It was the people who preserved the state. Every night they came out on the streets, just as we saw today. At night, across the country, they were out under missile fire and airstrikes. And the armed forces, within less than an hour, began their retaliation on the first day.

They've been carrying out attacks against the Trump regime and the Netanyahu regime over the last couple of weeks. I think this is extraordinary. The West always lies—Western media, because they're captured. It's the Epstein-class media. They lie and say the Iranians are against the state. We had no leader, and a number of senior figures in the armed forces were martyred along with the leader, yet the country was quiet and stable. People were struggling to help the armed forces, the government, and the state stand up against the enemy. I think that's a key point history will remember. Another element, in general, that I think is important is that the Iranian constitution works quite well.

The West, in its Orientalist way of thinking, looks down on the rest of us. It sees all other models of government as inferior to its own, as if we're just dependent on despots and those same old Orientalist stereotypes. Our Constitution is very sophisticated, and it has worked for us for 47 years, despite the most intense antagonism—47 years of strife, brutal sanctions, 47 years of war. Three wars were imposed on us, and in all three, the U.S. was directly involved. During the last months of the war that Saddam Hussein started with Western support—when they gave him chemical weapons to use—the West became directly involved. They downed an airliner and destroyed ships.

Then, of course, less than a year ago, with the Israeli regime—and now terrorism, constantly supporting terror groups. The last incident was a couple of months ago, when they killed hundreds of police officers and ordinary people who were protecting the streets. And of course, countless others—about a thousand, well over a thousand—innocent bystanders. They terrorize Iran. They wage war on Iran. And they imposed sanctions, yet they fail, and the constitution functions in a way that everything runs smoothly, even in the most critical times. That shows the sophistication of the Iranian constitution—the constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran—and it shows where the people stand.

I think we're going to have, with a new leader, based on his message to the people—which I think everyone should read—it's on Ayatollah Sayyid Mujtaba Khamenei's Telegram channel and his Twitter account, and probably elsewhere. I don't know; those are the only two I've seen. People should read it. And I think it's a sign that we'll have continuity. It's a sign of self-confidence—the self-confidence of the Iranian people and the Axis of Resistance—because we are on the side of truth, and we're standing up against evil.

**#Mudiar**

I wanted to pick up on something you said during this interview—that Iran has not yet escalated to the full extent. The new Supreme Leader mentioned that studies have been conducted on opening other fronts where the enemy has minimal experience and would be highly vulnerable. What are your thoughts on those possibilities?

## **#Mohammad**

Well, I don't know. Obviously, I'm not privy to this sort of thing, but Iran has already shown that it has many cards to play. And if you take into account the fact that the Mossad and the CIA have already miscalculated big time—not only with regard to U.S. intelligence, but also the fact that Iran has responded by striking U.S. targets in the Persian Gulf, something that Trump did not expect—it shows that their intelligence is no good.

But also with regard to Iran's missile capabilities, the Mossad and Western intelligence agencies—and the media—claimed that Iran had only a certain number of missiles. Back then, I was always saying those numbers were nonsense, and now we're seeing that they really were. The Iranians are firing missiles at U.S. bases and at the Zionist regime relentlessly, along with drones, and there's no shortage. So they should take these statements very seriously. They know very little about Iran's capabilities and intentions, as we've already seen, and therefore they should take such statements very seriously.

## **#Mudiar**

I wanted to ask you about your speculation regarding a possible ceasefire, even though we haven't seen any signs of that from either side. Analysts are saying that the United States and Israel are on the back foot, given that the U.S. economy has been in very bad shape even before the war—thanks to tariffs and decades of predatory finance capitalism, rising inflation, interest rate hikes, and so on. And we should also note the return of the body bags, because CENTCOM has just verified, or acknowledged, that all six who were in the helicopter that crashed—not shot down, but crashed—in Iraq are dead.

These are U.S. soldiers who are dead. And as they continue to come back to the United States, the opposition will grow exponentially—bigger and bigger—given that it already began as a very unpopular war. If the U.S. blinks, what would be some of the conditions that the Iranian side might impose? People are now talking about reparations. People are also talking about eliminating some of these bases in the Persian Gulf. What could be some of the conditions, if you could speculate a little bit?

## **#Mohammad**

Well, any agreement will have to include Iran's allies in the region—that's for one. Second, Iran will have to be assured, not by a piece of paper, but by facts on the ground, that its security in the years

to come will not be threatened. And Iran will demand reparations. These tiny Arab family dictatorships in the Persian Gulf assisted the United States in carrying out these atrocities, and they will definitely have to pay. I don't know the details yet, but I think it's clear as day that the Iranians are going to be relentless in making sure their security and future are not threatened by the United States, and that the facts on the ground are such that they can feel confident their demands are met.

## **#Mudiar**

I want to close by asking you one final question about one of your talks that went kind of viral in India, where you criticized the Indian government for effectively shooting itself in the foot by aligning with the Zionist regime. Obviously, you and I have spoken about how the Indian government's position doesn't reflect large parts of India, even though a segment of the country obviously supports them. Could you spell out a little more about your criticism, and what your response was to it going viral in India—which also shows that your message really struck a chord with many people there?

## **#Mohammad**

Yes, I think it's very clear that Iran, India, Pakistan, and the subcontinent all share a mutual heritage—a civilizational and cultural heritage that should bring us together. The Western empire has worked hard for centuries to divide people across the world, and in the last century, they've succeeded in dividing the subcontinent and West Asia in many different ways to preserve their hegemony. That's clear. India has a tradition of opposing Western domination, and it had its own struggle of resistance. This, of course, is something that India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, and the subcontinent share together.

In past decades, Indians continued to take a stance against empire. And of course, the divisions between India and Pakistan—I want to put those aside. The interests of Asia, the people of Asia, are for all of them to move closer to each other. What the West wants, and what the Israeli regime wants, is to divide Asia. In recent years, the Indian government has moved closer to the Israeli regime—an apartheid, racist regime—doing to the Palestinian people what the British did to the Indians, but worse. Of course, there are instances in India's history that are catastrophic. So, for us, it's quite unexpected that Indians would move so close to such a regime.

But the Israeli regime cares nothing about the people of India, or anyone else in the world. I mean, that's clear, because they're supremacists. They see themselves as the chosen people, and the rest of us are all Amalek—including Indians. Right now, the Israeli regime is sacrificing the interests of people across the world through this war. They don't care about the economic problems or the crisis that could ruin the economy of India or the rest of the world. They don't care. They'll sacrifice the interests of the Indian people without thinking twice. It's not even a question for them.

I think the Indian government has made a mistake by moving so close to an entity that doesn't care about India or anyone else. The best thing the Indian government can do is distance itself from this regime, to force it—or at least pressure it—to end these endless wars. It's in the interest of the Indian people, because India is a country with many religions and communities, and its neighbors have different religions too. If India is seen to be on the right side of history, that helps bring Asia closer together. It benefits everyone's lives and marginalizes those who want to disrupt the global economy in order to impose their supremacist worldview on the world.

## **#Mudiar**

Thank you so much. This should be played over and over again in India, and perhaps in other parts of the world. This was very good. And Professor Marandi, thank you so much for your time, and I wish you more power. Thank you very much for having me.

## **#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 do so, don't feel bad; you can always like and share our videos with your comrades. Finally, don't forget to hit the subscribe button.