

Trump STUNNED as Iran Strikes US Tanker, Strait of Hormuz BLOWS UP | Marandi

Mohammad Marandi joins from to react to the resignation of a top Trump intelligence official over the Iran war, Iran hitting a US tanker in the strait of Hormuz, and the latest developments in Iran's historic retaliation to US and Israeli aggression plus more! Follow Mohammad Marandi: https://x.com/s_m_marandi 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 #straitofhormuz #uae

#Danny

Welcome back to the show. It's your host, Danny Haiphong. As you can see, I am joined by Professor Mohammad Marandi in Iran. Professor Marandi, thanks so much for joining me today.

#Marandi

Thank you very much for having me, Danny. It's always a pleasure.

#Danny

Yeah, the pleasure is mine, Professor Marandi. How about we get started? Everyone, hit the like button as you come on—that helps boost the show as we begin. I wanted to first ask you about the U.S. tanker that was hit in the Gulf of Oman. This was just east of the Strait of Hormuz. It was anchored off the UAE port of Oman, and this has shown, Professor Marandi, that the route designated to bypass the Strait of Hormuz is actually not safe either. Iran says it's going on the offensive—they're not only targeting infrastructure like this, but also looking to start hitting U.S. corporations, many of which are based in Dubai. Talk about where the Iranian response to this U.S.-Israeli war of aggression stands, and how things are being seen, perceived, and experienced right now in Iran.

#Marandi

Well, the Iranians have been saying they're going to do exactly what the United States and the Israeli regime do to Iran—do it back to them. They've bombed factories, banks, schools, hospitals, the Ministry of Energy, and even an important electricity post in Tehran. Excuse me. So the Iranians

are going to retaliate. And since the regimes in the Persian Gulf all host U.S. bases, they've allowed the Americans to use their territory, even to attack Iran from outside these bases. For example, HIMARS missiles have been fired toward the Iranians from these countries. They are part of this war of aggression, and for them to claim neutrality is an insult to our intelligence. That's why Iran is targeting them. But at the same time, Iran is holding back. So, you spoke about the Strait of Hormuz.

Right now, it's closed. But Iran could destroy the assets of Qatar or the Emirates—but they haven't. They've done some damage in retaliation, but they haven't gone that far yet. Why? Because they want this war to end without a global economic catastrophe. So, they've closed the Strait of Hormuz, but if the United States is forced to retreat, then ships can move again, and oil, gas, and petrochemicals can be produced. But if the United States escalates, then Iran will have to hit harder and retaliate—and that means more key assets will be destroyed. U.S. assets are, of course, a priority. But none of these countries—these regimes—are guiltless. They're all part of this aggression. They collaborated, and as a result, the Americans have been able to kill many Iranians with their help.

#Danny

Hmm. Yeah, yeah, Professor Marandi, those are important points. We've heard explosions being reported in Doha, Qatar, and at Prince Sultan Air Base as well. I just wanted people to understand this. And now there's been some unraveling going on as all this is happening. It seems like the Strait of Hormuz, blowing up in the sense of its importance in this war—in Iran's retaliation and response—has caused some problems. We just had the resignation of Joe Kent, who was the Trump-appointed director of national counterterrorism. He resigned. I can pull up the letter.

I won't read it in full, but I can pull it up so people can see it on the screen as you're speaking, Professor Marandi. He's resigned and referenced the fact that this war of aggression is a huge mistake. Uh, talk about the interplay here—how has Iran's response to this war of aggression caused major problems inside the U.S. political establishment, as well as for both of the major aggressor parties, I should say—the big ones, which are the U.S. and Israel? Yes, I think this resignation letter is a big deal, and um...

#Marandi

It says a lot. And the fact that he, a Trump appointee, says this war only came about because of the Israeli regime and its lobby makes things a lot worse for the Israelis, for Trump, for the Epstein class, and for the Zionist lobby in the United States. Because this, I think, is even more significant than someone like Candace Owens or anyone else like that making such statements. He was in charge of counterintelligence. He knows what's going on. He knew that Iran was not a threat to the United States, and that this was simply done at the behest of the Israeli regime. And this is going to have consequences—global impact as well. Countries around the world already know that the rising oil, gas, and energy prices are because of the Israeli regime and the United States.

But this is evidence. So it's not just Tucker Carlson saying it—it's someone who was deeply involved in state affairs, dealing with top-secret intelligence. I think it shows that the Titanic is sinking. I don't know how fast it's sinking, but it is sinking. And we saw Trump's comments yesterday. He spoke like a drunk man—he was all over the place, contradicting himself repeatedly. I think that shows how bad things are for the United States and for the Trump regime. On the one hand, he said that Iran was annihilated—okay, it was obliterated, sorry—so it's obliterated. Then he wants the whole world to join him to open the Strait of Hormuz.

Well, if it's obliterated, you don't need anyone. So why do you need the entire world? And why is the entire world saying, "No, no, no, keep us out of this"? Because nothing has been obliterated—nothing has been obliterated. And as we speak, Iran is firing missiles and drones at targets across the region, at the Israeli regime, and at U.S. assets. The Strait of Hormuz remains closed and will stay closed until the countries in the region force the United States to end this. Because without their consent, the United States cannot wage war. The international community has to put pressure on the United States to stop this. Iran is not going to just accept a ceasefire.

That's not happening. We've already done that. Nine months ago—eight months ago—we agreed to a ceasefire, even though we were winning the war. And now they've launched another one. They've attacked us again. Back then, while we were negotiating, they were conspiring behind closed doors against us. Then they carried out a blitzkrieg attack. And this time, we saw the exact same thing happen again. There was progress this time around. The foreign minister of Oman went to Washington, did interviews, and said that right now they're bombing Tehran. The foreign minister of Oman said that on television—and then Trump attacked. And, of course, Trump lied, and so did Witkoff.

Witkoff made these crazy accusations that Iran set the negotiating table, but the foreign minister of Oman said it was a good thing that the talks were indirect. So smart of Ayatollah Khamenei. The Omanis witnessed everything that was said. And what the Omani foreign minister said in the United States to the media contradicts everything that Witkoff and Trump claimed. So Iran cannot negotiate with such a regime. Trump's signature is worthless. The administration is worthless, untrustworthy. He could sign an agreement and tomorrow do something completely different. He can tear up his own deal. Who's to stop him? He himself says no one can stop me. So the facts on the ground have to change.

The facts on the ground have to change. If the Strait of Hormuz is going to open, the facts on the ground have to change. Iran and its allies—it's not just about Iran anymore—their security concerns, in Lebanon and elsewhere, have to be addressed. And we must be confident that the United States will not be able to do this again—six months down the road, one year down the road, two years down the road. So the situation in the Persian Gulf will change. Iran will no longer allow the regimes in the Persian Gulf to host U.S. bases or have their territory used as a platform for attacking the country. That's not going to happen.

#Danny

Yeah, yeah. I mean, I think those watching this should understand that's totally understandable. I want to read an important quote from the letter I pulled up, where Joe Kent—his name is Joe Kent, right? Yeah, Joe Kent—he says that early in the administration, high-ranking Israeli officials and influential members of the American media deployed a misinformation campaign, wholly undermining your America First platform and sowing pro-war sentiments to encourage a war with Iran. The echo chamber was used to deceive you into believing Iran posed an imminent threat to the U.S., that you should strike now, and that there was a clear path to victory. This was a lie.

It's the same tactic the Israelis used to draw us into the war in Iraq—the disastrous war in Iraq that cost our nation the lives of thousands of our best men and women. We can't make this mistake again. So I wanted to just say, for some, Marandi, and get your reaction. The big point here, to me, seems to be not only the role of Israel but also the costs of this, which are now being borne out. The U.S. has far lower casualty numbers than what Iran is reporting. Iran just came out and said there were 3,200 U.S. casualties—injured—and at least 200 U.S. troops killed. Those are massive numbers in just a couple of weeks. Your reaction to this—the cost really being an emphasis right now for a lot of people, not just Joe Kent, but even in the mainstream media we're seeing this too?

#Marandi

I think the costs are multi-layered. First of all, there's the enormous cost being imposed on the American people to bring all these weapon systems to the region, keep them there, and use billions of dollars' worth of ammunition and missiles every day. I mean, I think I read somewhere that during the first two days they spent about \$5 billion on ammunition. Then you have the rising cost of energy, which will continue to go up—oil, gas, and of course petrochemicals and fertilizer. All of these are going to cause major problems if the United States does not retreat. They're going to cause enormous problems. These are costs.

Then you have the damage done to U.S. bases, which is in the many billions of dollars. And Danny, the damage that's been done to U.S. assets in the Persian Gulf—I mean, the Emirates, you know, just one bomb striking the Emirates—distrust sets in. I mean, they lose trust in the place, all those billionaires and all those trillions of dollars that pass through this regime. That's not going to happen anymore. The U.S. loses, and these are American assets. Americans milk these countries—whether it's Kuwait, the Emirates, Qatar, the Saudis, Bahrain, or Oman—the Americans milk them 24 hours a day. So the losses being sustained as their economies collapse are, for the West, huge.

And of course, you know, trillions of dollars' worth of weapons were sold to these regimes, even though they don't even know how to use them, because most of them don't have the people to use them. Like Qatar has a population of 350, 400 thousand. They don't even have pilots. They just buy these weapons from the United States to please the United States, so that senators can get commissions and other elites can get kickbacks. And then princes can also get their commissions and

kickbacks. But the planes and all the other weapons systems—they're useless. So when you look at all of this combined, the damage being done to the United States is enormous.

And then, of course, there's the fact that the United States has failed. The empire has failed in this war. Usually, the failure takes twenty years—Vietnam, Iraq, Afghanistan. But in the case of Iran, they failed from day one. And Iran was fighting a war not just against the superpower, but against all of its proxies—the Israeli regime, which gets everything it needs from the Europeans and Americans—and all these regional actors: Erdogan allowing the AWACS to fly over Turkey to gather information against Iran, U.S. radar bases in Turkey being used against Iran, Jordanian bases being used against Iran, their airspace being used against Iran, and Saudi Arabia as well.

All these countries in the Persian Gulf—and then, of course, the collective West—they're all behind this war. So Iran and the axis of resistance—Hezbollah, the Iraqi resistance, and Yemen—are up against this coalition of evil. And they failed. The empire has failed. So imagine people around the world looking at what's going on and saying, "The United States couldn't defeat Iran in two or three days? We were told it would be over. We thought they could do that." And so I think, beyond the damage we've already discussed, it's going to have huge political ramifications for the United States in the months and years ahead.

#Danny

Definitely. Definitely.

#Marandi

And just one thing, Danny—two things. Sure, sure. One, to add to something I said earlier: Iran is going to get reparations. Now, whether it's the countries in the Persian Gulf—whether these regimes fall, or there are new regimes and the people take power, or there's some coup, or these same despots remain in power—it doesn't matter. Iran will get reparations. The situation in the Persian Gulf will change. The second point I wanted to make is that, as we speak right now, Danny, there are millions of people on the streets. I'm staying here because of our interview.

People in Tehran and elsewhere—they're all on the streets right now, under airstrikes. Under airstrikes. Millions across the country. When the riots happened on January 8th and 9th, foreign intelligence agencies brought in weapons, and they slaughtered hundreds of police officers and volunteers and killed many ordinary people. They were responsible, but Western media inflated the numbers and tried to blame Iran, as usual. Three days later, we had huge rallies across the country—huge. Three million in Tehran, tens of millions—20, 30 million, I guess—across the country. I don't know, I don't remember. We've had so many demonstrations.

And Elon Musk and the West—it was so huge, these protests against the rioters, against the Western intelligence agencies, in support of the Islamic Republic—that they tried to say the crowds were AI-

generated. So, on the anniversary of the revolution, people came out on February 11th in even bigger numbers. In Tehran, it was up to four million people. People were saying, "Okay, we'll come out in greater numbers just to show you that you're lying." For the past two weeks now, every night people have been going out on the streets in huge numbers. In Tehran, they don't gather in one place—they go to multiple places, like twenty different spots—and in cities across the country too. Under missile fire. As we speak, they're attacking Tehran. As we speak, people are on the streets.

On Friday—and I saw your tweet, so I know you know this—they had the international protest, Quds Day, the International Day for Jerusalem, in support of the Palestinian people. People went to the streets while they were being bombed, for the sake of the Palestinian people. Amazing people, these Iranians. And they were bombed. They fired missiles at the demonstrations, and a woman was killed. Western media said nothing about it. But the extraordinary thing was that no one moved. No one budged. I saw you post that footage of the young lady—no one budged, no one fled, no one screamed, no one panicked. That huge crowd in Tehran. And then, two days later, in another city called Hamadan, there was a funeral ceremony for, I think, the marchers—or a number of the marchers—and there were huge crowds, and they bombed there too.

They bombed the demonstrations, and the Western media won't tell anyone about it. Not only will they not say that people were bombed and killed, they won't tell the world that these Iranians wouldn't budge. Instead of women screaming and running away, men yelling and hiding, they all stood their ground. You'd think this would be the world's top news story. But they hide it—just like they hid the genocide in Gaza, just as they hide the bombing of apartment blocks in Beirut and the genocidal attacks on the Lebanese people as we speak—because the Western media is completely captured. Whether it's The Guardian or Breitbart, it doesn't matter. They may have internal differences, but it's the Epstein-class media, the empire media. The same people who own them own the governments.

#Danny

Yeah, and I just want everyone to know that you can find multiple examples of what Professor Marandi was talking about all over, especially on X—videos of Iranian people in the streets. I mean, I believe—you're there, Professor Marandi, so you know better—but I believe this is happening every single day, with people out on the streets rallying against this war. There are multiple videos of people doing exactly what Professor Marandi described: hearing or being very close to bombings happening around them. And not only not moving, Professor Marandi, but actually becoming more enthusiastic in their rallying against this war. You can really see the emotion there.

It's an incredible scene, and it complements what I think is a pretty disastrous situation. Now, Iran is taking hits, of course. I know you know there are lots of civilians—lots of people—who've been killed so far, I believe over 1,400 from what we know. But there's probably more, given that Israel and the United States are the ones targeting right now. There are also claims being made—I don't think they've been confirmed, but you can correct me—that Ali Larijani, the secretary of the National Security

Council, has been killed. There's no confirmation from Iran, but that's what Israel is saying, and they're taking credit for it.

But at the same time, Professor Marandi, this scene of the Iranian people, I think, reflects a lot of that contrast. For example, there are reports that the USS Gerald Ford is going to be heading to Crete within the next week. And who knows what's going to happen from there, because there was a six-hour fire on board that left 600 sailors without beds. And then there's the fact that even Trump is acknowledging that Iranians are smart people—they wouldn't be here if they weren't. According to some reports I'm seeing, Iran is firing about 63 drones per day and around 30 missiles per day, every single day, contradicting the claims that the Iranian military has been degraded.

So you have an energized population that's rallying every single day against the war, not afraid of what the U.S. and Israel are doing. You have a military that still has much, if not all, of its capabilities intact—at least the ones that Iran finds important. And then you have the decapitations and the civilian casualties and deaths, which are tragic and a crime, but don't seem to be changing or altering the calculus of how this thing is going. And then, of course, you have the economic situation. So this is kind of what I'm seeing, Professor Marandi. What are you seeing in terms of how this is reflecting on the U.S. and Israeli side, and where they are with this war?

#Marandi

Well, the sheer number of Iranians on the streets is so enormous that, despite Western media censoring it all, even Trump is hearing about it. So he has to go and say it's AI, just like Elon Musk said a couple of months ago. People are seeing it—it's getting through. It's getting through the suppression on social media and the censorship of Western media, but people are still seeing it. So even Trump had to comment and say, you know, I did a tweet last night, I was on the street at one of these gatherings—there are gatherings across Tehran—and I showed a bit of it and said, we're all Amalek and we're all AI. That aside, remember, these people are doing it while being punished, being murdered, because they're saying no to genocide. Because they're saying no to genocide.

It's amazing. And, you know, the same is true with Hezbollah. Hezbollah began this struggle to draw off troops from Gaza because the massacre—the genocide—was taking place. So they made their sacrifices for the people of Gaza. And they made huge sacrifices. I was there when Sayyid Hassan Nasrallah was martyred. They lost commanders. And then the most disgusting thing was that after the ceasefire—because Hezbollah does not control Lebanon—the U.S. has a huge fifth column of people in the country who are constantly backstabbing the resistance. And of course, Syria is now controlled by the United States. Al-Qaeda is just another U.S. tool. But the Salafis and the Wahhabis and the Takfiris, ever since the ceasefire, have been ridiculing Hezbollah and saying they failed. They're despicable people, these Takfiris.

And they were the ones applauding the CIA, Mossad, Erdogan, and others when they were carrying out the dirty war in Syria. And now we see that the regime in Syria is a tool of the United States,

and they're all looking away. But now look at Hezbollah. They're hitting the regime hard, and for the sake of the Palestinian people, they're making sacrifices for another people. The same is true with Iran. They're being attacked and killed because they're saying no to genocide—no to wiping out children, no to the Amalek people, as the Israelis would call them, as all Israeli leaders call them. So the Iranians are steadfast. They're so steadfast that it's even reached Trump's ears—he's heard. So he has to go and say it's AI. As for Dr. Larijani, we have to wait for an announcement, but nothing is going to change.

If he is martyred, he has achieved the highest honor. Just a couple of days ago, he tweeted—I think people should go and look at his Twitter account. He quoted, I believe, Imam Hussain, the grandson of the Prophet, about martyrdom. He's not afraid of martyrdom. He wasn't afraid of martyrdom. He stands for the right cause. If he's alive, he will continue to work. If he's martyred, it only makes us stronger and more determined. Look at the people on the streets. They bombed their demonstrations, and they're still on the streets. They don't understand us. They're orientalist, racists. They think that by killing the leader, murdering the leader, making him a martyr, everything will fall apart. No—we are sophisticated people, with a sophisticated constitution and sophisticated state structures, and we will move forward.

Forty-five minutes after Ayatollah Khamenei was martyred, he refused to leave his house because he said, "A lot of people have nowhere to go, so I'm staying put." He wouldn't leave his office either. And what happened forty-five minutes later? Iran's retaliation began. You can go down the streets in Tehran, drive around—it's safe. Most shops are open. Some people have left because, after the slaughter of those girls at school—the 168 schoolchildren that the United States massacred—the government shut down schools and universities. So a lot of people left, and they encouraged others to leave if they had nothing to do there. Some have come back, but some shops are still closed. The point is, the state will continue to function. And as we speak, Iran is striking back.

U.S. assets, Trump's assets, and Netanyahu's assets—and we will continue to do so. People will stay on the streets. They will keep killing us, assassinating us, carrying out terrorist attacks, and trying to undermine us in any way or form. Every time something happens, Western media will celebrate it or claim that Iran is falling apart. But we will see this through, and we will impose a strategic defeat on the Epstein class. Without a doubt, the American government will not be able to open the Strait of Hormuz unless Iran allows it. And if the U.S. escalates, that means Iran will escalate too. By escalating, that means the ships in the Persian Gulf and the oil and gas assets on the other side of the Gulf will cease to exist.

#Danny

Yeah, as we speak, Iran has direct impacts on Tel Aviv and Beit Shemesh. This is every—I mean, people need to understand that Iran is firing missiles, even if it's not a high volume in terms of numbers. They know Israel and the United States are both saying their interceptors are low, and more are getting through. So there are direct impacts in multiple Israeli cities right now. And not to

mention Professor Marandi, we also have a situation with a lot of rumors about the status of Netanyahu himself. I don't know if you saw, in the lead-up to the announcement about Ali Larijani—and I covered this on my show—there's been a lot of controversy about whether Netanyahu is even around or alive. Who knows where he is?

But now, today, Professor, I just want to pull this up because it's very shocking to me. This is probably the most damning evidence I've seen that something is very, very wrong. So here is the Prime Minister's X account as of today, the day we're speaking, saying that Netanyahu is ordering the elimination of senior Iranian regime officials. But people were very quick to point out here, Professor Marandi, that this photo is from February 4th, 2026. And while some could say, you know, and I'm not going to draw any conclusions necessarily from this—other than that it's very, you know, eyebrow-raising—I'm not going to draw any conclusions. Some are saying, oh, well, they could be trolling. Doesn't really seem like that, though.

It doesn't really—you know, there was some trolling with those other videos that were released of him, strangely and awkwardly, at a coffee shop. But nonetheless, the narrative is still that every time Netanyahu surfaces anywhere online, people are wondering if this guy is even alive, breaking down and scrutinizing every single image. It's odd—people could say it's a propaganda war—but I think it's way bigger than that. I think it's way bigger than just trying to sell information. I think it's a reflection of something much deeper. But Professor Marandi, your reaction to this? Because the Prime Minister of Israel's X account is using old photos to report on recent developments. That's strange to me. What are your thoughts?

#Marandi

Well, personally, I don't care if he's dead or alive. The problem is not Netanyahu. It's Zionism, ethno-supremacism, and this genocidal mentality that exists among the majority of Zionists in Palestine. Polls show that in their attitudes toward Palestinian children and Palestinians in general. But what's interesting is that, regardless of his fate, Netanyahu is always hiding. He's either on a plane or in a bunker. Look at Friday, on Quds Day—the day for Palestine—when the Americans bombed Iranian demonstrators in Tehran. The demonstrations were taking place across the country, but in Iran, in Tehran, you saw the president, Dr. Larijani, the head of the judiciary, the foreign minister, and other senior officials all on the streets, without any protection, under missile fire, among the people. And then the U.S. Secretary of War says they're all in hiding—but they were all on the streets.

#Danny

He called them rats, Professor.

#Marandi

Yeah, he called them rats. Well, they're sick racists. In general, these people are sick—they're evil. That's why they support genocide, the ongoing genocide in Gaza. That's why Western journalists in Beirut, in their reports, write that Israel is bombing Hezbollah strongholds. They bring down apartment blocks full of families, and they say it, even though they know they're lying. These journalists have fixers, drivers—Lebanese people from those neighborhoods—and producers. But they say it because they have to write in a way that keeps their Epstein-class owners satisfied.

So, you know, they're rats. And Trump—oh, I forgot to mention this—Trump talked about how Iranians are intelligent, whereas just a day or two earlier he said there's something wrong with their genes. It was in an interview on Fox, which I tweeted—or retweeted. I mean, these are racists. They're despicable. And of course, it's understandable. Anyone who supports the so-called legitimacy of the Israeli regime supports ethno-supremacism. So they must be racists. By definition, they're racists. So, you know, Netanyahu—no one cares where he is—but Iranian leaders are with the people on the streets.

They may kill one, they may murder one, two, three, ten, twenty—but they'll be replaced by others, the ones who are on the streets. You know, General Soleimani said, "We are the nation of Imam Hussain." If they could comprehend this—if they would read a few books written by some of these Iranian scholars about what Ashura is, who Imam Hussain is, who Zainab is—then they wouldn't mess with the resistance like this. If they understood what Hezbollah was, they'd be more cautious. If they understood who the Iranians were, they'd be more cautious. That's what makes people steadfast on the streets—in support of another people. In support of another people.

#Danny

Yeah.

#Marandi

The Palestinians are fighting for their survival. These people are fighting for the Palestinians. So, people under fire go to the Jerusalem Day—Quds Day—rally, under missile fire, for the sake of another people. Amazing.

#Danny

Yeah.

#Marandi

I don't know if you can hear the explosions in the background, by the way.

#Danny

No, we cannot, but we believe you, because you've been on this program before where we've definitely heard them. And what you were saying, Professor Marandi, about Al-Quds Day—people need to know that in Iran, I'm almost certain, and you can correct me, it's viewed almost like a legally obligatory holiday, given the staunch support for the Palestinian people. But it was founded after the revolution, and it happens every single year, and Iranians come out to the streets. A lot of people travel from all around the world, especially from the region, to visit Iran and participate in it. But it's not a requirement—it's not a legal requirement, in that sense.

#Marandi

But also, it's not a holiday. It's actually on the last Friday of Ramadan, and Friday in Iran is the weekend—Friday is our Sunday. So our weekend is on Thursday and Friday. If anyone wants to go, they can go. For example, I went this Friday, and on my way there, there were shops open, people driving in the opposite direction, people walking in the neighborhood doing their shopping or whatever it is they do. Whoever wants to go can go. Some people can't go. Some people are afraid to go—they're afraid of being killed by airstrikes.

Some people just think it's too difficult because it's hard to get there with all the traffic and the crowds. But, you know, people have shown an unbelievable degree of resilience, heroism, and courage—men and women alike. I've never seen anything like it. I experienced the 1980s in Iran, during the height of the revolution when Saddam invaded the country. I was actually at a Friday prayer when a bomb went off, and people were pretty steadfast. But this was on a different level. There's footage out there—people can see it. It's quite extraordinary.

#Danny

Yeah, it is. And that contrast, I think, is important to highlight, because regardless, I agree with you personally—I don't think it actually matters whether Netanyahu is dead or alive. What we're seeing is the entirety of the Israeli leadership. They're the ones who are hiding. Of course, the United States is far, far away, and they're not actually going to feel the immediate impact of their criminal war of aggression. But the Israeli leaders—they're hiding. They're in bunkers.

And Netanyahu—especially given that Iran has openly said they're targeting him and likely, if not certainly, has really good intelligence about where he might be—he's hiding really, really hard, if he's alive at all. So that shows, I think, a level of contrast that should be noted. It should be noted that the Iranian people and leadership, despite the fact that there are active standoff strikes—I want to highlight that—where there are standoff strikes happening every single day in Iran right now, the leaders and the people are behaving completely differently from how the Israeli leaders are. And so I just want to note that, and see if you have any other words you want to say about this.

#Marandi

No, you're absolutely correct. But one thing I found striking—and this isn't the first time Trump said it—was that he claimed we didn't think Iran would strike back at U.S. assets in the Persian Gulf or shut the Strait of Hormuz. I mean, I've probably said this on your show maybe ten times over the last couple of years, probably more than ten times in one way or another. And it's not just me. Many others have been saying this. I'm sure other guests of yours have said the same thing, but I've been saying it for years. How could they not know? You don't have to be brilliant to understand that this is how Iran was going to react.

But for them to think—if we believe what Trump says, and of course he lies all the time, so nothing he says really has any meaning—but if we're to believe him, that no one told him or no one thought Iran would strike back, what does that say about U.S. intelligence? What does that say about U.S. knowledge of what goes on? Hollywood movies aside, what does that say about their ability to comprehend? They're utterly ignorant. But let's assume they did know Iran would strike back, and they still launched the war anyway—that shows their ignorance about Iran's military capabilities.

Because I would assume that if they thought Iran was going to strike back, they figured it wouldn't really matter—that they could just bomb Iran a few times and all of Iran's capabilities would be destroyed, because "we're number one" or whatever. You know, that kind of language they use—"that's who we are," and all that. This madman, void of any morality, dignity, or honor. So it shows their ignorance about Iran's military capabilities. Again, that means U.S. intelligence is worthless. It means they're ignorant. And the same is true with the Israeli regime and Iran. The Israeli regime may know better, but they deceived the Americans into attacking Iran by feeding them false intelligence. Any way you look at it, it doesn't look good for the Israeli regime, the Trump regime, or the political elites in Washington.

#Danny

Yeah. No, it doesn't. And I just want to underscore something I failed to mention earlier. We're talking about all these factors and how the war is going for Marandi. I just want to read what Iran has said—of course, everyone can take it with a grain of salt, however they want—but Iran really has no reason to lie about this, in terms of the amount of damage they've done to U.S. assets so far. Huge numbers here: since February 28th, 150 missile launch platforms destroyed by Iran, 23 Patriot air defense systems, and a total of 37 aircraft. Now, Professor Marandi, one Patriot missile system costs about \$1 to \$1.1 billion U.S. dollars. So Iran is inflicting massive economic and military damage on the United States. And we haven't even talked in depth—you mentioned it—Hezbollah is in here too.

And reportedly, as we were speaking, they just lured 15 Israeli troops into an ambush. They're likely no longer with us. Every single day, Hezbollah is not only fighting Israeli forces on the ground and destroying multiple Israeli tanks, but they're also coordinating with Iran—firing their own missiles, rockets, and drones into Israel and making direct impacts, especially in the north. So, when it comes to how this war is going for Iran, if people are following what's actually happening on the ground,

while the U.S. and Israel are causing damage to Iranian infrastructure and, of course, to civilians, there's a heavy cost being paid on the other side. It's not looking as one-sided as I think Donald Trump's administration assumed it would be.

#Marandi

And how about the damage to U.S. assets in Iraq and the Iraqi resistance? Their oil assets, their gas assets, their installations—all being destroyed. They're being evicted from Iraq. They'll never be able to hold Iraq like they did until now. That was another foolish mistake, another result of their foolish, genocidal mistake in attacking Iran. And then Yemen hasn't even started yet. Ever since it defeated the United States last year in that seven-week war, they've been preparing for the big one. They've said they're going to get involved, but they're waiting for the right time. So this isn't something the Americans can manage.

They've destroyed it. And, Danny, the United States has this aura—or tries to create this aura—of invincibility that, thanks to Saddam Hussein, was to a large degree created by his stupidity. He invaded Kuwait, then allowed them to bomb him for forty-some days, and they just walked over Iraqi positions. Since then, and with the collapse of the Soviet Union, the United States became the hyperpower. This aura of invincibility existed. And true, the U.S. lost in Iraq and Afghanistan, but after decades, they took the country. In the case of Iran, they failed from day one, and the Iranians have been hitting back hard.

So what does that say about all these weapon systems and radar systems? Tomorrow, if they want to sell them, who's going to buy them? Why would they buy them? Why would they want the Iron Dome when it's clearly a useless system that fires missiles costing fifty times more than the drones being fired at it? I mean, the more you think about it, the more you can see the enormous damage being inflicted on the empire. And for what? For supporting ethnosupremacism, for supporting genocide. The British, the French, the Germans—they've destroyed their credibility, their aura of humanity, by supporting genocide. The United States has done that too.

And now it's destroying itself further—all for the sake of this ruling class, Zionism, and ethno-supremacism. And now even senior intelligence figures—we see at least one senior figure resigning. We'll have to see if there are more, if Tulsi Gabbard resigns or someone else. I think this is a big blow. This is not like Candace Owens making statements; this is the guy who's in charge of this sort of thing—one of the people in charge of intelligence—saying that, no, there is no threat. This isn't Tucker Carlson; this is a guy who can say with authority there was no threat, and we attacked a country simply because the Israeli regime and the Zionist lobby wanted us to.

#Danny

Yeah. Yeah, it's a huge blow. You know, I think the—

#Danny

The fact that it's becoming more and more clear that Israel had a huge hand in not just convincing, but, I think, helping coordinate—moving along with the incredibly Zionist regime that exists in Washington—to wage this war, now with the resignation of this intel head and this DNI head. And then also, Professor Marandi, the fact that, you know, the U.S. supposedly has interests against Iran—quote unquote. It doesn't. People are trying to say, "Oh, well, this is important." No, but there are U.S. elite interests that want to see Iran fall because they ultimately want to get to their bigger adversaries.

They want to weaken Russia and China. You know, they understand the deep relationship there. But it's quite clear that, as of February 28, 2026, this was not going to be the time they would succeed in that objective. And still, they did it anyway—the United States did it anyway. I think that's the big takeaway here from the resignation. And then you have the fact that Iran is still standing, because of how volatile it would be for the U.S. to try to target Iranian oil shipments through the Strait of Hormuz. There have been something like 11 million barrels shipped to China in particular, but of course also to others buying Iranian oil.

#Marandi

There's a lot more to it too, by the way, because Iran has a lot of oil sitting on the seas that it's accumulated over the past few months.

#Danny

Yeah.

#Marandi

And that's going to China.

#Danny

Yeah, and it's going to China. So it seems like that objective has only gotten further away because Iran has checkmated Trump. It's said to the United States, "Yeah, we know how volatile the oil markets really are. We've been telling you for so long that we have the ability to close the Strait of Hormuz. And not only are we ready to do that, but we're also going to take care of ourselves—and we're going to do it by trading with the country you've called your number one adversary for so many years now, which is China." That's a big, big black eye, in my opinion. But what's your reaction to this?

#Marandi

All of this is done for Israel. All of this is unnecessary. I mean, if there were no Zionism, if there were no Zionist lobby in the United States, there would be no war. We'd probably have relations with the United States. We'd probably be doing trade with the United States. But it's this class of people—this Epstein class—these people who not only prevent normal relations, but insist on death, murder, destruction, genocide, and all that.

#Danny

Hmm. Yeah, yeah, definitely. And maybe you can comment more, because I've been saying for some time that, you know, with the Iraqi resistance—they just hit a U.S. embassy. They've been hitting assets, releasing drone footage of them targeting U.S. military bases there. Supposedly, I showed this on the show yesterday—that there's no activity going on between these tankers and other U.S. aircraft over Iraq right now, likely out of fear that they'll be targeted. So you have the Iraqi resistance very much in motion.

Of course, we mentioned Hezbollah and then Yemen. There have been some rumors that Saudi Arabia and others may try to start using the Red Sea and the Bab al-Mandab as a way to relieve some of the pressure caused by the closure of the Strait of Hormuz. But it seems to me that might be what Yemen is waiting for. I see it as Yemen not holding back out of fear or anything—they're holding back because they're waiting for the right moment to act. I'm curious about your thoughts on this, because it seems like things could go from bad to worse really quickly for the global economy if that ends up being the case.

#Marandi

Well, sorry. Again, the amount of oil the Saudis can export from the Red Sea is limited, and there are a lot of technical issues. But you're absolutely correct—if Yemen enters the war and shuts the Red Sea, then where is that oil going to go? Because supertankers can't go through the Suez Canal. So that's going to be a big problem. In any case, if Yemen enters the war, then the Saudis—remember, when they were carrying out seven years of genocide with the full support of the West—for the first two or three years, the whole Persian Gulf and Turkey, all of them were supporting that genocidal war. Then, when the Emirates and the Saudis turned against Qatar, Qatar and Turkey moved away from Saudi Arabia and the Emirates a bit.

For seven years, the Saudis were carrying out genocide in Yemen. What stopped the genocide? Yemen had reached a stage of power three or four years ago—four years ago, I think—where it was able to destroy a large portion of Saudi oil export capabilities. The Saudis gave up and accepted the ceasefire. Yemen today is far stronger than it was back then, and far stronger than it was last year when it was fighting the Americans and defeating the U.S. So they could easily take out Saudi oil and gas—the limited amount, or predominantly oil, that would go to the Red Sea. Even though, as I said, that amount of oil isn't going to bring about any great change, it can still be stopped.

And of course, trade through the Red Sea can also be stopped, and they can do damage with their drones and missiles—to Saudi Arabia, and beyond that, to the pipeline to the Emirates and to U.S. naval assets. They have a big fighting force they could move into neighboring territory, and the Iraqi resistance has a big fighting force too. They could move into Kuwait, they could move into Syria. Remember, Kuwait has a small population—same with the Emirates, Bahrain, and Qatar—but Yemen and Iraq are huge countries with very strong fighting forces. They fought in Yemen; they defeated a genocidal war led by the Saudis and Emiratis, and then the Americans.

And the Iraqis, they defeated ISIS and al-Qaeda, which were supported by the West. So these are not like Qatari soldiers who sit in their offices and, you know, do nothing. These are people who fought. These are people with formidable power. Yemen and Iraq are not small countries—they're big, important countries. They are civilizational states. Yemen has thousands of years of history, and so does Iraq. Both of them have a strong connection to the culture of resistance, to their human values, their religious values, and especially, as I said, the culture of Ashura and Imam Hussain. It's very strong in these two countries. So again, the Trump regime is messing with the wrong people.

#Danny

Yeah, and maybe in our last couple of minutes, Professor Marandi, you could talk about your impression and reaction to the idea that this could last. Some U.S. officials, speaking anonymously, are saying it could continue until September 2020. Others in Israel—usually the first to leak or talk to the media—are saying they'll go for about three more weeks of strikes. What are your reactions to these timelines? I mean, we're talking about six months down the road. I can't imagine the U.S. will have any air defenses left. But nonetheless, what are your thoughts on the length of this now that we're in week three, beyond even what the U.S. and Israel were willing to put up with during the 12-day war?

#Marandi

Danny, they've been preparing for 25 years—ever since the United States invaded Iraq and Afghanistan, called Iran part of the "axis of evil," and started saying that all options were on the table. They've been building underground bases and factories, developing indigenous technology for drones and missiles. They can continue this war for years, and they're seriously thinking about going on until after the U.S. midterm elections. So they can go on for a very long time. But will the global economic crisis allow the United States to keep this war going much longer? We'll see. The price of oil—every day, 20 million barrels of oil, plus gas and everything else alongside that—20 million barrels are missing from the market.

Twenty million added yesterday, twenty million added today, tomorrow—it's just growing and growing. They can talk down the markets or use tricks to keep them down for a few days, but it's going to pop up. And when there's no gas, when there's no oil, when there's a shortage—after a few days, after a week or two—it's going to show. So what are they going to do then? Expand the war?

That would mean all these tankers are destroyed, all these oil and gas facilities are destroyed. That would be much worse, because it would mean there's no respite, no hope for next year, six months down the road. So ultimately, the United States, if it doesn't want to collapse the global economy, is going to have to back down. But of course, Iran's demands have to be met.

#Danny

Yeah, that's the thing. There are Western media reports, and there are analysts in the think-tank, warmongering sphere, raising the alarm that Iran may not get the message if the United States and Israel stop striking Iran without those guarantees being met.

#Marandi

Yes, because, Danny, if we stop, and then six months down the road they attack us again—what then?

#Danny

Yeah.

#Marandi

We can't have that. We're not going to let that happen again.

#Danny

Yeah. Yeah, many people who watch this would probably see that as a very reasonable conclusion to make. And it begs the question to Professor Marandi: we have the United States sending about 5,000 Marines in a so-called expeditionary unit that will be arriving in days, probably a week or so. And that seems to be a very—well, they're going to be used for something, presumably—and that could be the beginning of what will be a kind of cherry on top of a disaster that's already cascading. Any final thoughts as we head out of here? And I'll thank the audience as you speak.

#Marandi

If they want to bring troops to the region, they'll have to bring over a million, not just a couple of thousand. That's not going to work. It's only going to make things worse for them, and it'll bring down the global economy. Now, I just wanted to thank you and your audience for the terrific work that you do, and to point out that I think people across the world are waking up to the reality of the Western empire. I think people are beginning to recognize that forty-seven years of anti-Iranian and

anti-resistance propaganda—those narratives are collapsing. For forty-seven years, people have been taught to hate Iran, hate the resistance, hate the axis of resistance. And now they're seeing that all those who hate are the ones who support genocide.

And it's these people who are opposing the genocide. So all that Western media propaganda—all that Qatari, Saudi, Emirati, and Erdogan propaganda—all of that is falling apart. People are, I think, increasingly seeing the reality. They're seeing what's really going on in Palestine, and they're waking up in the United States to who's actually destroying the country. And, of course, today's resignation, I think, is another nail in the coffin for the fortunes of Zionism in the United States. The American people are being taken hostage, just like people elsewhere in the world. But people are waking up—young people in particular—and we're facing war. Who knows what's going to happen today, tonight, tomorrow, next week, what will happen to friends or family. But I'm optimistic about the future.

#Danny

Yeah. Yeah, well, Professor Marandi, I know you can't see it because we're on a platform that doesn't allow us to screen share that way. But I just pulled up a bunch of people who showed a lot of love to you and the Iranian people. I think it's a great indicator that a lot of people are paying attention to what's going on. So it's very much appreciated that you came on. I want to thank everyone who gave—of course, the memberships, super chats, all of that—and everyone who viewed today, because these are very important programs. I also want to say, as we wrap up, hit the like button. That'll help ensure that Professor Marandi's message gets out there further after we're done. And Professor Marandi, do not read Al Jazeera today, because Al Jazeera has a 2,000-word think piece about how the U.S. and Israeli strategy against Iran is "working." It'll probably make you go a little grayer, given how bad it is.

#Marandi

I don't care. I mean, there are some good people at Al Jazeera. I have friends there who get in touch with me every now and then, and we talk about issues of substance. I don't want to get anyone into trouble. But Al Jazeera is—well, Qatar is a proxy of the United States, and therefore Al Jazeera is never going to be an instrument for liberation. No one should be naive. It's an instrument of American power in its own way. But again, that doesn't mean everyone who works there, or for the many other media outlets controlled by Qatar, are bad people. No, there are some really decent people I know. But no, I ignore Al Jazeera. I ignore all Western media. And I consider Al Jazeera, Al Arabiya—all of them—to be Western mainstream media.

#Danny

Yeah, definitely. On that note, everybody, we'll head out of here. Hit the like button before you go. In the video description, you can find Professor Mohammad Marandi's X account, where he shares all

his media appearances and commentary on this war. You can follow him there. All the links that support this channel are there as well. Tomorrow, a mutual friend of the show is coming on—both Professor Marandi and I, along with Alistair Crooke, will be here at 11 a.m. Eastern Time, March 18th. So be sure to catch it then, 11 a.m. Eastern Time, March 18th. Until next time, everybody, I'll see you for the next update on this war and, of course, the situation and context that surround it. Bye-bye.