

# Ali Alizadeh: Iran's Missiles SMASH Saudi Oil & Qatar Gas Plants

Ali Alizadeh of @JedaalEnglish to discuss the massive retaliation by Iran on Saudi and regional oil sites as Trump & Israel's war spirals out of control. We provide daily updates and analysis not seen anywhere else. Subscribe for more in-depth geopolitical analysis! Leave your thoughts in the comments below! Support the Channel: Patreon: <https://www.patreon.com/dannyhaiphong> SUBSCRIBE ON RUMBLE: Rumble: <https://rumble.com/c/DannyHaiphong> Follow Me on Social Media: Twitter: <https://twitter.com/DannyHaiphong> Telegram: <https://t.me/DannyHaiphong> Support the channel in other ways: <https://www.buymeacoffee.com/dannyhaiphong> Substack: [chroniclesofhaiphong.substack.com](https://chroniclesofhaiphong.substack.com) Cashapp: \$Dhaiphong Venmo: @dannyH2020 Paypal: <https://paypal.me/spiritofho> #iran #trump #israel

## #Danny

Welcome, everyone. Welcome back to the show. It's your host, Danny Haiphong. As you can see, I am joined by Ali Alizadeh from Jadal Media. Ali, thanks so much for joining me again today.

## #Ali Alizadeh

Hi, Danny. Thanks a lot for inviting me. I'm really glad to be here with you and your viewers.

## #Danny

Yes, it's really great to have you back on, Ali. Well, let's get to the breaking news, shall we? Everyone, hit the like button as we speak—that helps ensure this video gets shared far and wide. So, how about we start with this, Ali: the breaking reports about what happened in Qatar and Saudi Arabia last night. Iran, as promised, retaliated after Israel hit the Pars Sands gas site, which is the world's largest. They had said they were going to strike gas and oil sites across the region, and that's exactly what they did. Here's a brief ABC News report about what happened, and then we have more updates and breaking developments from various sources on Iran's retaliation. But here it is.

## #ABC News

The shock waves and uncertainty over oil and gas prices are only worsening tonight—flames shooting into the air as Israel bombs the world's largest gas field in Iran, the backbone of the country's energy sector. Video circulating online shows flames and smoke engulfing the refinery. Israel's move comes just hours after the U.S. dropped multiple 5,000-pound bunker-buster bombs

on Iranian missile sites along the coastline in the Strait of Hormuz. The U.S. says they targeted cruise missiles that Iran could use on oil tankers and ships passing through that critical waterway.

Tonight, Iran is retaliating to Israel's attack on its gas fields with a furious missile barrage across the region. A huge explosion in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, was seen in video posted on social media. The skies over Dubai tonight show air defenses knocking down incoming Iranian drones and missiles. Iran also struck the world's largest liquefied natural gas terminal in Qatar, with extensive damage reported. The Qataris condemned the attack, calling it a dangerous escalation. Iran issued a dire new warning tonight, saying, "If you attack our oil and gas facilities, we'll do the same."

## **#Danny**

So, Ali, that's just one report, but there have been more—more news on this, not only that. The critical LNG hub in Qatar was actually hit not once but twice. According to the Tehran Times, the Ras Laffan oil and gas facility was struck twice. This includes not just Qatar; Saudi Arabia was also hit in a major way by a drone strike. Here's a report from Sputnik News: a drone struck the Samref oil refinery in western Saudi Arabia, which processes over 400,000 barrels per day. And here's another report confirming that the Yanbu oil refinery in Saudi Arabia, off the Red Sea coast, was hit as well. And Ali, we have Haifa, as we speak, being hit in Israel by Iranian missile fire.

It's the largest and most critical fuel facility, supplying 50 to 60 percent of Israel's fuel. Now, Ali, as all this is happening—and I just want your reaction to it—we have a suspected F-35 damaged by Iranian fire. It made an emergency landing over Iranian airspace. And as you're speaking, Ali, I just want your reaction to all of this, because this seems like a very critical moment for the world. Oil prices are absolutely skyrocketing, well above \$100 per barrel for Brent crude. The New York Times says the economic crisis could be worse than in 2008. What's your reaction to these developments and how the war is going so far, now that all this is unfolding?

## **#Ali Alizadeh**

I was just watching Donald Trump talking to the Prime Minister of Japan about 20 minutes ago, and he was repeating the same propaganda line that Iran's missile and drone capabilities are almost finished. Then he said, laughing, that they have almost zero anti-air defense capabilities. At the same time, the story about an F-35 being damaged over Iran came out, along with reports not only about regional refineries and oil facilities but also about Haifa—which is very important. So I think it's time for those in the United States and the West who are a bit wiser to end their delusion about Iran's power, because the Iranians have been very clear about what they do.

The Iranians aren't playing these really complicated, cunning games the way Donald Trump does. They're very straightforward—they say what they want to do, and then they do it. Mr. Marandi, who's been on your program many times, said last year during the Twelve Days War, and even before that, that if their oil facilities were ever targeted, they would target Qatar first. People laughed at Mr.

Marandi. I remember Piers Morgan saying, "Oh, you're a big mouth. You say many things, and none of them mean anything." Well, where is Piers Morgan now, to see that what Marandi delivered as a message from Iranian military servicemen and decision-makers was carried out exactly as stated?

And that's going to have a massive effect on everyone, including Piers Morgan, because 17% of the second-biggest LNG producer in the world, after the United States, has disappeared from the market overnight. That means anyone using LNG or other forms of gas around the world, including in the United States and Britain, is going to pay higher gas bills next month. So I think it's time for people to take Iran seriously and listen to what they say. The Iranians have said, if we're not going to be able to have our safety and security here, then no one in the region—and Israel—will have it either. So, what happened in the last 48 hours? If I'm allowed, let me just recap. Israel, which was achieving almost nothing apart from bombing civilian houses—and they've done a lot, don't get me wrong—

They have destroyed 42,000 civilian buildings so far in Iran—42,000 civilian buildings. Whole blocks where people lived have been wiped out. In that sense, they've achieved a lot of war crimes. But in terms of real military objectives, they've achieved nothing. So, about two days ago, they assassinated Ali Larijani, the head of Iran's National Security Council. That's very important because this assassination is an absolute violation of international law. When they were assassinating people like Yahya Sinwar and others in Hamas, the pseudo-explanation was that these people were from a designated organization. When they assassinated Qassem Soleimani, they said, oh, they had designated the IRGC six months earlier.

But Ali Larijani was a civilian politician who had no connection to any terrorist organization. Assassinating him in the middle of Tehran was an absolute war crime, a violation of every international law. No one in the Western countries has condemned this. The second thing is that Israel is selling these attacks as a form of artificially intelligent warfare—AI-oriented smart wars. But let me tell you, the way they assassinated Larijani, and the day after when they assassinated Khatib, the intelligence minister in Iran, had nothing to do with smart wars. To detect where he was, they came up with six or seven possible locations and bombed all of them blindly.

So, in the place where they finally found Ali Larijani—which was his daughter's house in a very poor suburb of Tehran—they killed 105 people, and they killed an equal number of people in five other locations. So, 400, 200, 300 people getting killed just to get one Iranian politician. And that's what they call a "smart war." After the assassination of Ali Larijani, they thought that because he was, de facto, the most powerful person—kind of running the state in their narrative—it was going to produce a shock-and-awe moment, and they could move forward in a heavy way. That's when they went for the South Pars oil field, because they thought the Iranians were a bit confused, and that was the moment to hit them hard and push them into not responding, into being disoriented.

Many of the softer, more liberal voices in Iran were saying that Iran should not retaliate, especially against Qatar and Saudi Arabia, because that's what Israel wanted. Israel's aim is for Arab countries

to join the United States and basically extend this coalition against Iran. Nonetheless, the IRGC and the Iranian army hit Qatar hard and went for Saudi Arabia. And look at that—unlike what these people were warning Iran about, that Saudi and Qatar would join the coalition—even the United States relinquished responsibility and denied any knowledge of the operation. The U.S. backed off and retreated. That's what's important to understand.

It's a different time, and Iranians are not going to negotiate or hesitate anymore—whether they attack or not. They've said it clearly: any form of attack will be met with twice as much retaliation on the region and on Israel. Second problem: we're on day 20 of the war. So far, the United States has taken a lot of hits, but these aren't being reported in the West. Yesterday on my show, I was reading that in just one day there were about seven rounds of missile attacks and four rounds of drones, coordinated with the Iraqi resistance and with Hezbollah. So far, the Houthis and Ansarullah haven't even appeared on the scene—they're being kept for much later developments and phases of the war.

And so you don't see that. But so far, American bases are almost finished. If it were up to Trump, he would have closed all American bases tomorrow and left the region. But I agree—Israel hasn't been hit hard enough, and that's important. As long as Israel doesn't feel enough pain, this war won't end. No one in Iran was expecting Israel to feel that pain before around day 30 or 35. Iranians have been very clear, saying they're taking out Israel's air defense rings layer by layer, and it's going to take a while. Last time, in the 12-day war back in June 2025, it took about eight or nine days for them to take it down.

And that's when we started using our heavy missiles, like Qoram Sha'ar-4 and Kheibar. That's when the Israelis felt the pain and asked for a ceasefire—they even pushed Trump to negotiate one. This time it's going to take longer because the Israelis were prepared; they had many more anti-air missiles. And so... only now is the pain against Israel beginning. In just the last two or three days, the Iranians have brought out the heavy missiles, and only now are we hearing about major damage to important Israeli infrastructure and facilities. Yesterday they hit the Tel Aviv train station; today they went for Haifa's refinery.

So be patient. Give it another week, and then you'll see what the Iranians can do. All these myths about Iran running out of missiles and drones are just more delusional lies they tell the public. The same kind of lie that says if an Iranian leader is assassinated, the Iranians will surrender the way the Venezuelans did. These are lies—delusional lies—fed to the public. No, Iran has enough drones and missiles to fight this war for more than a year, for years. And the second lie is that Iran's capability to manufacture missiles and drones has been destroyed. How could that be? Iran is the original manufacturer of these things. These are native industries in Iran; they're all Iranian inventions.

And Iran has about 92 million people, enough mineral resources, and produces everything. It's an autarkic country, a self-sufficient country, thanks to 14 years of sanctions and 47 years of isolation from the United States. Yes, Iran might have run out of missiles if you'd attacked it in 1987, when it

was still a young state. But now, after 47 years of isolation, Iran will never run out of anything because it's capable of producing everything on its own. Iran doesn't buy its missiles from China or Russia. It doesn't buy the parts for its drones from other countries—it produces everything itself. And let me tell you something even more interesting: as we're talking—today is day 20—in the last 20 days, the Iranians have already upgraded their drones.

They've already upgraded their missiles. As the war develops, they get information on how the missiles have hit, which ones were intercepted, and how the enemy's drones have struck Iran, and so on. Then they go downstairs, into the basement, underground—engineers working to develop and upgrade them this way or that way. It's a very dynamic situation in Iran. Iranians are, uh, they're changing and—what's the word—they're constantly upgrading their weapons as we go. So I think it's very important to understand that Trump, especially Trump and his team, are telling big lies to the public.

And Iran is counting on this war to be very long. No one in the Iranian establishment is in a rush to end it. So even if Trump comes tomorrow and offers Iran some kind of peace deal, no one in Iran will accept it, because they know that as long as Israel hasn't been punished enough—hasn't learned the lesson to the point where it won't attack Iran for at least 10 to 15 years—anything short of that kind of deterrence means nothing. It's not useful. And let me tell you why, from a real political point of view: a lot of Iranian infrastructure has been damaged.

And if Iran wants to build it, Iran will need some investment from China. Iran will need investment from other places. And who would invest in a country that's open to the possibility of another invasion or attack in three years' time, in two years' time? Especially Iran's petrochemical and oil infrastructure—they need long-term investment. Even before this war, because they were exhausted and getting old due to sanctions, they wanted 15 years of stability. So as long as Iran hasn't revived its deterrence for a good 10 to 15 years, this war will not end. Iran is not in a rush to end it.

## **#Danny**

Yeah, those are great points, Ali, and they really put all this into context that's not being considered, of course, by Washington. But that means, unfortunately, people in the United States and the West are woefully starved of this kind of information. Now, I wanted to show—well, you said Trump is big-lying right now, and it's not just you saying this. So, the hit on Qatar Energy—that's a critical hub, supplying 20% of all the gas in the world. Now, Donald Trump said he had a huge response to this, a massive response. I don't know if you saw it, Ali, on Truth Social—it was shared all over X. I'm not going to read the whole thing, but basically what he says is that he had nothing to do, the United States had nothing to do, with what happened to the South Pars gas field.

He said that Qatar absolutely had nothing to do with any of this, so why would it be struck? He promised that Israel would not hit energy sites anymore. And he, of course, threatened to bomb South Pars even harder if Iran doesn't stop its attacks on regional oil, gas, and energy sites. Then he

says he's not going to do it because of the impact it would have on the Iranian people, he claims. Now, I wanted to show this, Ali, because it completely contradicts that. The Wall Street Journal came out today and talked about how, all across the Gulf region, land-based missiles have been used against Iran since the beginning—since February 20th, actually, in the initial strike.

So this completely contradicts the claim that the Gulf region has nothing to do with this war, that Qatar has nothing to do with anything the United States is doing. It just shows a complete and utter lack of respect for the truth, Ali. But I wanted your reaction to this, because what Iran is doing is so important. It's causing all kinds of panic, I believe, and shock. And it just seems like the truth is completely belying the entire situation when it comes to Trump, the U.S., and the Israeli side. What's your reaction to this?

## **#Ali Alizadeh**

So, first of all, all these countries have something to do with this war, because for many years they sat back and enjoyed Iran being sanctioned and bullied by the United States. They all thought Iran's lack of action and restraint was a sign of weakness. Now they realize it wasn't weakness—Iran's restraint was because it didn't want to bring war to the region. And finally, after trying every possible means for peace, including sending the Omani foreign minister the night before the war started, on Friday, February 27th, to CBS, saying that Iran was even willing to discuss and negotiate its missile program.

Everything. Iran showed absolute goodwill. And when the war started—I don't know how many people said this before—it was clear this was going to be a regional war. Now, let me just give you one example. These South Pars refineries take oil and gas from the South Pars field. This field is a joint oil and gas field shared between Iran and Qatar. For the last 20 years, because of sanctions, Iran hasn't managed to complete its facilities for extracting gas and oil, while the Qataris have done it. The numbers are crazy—they go up to about \$600 or \$700 billion, some people say.

So the Qataris have been plundering a joint gas and oil field, and Iran hasn't managed to take its share because of sanctions. Then the Israelis come and destroy Iran's facilities so the Qataris can take even more. So no, this is not a war only between Iran and the United States. The United States has shares in all these companies. The U.S. is the number one beneficiary of what's happening in Qatar, the UAE, and Saudi Arabia. These are vassal states—they're client states of the United States. Even Qatar, which was bombed yesterday, recently made a deal with ExxonMobil and has a lot of joint ventures with American companies, same as Aramco and the UAE companies.

So these are not sovereign Arab countries that Iran has invaded. Look at that—all their security is run by the United States. These are the states of the United States, with the difference that at least Wisconsin has a senator in the Senate and a few congressmen, whereas Qatar has no congressmen in the United States. And when the United States wants money, they go and offer the money, they buy American bonds, and then they have this to say. So no, Iran didn't attack Qatar. Iran attacked

American interests, which were located in Qatar. That's number one. Number two, from the Iranian point of view, there is no difference between Israel and America.

I know that in the United States, in the West especially, many people—including myself—talk about the fact that America has been hijacked by Israel. And that's true. But from the Iranian leadership's point of view, they can't differentiate. They say, "A missile comes at us from a joint war by Israel and America—we hit back at both of them. We can't differentiate. We're not going to sit back and study for three weeks to see whether it was Israel with the knowledge of the United States or not. Israel hits us, America gets hit back. America hits us, both of them get hit back. We don't care." And number three, an important thing—this is an amazing statement.

After 19 days of Trump saying that Iran has been obliterated, Iran doesn't exist anymore, Iran means nothing, Iran is like ex-Iran, Iranian missiles don't come anymore—suddenly he comes in a very, very polite, apologetic way, shrugging his shoulders and saying, "I didn't know. I didn't know. Please don't hit again. Let's just be frank—don't hit again." Of course, in his own style, at the end he has to show his bully side and say, "If you hit, I'm going to hit back." But what can you do, Mr. Trump? What can you do? You want to hit the whole thing, as you threatened to take over Khark Island? What can you do?

Trump is showing an embarrassing lack of political shrewdness and depth, because he's making claims that, the next day, if he had consulted any of his military personnel—not Peter Hegseth, who's a psycho, but any of his more experienced generals in the army—they would have told him, "Don't say that." Let me give you a few examples. Example number one: bombing the Khark Island oil facilities. You know what's going to happen if they do that? The water around Khark Island in the Persian Gulf is going to be completely polluted, which means it won't be usable for water desalination. Iran doesn't care about that—only about 2% of Iranian water comes from desalination plants—whereas around 70% of the Gulf's water comes from desalination.

So attacking Khark and bombing Khark Island's oil facilities means Qatar, part of Bahrain, and the UAE are going to stay thirsty for the rest of the year. He's coming up with things he hasn't even looked into the consequences of. Second, the most amazing and ironic thing is that taking out Iranian oil and destroying Iranian refineries means there will be less petrochemicals, less oil, and less LNG in general in the world. What happens then? The price goes up. That's why Trump allows Iran to export its oil. That's very funny. While Iran has put sanctions on all these Arab countries—and Iran, a country that suffered from sanctions for 14 years, is now sanctioned by the West—it's saying, "No more oil for you." But the United States is staying silent, allowing Iranian tankers to go wherever they want.

Why? Because if two million barrels a day of Iranian oil are also taken out of the market, the price wouldn't stay at 127—it's going to hit 150 tomorrow. So, in a sense, you can see how desperate Trump is and how he's cornered himself in this situation where he can't move left or right. If he puts more pressure on Iran, the oil price will go up even further. So when he talks about sending troops

to Iran, the Iranians say, as Arafat once said, "Yes, we're waiting for them, because we don't have the chance to confront you face to face. Please, please, send us troops." And all of this is based on the caricatured misrepresentation of Iran and its military power, because from day one they've depicted Iran as a very small, weakened country that's going to collapse or surrender.

If they had looked into Iran's capabilities—how deep-rooted and native its military was, and how decentralized the command structure was—they wouldn't have entered the war in the first place. Or if they had, they would have prepared themselves for a very long, costly war. And I'm sure, in that situation, they would have realized it wasn't worth it. It wasn't worth it. So we're in a situation where attacking Iran is becoming unbelievably costly for the United States. But at the same time, he has no off-ramp, because all his off-ramps are destroyed. So he has to wait, losing more and more—especially in the economy—over the next three or four weeks, without being able to do anything specific about it.

## **#Danny**

Yeah, well, your words, Ali, are bearing fruit in reality. Just minutes before this program, it was announced that the United States is pursuing at least 200 billion U.S. dollars more to continue this war. It's said that Donald Trump has supposedly not decided what to do with these twenty-five hundred or so Marines who are sailing within the next week from Japan. They'll get to the Middle East in about a week or so. And Scott Besson just said, Ali, that the United States may possibly lift sanctions—remove sanctions—from sitting Iranian oil tankers in the Strait of Hormuz.

It's just absurd—when I listen to that, I think of pure absurdity. But what's your assessment of this? Because these are the kinds of moves the United States is actually making. We saw the downed F-35, we're seeing the inability to protect all these gas and oil sites militarily. But when it comes to the political machinations of all this, we're also seeing them digging in—an attempt to dig in despite all these mounting crises. What's your assessment of that? Why is the U.S. digging in despite all these issues? You said there's no off-ramp. Well, here's the ramp they're choosing. No, there's no off-ramp.

## **#Ali Alizadeh**

No off-ramp anymore. Things have changed for Iran. It's not the same Iran anymore. A month ago, this would have really forced Iranians—especially with the infighting inside the country and the different factions—to put pressure on the leadership, saying, "Come on, this is amazing, we should grab the offer, go for the conflict with the United States, normalize relations, de-escalate." Now things have changed. And Trump has changed everything. Trump has assassinated an Iranian spiritual leader, and that itself is something that cannot be compensated for by removing sanctions. His followers—at least 20% of Iranian society—are not going to accept any deal like this as an off-ramp, number one.

Second, as I said, a lot of Iranian infrastructure has been damaged, and Iran doesn't want anything short of reviving its deterrence and achieving a long-lasting peace. I mean, lifting sanctions doesn't matter anymore. Because, in a sense, Danny, Trump helped Iran by changing its expectations and raising its pain threshold. The threshold was already so high during the 12-day war and this one—assassinating every commander, coming with this shock and awe, everything. And so he hardened the country. Now, in a sense, Iran is terror-proof, assassination-proof, because it has experienced such acute pain from losing its leadership in a very surprising attack.

And at the same time, Iran has experienced its own power. Now the people who, a month ago, would have said, "Let's not get into a big war with a superpower," have discovered how much potential Iran has. A month ago, even I wouldn't have thought that having the strong chokehold of the Strait of Hormuz is more powerful than a nuclear bomb. I'm one of the people who's been arguing that Iran should get hold of nuclear power for its deterrence. And now I think Iran doesn't need that. Its Strait of Hormuz is stronger than any hydrogen bomb. And we didn't know that. And Iran is not going to give this away. So the world should understand that from now on, Iran is in charge of the Strait of Hormuz.

In the same way that Iran's most important allies in Yemen are in charge of Bab al-Mandab, the second biggest strait, which is the opening to the Red Sea, things are changing. The United States could have avoided this if it had given even a little—an inch—to Iran a month ago. Go and read all this; information was coming out saying that Iranians were absolutely cooperative back in January and February, and they really, really didn't want this war. So Trump created this war. Trump forced Iran into a war of existence, and now Iran has picked it up and will not leave it until it's achieved its objective, which is a punitive measure deep enough on America and Israel to create long-lasting peace.

The second thing is, people might think Iran is acting like a madman—coming out, shooting missiles left and right. But I've been surprised to see there's a chess game underneath these attacks. Iran has been so calculating; it's unbelievable to watch. I've been critical of many of these things before, but now I can see it's almost like weaving a carpet—an Iranian carpet—with so much precision. They're not just attacking places to scare the Gulf countries; they're basically hitting the base of the petrodollar, the foundation of America's financial system.

You've probably heard this—that Iran allows any tanker dealing oil in yuan, in RMB, to pass through the Strait of Hormuz. So as long as you're not part of the petrodollar system, you're welcome to cross the Strait of Hormuz. And that's interesting. Iran, Russia, and China are coordinated—whether directly, knowingly, or even just through some kind of invisible logic. They're so coordinated. If the United States wants more oil now, it has to release and relax some of the Russian sanctions. Then it has to relax the Iranian sanctions. And in all of this, Iran says these deals should always be done in yuan, in RMB, for the benefit of China and to help de-dollarize things.

Wherever you look, whatever the United States does, it backfires on itself. That's the interesting thing. Moving once again from this very heated war, it seems that Donald Trump unknowingly accelerated the movement of history, because history was already heading toward multipolarity. And Trump, with his stupidity, just accelerated it—accelerated de-dollarization, accelerated the weakening and decline of the American empire. I'm sure that by the end of this war, many things that would have taken three or four years have already been achieved in terms of the decline of the American empire. One more point you said.

I have someone from Iran who's seen how sanctions destroyed the lives of at least three generations. I saw how three or four million Iranians left the country because of those sanctions—how they crippled Iranian universities and research. And Iran really, really tried everything to remove some of the sanctions through negotiation, goodwill, and fulfilling its obligations under the JCPOA, but it didn't achieve anything. For me, it's very ironic that now America is removing Iran's sanctions, because at the end of the day, it's like a lesson in realism. You need to bring in someone like Mearsheimer—it's a lesson in realism. Power comes from the cannon, from the gun, not from diplomacy.

## **#Danny**

Yeah, and they're claiming—Scott Besson was claiming, Ali—that this was going to weaken Iran. First of all, sanctions are supposed to weaken Iran, so getting rid of sanctions is supposed to weaken Iran now? I mean, it's quite the mental gymnastics. And I want to emphasize that what you're saying about the Strait of Hormuz is absolutely, 100 percent true, because Iran has just announced that they're going to start instituting a toll in the Strait of Hormuz. That's an assertion of control over that waterway, which, Ali, Iran has already demonstrated throughout this war—they're shipping close to, if not as much oil as they were before the war even started.

So they're demonstrating through these actions that they not only control this, but that it's a huge statement—not just for the Iranian people, but for the world. It means the entire global economy has changed because of U.S.-Israeli aggression—aggression that, as you said, is hurting people, killing people, damaging civilian infrastructure. But it's not—I mean, what I just said about the Strait of Hormuz was not part of the objectives the U.S. and Israel were pursuing. Quite the contrary.

## **#Ali Alizadeh**

So it's interesting. You know, yesterday—Wednesday—Sri Lanka announced it as a day off for everyone. They closed the country. And the Philippines has asked its people to work remotely four days a week, if I'm not wrong. So the effect of this is very similar to the COVID pandemic. And so far, it's been bigger than the Ukraine-Russia war. It's massive. You're going to see, in a couple of weeks, if it continues—which I think it will—you'll see the effect in Western countries as well: in the transport system, in partial closures here and there. So it's interesting that Donald Trump is almost, as I said inadvertently, creating something that may lead to a financial crisis.

It's something that can have an immense impact, and he didn't even think about that before going there. That's why European countries are so angry with him. They're angry because they're going to pay the price one way or another. If they join him—which they're not going to, because they know Iran will punish them too—then they'll pay a price either way. And actually, it's not even possible to "open" the Strait of Hormuz. An 18-year-old with a shoulder-fired rocket launcher could close the Strait of Hormuz. So talking about opening it is a joke. If they come in, that's one problem.

If they don't come in, they still have to deal with the increased prices, the inflation, everything. And Trump didn't negotiate with any of them. According to the Wall Street Journal, only four people were in the negotiation and decision-making team: Rubio, Haxton, I think Vance, Witkoff, and Jared Kushner. A very small group was in discussion with Trump about attacking and how to attack. And so he's imposed massive consequences for Israel and the whole globe without even going through the usual American institutions. Compare this with the Iraq War in 2003, which was another illegitimate, illegal war imposed by the United States. But back then, George W. Bush—who was another warmonger—at least had to go through Congress, had to go through the Senate.

They had all these different commissions, like many study groups and universities were involved. Then they went to the United Nations. Then Colin Powell came and tried to persuade the Security Council about this. They talked to the Europeans—Chirac famously said no, and that was official between Europe and America. Nonetheless, they couldn't grab Britain; Tony Blair went along. So at least they went through a hundred times more procedure than this. And even back then, I remember I was much younger, just beginning to take part in the anti-war movement. People were saying that wasn't good enough, that America should make a proper global coalition. That wasn't a real global coalition.

But when you compare it with today, that was a much more cooperative attempt. Four people—four people in a gang—decided to do this. Mafia organizations have better decision-making processes for their killings and their actions than this one. It's incredible. I think the American people should be very, very angry about what Trump has done to them, because every time they fill the tank, they should know this isn't a war the government has done. This is a war that Trump and four of his pals have done. That's the government: a man and four of his pals. Even in dictatorships, they have better decision-making. A dictator has people in his court who have his ear, and they discuss things behind the scenes. This is incredible.

## **#Danny**

Yeah, and even if there are, for example, Israel and, of course, financial interests, military-industrial complex interests—even if they all have reasons to go to war with Iran, to try to destroy Iran, to push for regime change in Iran, for whatever reasons, right? Iran as an alternative, Iran's political

system, Iran's relationship with Russia—all these reasons. Regardless, the entirety of the mainstream media, for the most part, other than Fox News, is not happy with the way this went down.

And that, I think, is a huge indication of exactly what you said—not only the decision-making, but also the methodology. The way this war has been carried out is causing a lot of anger, even throughout the establishment, which then begs the question, Ali: there are so many lies about Iran right now, spreading across the political spectrum in the United States and the West. Air defense systems—despite 17 aircraft plus downed Hermes drones and MQ-9 Reapers, and now the F-35 that had to make an emergency landing today—and then you have, “Oh, the missiles are gone, right? They don't have any more missiles.” Iran does.

Well, according to the data calculated here, Iran actually, on March 18th, recorded just as many missile and drone strikes, in terms of volume, as it did at the beginning of this war. So that's not true. And then, of course, Iran—there's air dominance, all these lies happening right now, Ali. Militarily, it seems there's a huge campaign to portray Iran as too weak. I'm wondering why you think that is, and what exactly we can expect from here. Because Iran is saying they're going to keep going and going. And now some are wondering if these missile and drone strikes are becoming more frequent in recent days. Maybe Iran has even more up its sleeve than what we've seen so far.

## **#Ali Alizadeh**

It doesn't necessarily have to become more. Because remember, Danny, in the first few weeks of Iran's actions, they had only one objective—and that objective was to deplete the anti-air missiles from the United States and Israel. And now we know Dubai has very little anti-air defense left. Most American bases are running out of it, and Israel has started running out of many of these anti-air missile layers. That's why now Iran can bring in its slightly more expensive missiles. So that was the strategy from day one. The Iranians who are behind the launchers don't even follow the news—they're not even paying attention to it.

So Trump is wasting his time with these psychological warfare tactics, saying they've run out of missiles or not, because those in charge made their decisions long before that. They prepared themselves for losing the chain of command, knowing that assassination is possibly the most dangerous, powerful, and common weapon of Israel—because they see Israel as a terrorist state. So that's possible. They've been told that if they don't hear anything from the center, that's the map—they have to keep going for the next two weeks, then week three, week four, week five, week seven, week eight, week nine, week ten. What they did was designate many layers of command, so if the first commander is killed or martyred, the second layer takes over, then the third, and so on—up to eight layers. I've heard that this chain of command has been set up in case of assassinations.

And they've also been given a program for what to do over the next few months. In the first phase, it's depletion—then you bring in your big boys, your big drones and missiles, and you start going

after this bank of targets. From the Iranian point of view, this diagram has nothing to do with how the Americans or Israelis have destroyed Iranian launchers. And let me tell you, what Trump and Netanyahu say about hitting Iranian launchers—part of it is true. But actually, that adds to Iran's power. Yesterday, I was talking to someone who said that in Kermanshah, they're bringing back big men—110-kilogram, 200-pound men—in a small five-kilogram bag. These are the young Iranian boys behind the missile launchers, staying there despite all the threats and the possibility of assassination. And they stay there, and they keep going.

If one of them gets martyred, the next one takes over. One launcher gets destroyed, they bring the next launcher from the depots. That's the important resilience that country has. That's why it's nonsense when people think Iran is made of missiles and drones. Iran is made of people who have immense resilience and the will to resist—resist because they're defending their country against aggressors. I'm sure if an aggressive country attacked the United States today, people would behave differently from those who are sent ten, fifteen, twenty thousand kilometers away from home to kill strangers they don't even understand, or know why they're there. That's why—because Iranians are defending—and this is a strong ideology.

They have the will for independence; they have a lot of determination to stay behind the launchers, to get martyred, and then the next one comes, while at the same time they're manufacturing more launchers. That's why the image sold about Iran is nonsense—absurd, a lie from beginning to end—that Iran is running everything. Iran doesn't run out of anything. That's why these missiles will continue. In the last four days, every single missile has carried a warhead of one or two tons—1,000 kilograms, 2,000 kilograms. Most of them are cluster or multi-head warheads. So when they go up, it's impossible for the Israelis to detect them. And that's why, with each passing day, the pain will be more and more on Israel. So let me just tell you why—the lie comes from the Israelis.

Israeli think tanks and Israeli-oriented media are telling these lies to Trump and his administration because Israel believes that with each passing day in this war, they're managing to destroy more of Iran's infrastructure and weaken Iran's power for the long term. Yes, it's true—if this war went to day 28, Israel so far has damaged a lot of Iran's infrastructure. So, in a sense, if I wanted to show you, Iran was here and Israel was up—but on day 30, Iran would rise, and by day 40, the pain Iran inflicts would be much greater. That's why I think it's still too early in the war to judge whether Israel's strategy of prolonging it through these lies is effective or not. In two weeks' time, I'm sure Netanyahu will be begging Trump to offer and impose a ceasefire on Iran, the same way he did before during the twelve-day war.

## **#Danny**

Yeah, I mean, there are indications that that is already happening. Of course, these are unconfirmed reports, but there are high-level members of Israel's so-called cabinet who have already been talking about how this war has been a failure in terms of its objectives. And then there are also unverified reports—unconfirmed reports—but Dropside News reported yesterday that there were multiple

attempts by the Trump administration to reach out to Iran in the wake of everything that's happened, the F-35s, the oil and gas targeting by Iran. And, of course, Iran has been very firm in its approach, which is, "We're not done until we get what we want." So that leads to—Ali, I wanted to ask you, as we get toward the hour here, you mentioned this being a regional war.

You mentioned Yemen hasn't joined yet. Hezbollah is fighting very hard against Israel right now. The Iraqi resistance has, although U.S. CENTCOM says differently—but the Iraqi resistance has taken credit for downing a KC-135. I mean, we have a regional war as we speak. I don't know how the United States—Ali, maybe you can help us understand—how the United States and Israel can win such a war, especially when not even all the elements have come into play. I've been thinking that when the economic situation becomes absolutely, uncontrollably, and intolerably painful, that's when Yemen is actually going to come in and close Bab al-Mandeb, and that will just... lead to a catastrophe unlike anything we've ever seen before. So, your thoughts on the regional nature of this war and how it affects the calculus and trajectory of it?

## **#Ali Alizadeh**

This war was sold to the United States through repetition of a lie by many people, including some liberals who are anti-war today, saying that Iran had been weakened after the assassination of martyr Sayyid Hassan Nasrallah, and after the collapse of Assad's state in Syria and his flight to Russia. They kept saying Iran is weak, weak, weak—and that supposed weakness became the pretext for Trump to attack. And now what do we see? The same "weakened" Hezbollah—the Hezbollah that was supposedly degraded and had to be fully disarmed—has actually paralyzed Israel. I mean, in the north of Israel, and not only the north, Hezbollah is firing rockets and missiles into Tel Aviv—more than 200 missiles in the first two weeks. That's unbelievable.

So you can see Hezbollah hasn't been degraded—yes, maybe partially weakened—but these are resistance groups. And Iran's military is a militarily resistant state. Resistance can never be obliterated because it's in the people's, like, as Trump likes to say, DNA. If you're being attacked, invaded, and occupied, you have every reason and will to fight back. That's why Hezbollah hasn't been degraded. And you can see that's what we've been doing. The Iraqi resistance, which we kept hearing was finished, gone, and needed to be folded into the rest of the Iraqi army—the Iraqi resistance did so much that America ended up being evicted from the country. You remember, just last week around this time, first they gave a warning for Americans to keep a low profile. Then they realized, no, this is too dangerous.

They asked every American in Iraq to leave the country. So, in a sense, Iran so far—with the help of the Iraqi resistance—has liberated Iraq from the remnants of American occupation. And that's very important. If Iran could eliminate the remaining American bases in Iraq, because Iraq is still a partially occupied country, that would be a big victory. It would mean that finally, after about 23 years, with Iran's help, the Iraqi people could enjoy freedom and liberation from the Americans. That's number two. And as I said, Ansarullah's absence has been mystified by many people. Ansarullah

doesn't have to come in yet. Its entry into this war should create shock and awe—and the Iranians don't want that now. They're just warming up.

Iranians are only warming up with a very long-term plan. So Ansarullah will come in when Iran wants to get the upper hand. So far, Iran is just trying to establish itself and stabilize its position. Ansarullah will come in for the endgame, as I said. But let's go back—you asked me before about Trump and the media. In his post on Truth Social two days ago, he mentioned the "bad fake news media" like the New York Times and "radical left" newspapers like the Wall Street Journal. So, in a sense, you'd have to be very delusional to call the Wall Street Journal left-wing, considering it belongs to Murdoch. Murdoch is a man who, I don't know if you know this, has regular private dinners with Donald Trump.

And they've been very close pals until recently. But of course, Murdoch and the Wall Street Journal have loyalty to the market, to the stock market, and to the oligarchs as well. And they know this war is going to be very costly for them, so they have to publish a little bit of the truth. And Trump is very angry. So if the Wall Street Journal or the New York Times gets hit by American drones, don't be surprised. I think Trump, every night before going to sleep, holds more of a grudge against his own American media at the moment than against the Iranians. Joking apart, I think this war—I don't see any off-ramp.

Not because Trump isn't going to come up with an off-ramp, but because the Iranians aren't willing to accept it, as I said before. The only possibility for the Iranians—the end of this war—is when there's enough resistance inside the United States, both from the anti-war movement and also inside MAGA, and even within parts of the American ruling-class establishment who are seeing how being taken hostage by Israel is damaging to their interests. This isn't even like the 2003 war, when the military-industrial complex was benefiting from selling to Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and Bahrain. These countries are not going to buy from America now.

They're all going to tilt toward China and Russia from now on. So I don't think even the military-industrial complex is benefiting much from this. I think Israel is benefiting the most. And as long as there isn't enough resistance to liberate the United States from the shackles of this Israeli hostage-taking, I don't think this war can end properly. But this is an opportunity. With every day that passes, I think there should be more voices—louder voices—against this hostage-taking and against this hijacking of U.S. sovereignty by a bunch of Zionists inside the United States, along with Netanyahu and the rest of his criminal gang.

## **#Danny**

And Ali, now, finally—this has just happened, and I just noticed the reports on it. The Gulf states, seeking to avoid a regional war, came together after the Iranian strikes on Saudi, Qatari—the big ones—but also Kuwaiti energy sites. They came together to condemn Iran. But now it gets even worse. Saudi Arabia is saying that patience in the Gulf is not unlimited, and Saudi's foreign minister

is saying that regional neighbors have significant capabilities with which to respond to Iran's aggression.

Now, this is just unbelievable, Ali. Because in my estimation, if anyone is looking at this objectively, it's the U.S. and Israel that started the war on Iran. It's the U.S. and Israel that were using the Gulf states—Saudi Arabia and others—to launch this war on Iran. And now that Iran has retaliated in this way, they're claiming they're going to enter the war independently to hit back against Iran. Maybe, as we reach the end here, help the audience understand why this might be an absolutely absurd assertion made by Saudi Arabia.

## **#Ali Alizadeh**

Well, first of all, America and Israel have been running about 2,000 sorties a day. So what does Saudi Arabia want to do—add 5, 10, maybe 20 sorties a day? Let it be. From the Iranian point of view, when you're being attacked by an elephant, the addition of one little mouse doesn't change anything. And let me just remind you of something: the Saudis might be deceived by the very expensive weaponry they've bought from the United States. But using that weaponry requires military knowledge, understanding, and will. Back in 1990, when Saddam Hussein invaded Kuwait, he also entered Saudi territory and went up to about 150 kilometers inside Saudi Arabia. The Saudis, having bought all these very expensive airplanes, fighter jets, and tanks from America, realized they couldn't even operate them.

So they called George Bush, the father, and begged him to come to the region to save them. And he came—he brought his bases inside the holy Islamic land of Saudi Arabia, which caused the Saudis a lot of trouble later. And in the end, he sent them a check for \$150 billion. So I don't think the Saudis saying that their patience is limited or unlimited makes any difference. And, as I said, Ansarullah are waiting—a very determined organization that lost about 370,000 of its people in the war Saudi Arabia imposed on them between 2015 and 2020. Three hundred seven thousand Yemenis, most of them innocent civilians, many of them children, were killed by the Saudis. If the Saudis come into this war, Ansarullah would be immediately activated.

The Saudis have to remember what happened back in September 2019, when a swarm of drones came from God knows where—south of Iraq, from Yemen, who knows—and destroyed Aramco. They had to shut down the biggest oil refineries and facilities for weeks. That was when the Saudis realized they were not a rival to Iran, and they came forward with a proposal for détente. So they should just remember that event and not bluff at all. They are not in a position to threaten Iran. They don't have the means to threaten Iran. And from the Iranian point of view, when you're being attacked by the biggest military in the world, it doesn't matter whether a small Qatari or Saudi army joins in or not. It's just ridiculous.

## **#Danny**

Yeah, it doesn't seem to change anything beyond maybe a cosmetic kind of approach to all of this. Well, Ali, is there anything you want to add?

## **#Ali Alizadeh**

It gives legitimacy to Ansarullah to reenter this war—just like everything they did before. I mean, if it wasn't for attacking Khark, Iran wouldn't have Khark Island. Iran wouldn't have the legitimacy to attack Fujairah. If it wasn't for attacking South Pars Field, Iran wouldn't have the legitimacy to attack Qatar. So, in a sense, every move they make just gets them deeper and deeper into the quagmire. I think if they stay silent and stable, it would be better, because so far Iran hasn't done anything preemptively. And if I have one minute—many people criticize the state, asking why not preemptively attack the United States when everyone knew Trump was going to attack Iran.

And now I think Ayatollah Khamenei was right. Iran has never, ever started a war preemptively. Iran claims—and I think that claim is absolutely truthful—that all our wars, not only in the last 47 years of the Islamic Republic but since 1812, have been wars of defense. All of them have been wars defending ourselves. We never start a war, and I think they're correct. They've never escalated preemptively; they always waited for the other side to cross a red line, then they retaliated. So if you look at the last 19 days, Iran hasn't crossed any red lines. That's why none of the countries in the region are in a position to criticize Iran. Saudi Arabia should go and criticize the United States and Israel for attacking Iranian facilities.

## **#Danny**

Yeah, well, I think this is a great place to close. I want to make sure everyone knows that Jadal Media—the link is in the description, tagged here—so you can follow that. Be sure to follow Ali's work. Everyone, hit the like button before you go; that helps boost the show. I want to thank everyone who gave super chats and whatnot, including kind words for Ali. Thank you for your membership, thank you for your comments. Ali, anything you want to say to the audience before we head out of here?

## **#Ali Alizadeh**

I think, you know, the gang of criminals—the gang of those who blackmailed politicians in America—they've played with fire. And everyone, including you and me, Danny, we're going to pay for this fire. Apart from witnessing innocent children dying in Iran now, apart from seeing more civilians paying the price, it's also going to be the working classes across the world, across the globe, who are going to pay for this. So I think it was a bit disappointing not to see millions of people out on the streets opposing this war.

So wherever you are, you should show your opposition to this war. This is a war created by less than a handful of criminally minded people. And people should say no to them—people should say no. We

shouldn't just watch the media and feel frustrated; we should get out on the streets, or in any other way, and oppose it. Because if we don't oppose it now, bigger wars are going to come. We're crossing a very difficult and critical time in history—it's like changing from one world order to the next. And if people don't get engaged with it more sincerely, we're going to have more and more bloody wars.

## **#Danny**

Yeah, I think this war, Ali, is proof of exactly what you just said. These wars are only going to get bigger, and they're only going to get more difficult for wider and wider numbers of people all around the world. Without further ado, everyone, we're going to head out of here. I'm back tomorrow at 2 p.m. Eastern Time. Be sure, on March 20th, to tune in for that. Check the video description for all the ways to support this work—Patreon, Substack, and much more. You can find Ali on Janal Media there as well. I'll see you all tomorrow, 2 p.m. Eastern, March 20th. Bye-bye.