

Marandi: 'BOUNTY on My Head', Iran WIPES Israel & Gulf if US Invades Kharg

The US is planning an invasion of Kharg Island, and Mohammad Marandi goes off on the bounty on his head placed by Israel for exposing the truth and discusses why the planned invasion will end in catastrophe. PATREON.COM/DANNYHAIPHONG Support the channel in other ways: <https://www.buymeacoffee.com/dannyhai...> Substack: chroniclesofhaiphong.substack.com Cashapp: \$Dhaiphong Venmo: @dannyH2020 Paypal: <https://paypal.me/spiritofho> Follow me on Telegram: <https://t.me/dannyhaiphong> #iran #iranwar #trump #israel

#Danny

President Morandi, I wanted to get started right away with the situation. You've actually been targeted by a shady organization on X that had a paid partnership. They were able to get advertising for a bounty on your head. I looked into this organization called Terror Alarm. It's very non-transparent, but some have shown that it's both Ukrainian- and Israeli-affiliated—shocker there. The dangers are very real in Iran right now, but the war is also moving in a very particular direction.

#Mohammad Marandi

Yes, the post is still there, and they're gathering money to do whatever it is they want to do to me. But what else should we expect in today's world? When the United States is openly supporting a Holocaust in Gaza, helping the Israeli regime carry out massacres in Lebanon, engaging in war after war against Iran—unprovoked—and slaughtering women and children. It targets schools, murders hundreds of little kids at an elementary school, and that was not a mistake. That was the first wave of attacks. Those protests—the first targets are always well planned. Maybe, you know, after two or three weeks, an officer would be under pressure to find new targets and he'd make a mistake. But this was no mistake. This was meant to hit where it hurts. And why should it be a mistake? They've been bombing hospitals.

They've been bombing other schools. They've been bombing ambulances on highways. They've been bombing gymnasiums where young women played volleyball—and they massacred them too. They bombed stadiums. They bombed squares in Tehran. Today it was the New Year in Iran, and as people were on the streets celebrating, they bombed them. They bombed demonstrations against the war, in support of the armed forces and the leader, on Friday, where I was present—and they murdered a woman. They bomb protests, they bomb demonstrations, and the Western media looks away. Never in human history—I don't think such a thing has happened. They bombed another, um, a funeral in Hamadan a few days ago. Last night they bombed a gathering of people, a very large gathering, in Anzali City. This is the dystopia that the Western regimes have imposed on the world.

So why wouldn't they target me? Why wouldn't X help them target me? But just as the Iranian people are not intimidated and stand their ground—and we've seen footage of Iranians out on the streets, demonstrating, missiles hitting, and they still stand their ground—they don't budge in Tehran or elsewhere. So how can I do anything different? We have to do what we have to do, regardless of the consequences. And I'll continue to give my opinions and state the facts until the end of the war, assuming I'm alive. The masks have been removed. I think across the world, across the global majority, people see what the West really is.

They see it's the Epstein class. They see that the Epstein class really runs everything. The media—whether it's the so-called left, the right, or the liberals—the mainstream media is theirs. It belongs to the Zionists and the oligarchy, and so does the government. So that's a good thing, I think. It's a good thing that people see the reality. We're no longer living in an environment where many people remain ignorant and others are naive, allowing them to manipulate public opinion. The only people left to manipulate are, for the most part, in the West—and even that's becoming increasingly difficult.

#Danny

There are lots of reports about a coming U.S. invasion of Iran. Detailed preparations are being made to deploy U.S. ground forces. There are now two MEUs—Marine Expeditionary Units—coming from various parts of the world, San Diego and Japan, or Okinawa, I should say. And there are plans being considered, Professor Ryan—I want your reaction to this—to blockade Karg Island, to pressure the opening of the Strait of Hormuz, which would mean they'd have to occupy Karg Island through a military operation.

#Mohammad Marandi

Well, an escalation would basically mean that the oil and gas installations—the infrastructure across the Persian Gulf, West Asia, and the Caucasus—would be destroyed. We already saw, a couple of days ago, that the Israeli regime, with full coordination, attacked Iran's vital gas infrastructure. Iran struck back very hard. Iran said it would do so on day one, and it forced Trump to back down for now. He pretended that he had no idea—or maybe he really didn't, because he's utterly ignorant.

But he said that the Israeli regime will no longer do this. He came to the realization that the Iranians are dead serious. Over the last three weeks, they've failed to stop Iranian missiles or drones. They haven't hit any of Iran's underground missile or drone bases, or the factories that produce them. The Iranian people are resilient—they're out on the streets every night. So how are they going to defeat Iran? Iran has shown it's capable, it's united, and it's serious about its threats. That's exactly what happened.

They destroyed a significant part of the gas installations in Qatar because of the bases in that country and because Iran's vital gas infrastructure was targeted. So Trump knows Iran is serious. If

they bring in troops, that escalation will cause much greater destruction. It will fail. Ultimately, the United States will fail in this war. The Israeli regime will fail in this war. The longer it lasts, the worse it's going to be for the global economy, and I think it's going to be catastrophic for the American people. I mean, Iranians will suffer, but we are victims—we're defending ourselves. This is a war for survival, and we will make sure our enemy is defeated.

#Danny

What explains the obsession with Kharg Island, Professor Morandi? The Trump administration and the Western mainstream media talk about it as the crown jewel of Iran's oil exports. They describe it almost like a checkmate—if the United States occupies Kharg Island, if it takes it over, then the Strait of Hormuz will have to reopen because Iran will no longer be able to exert leverage over this key waterway. What's your reaction to that? Because it's a very treacherous and perilous potential operation. It would come with losses. But at the same time, it seems the Trump administration is saying that the strategic importance of Kharg Island trumps, for lack of a better term, any other considerations.

#Mohammad Marandi

It's Kharg Island. It doesn't actually have any oil; that's just where the oil is transported to so it can be loaded onto ships, onto tankers. But a couple of things are important. First of all, if Iran's oil exports are halted, that would only make the crisis worse, because others won't have access to Iran's oil. This is just a place where the oil is loaded onto ships, so if they cut Iran's exports, that will only add to the crisis. Iran's oil exports, of course, are much smaller compared to the Arab family dictatorships on the other side of the Persian Gulf because of sanctions over all these years. But it will only make things worse if Iran's exports are cut.

And Iran has been sanctioned for all these years. We've gone through periods where we were exporting almost nothing because of the maximum pressure sanctions. We've already been there. We can take the hit much more easily than Europeans and Americans. When Europeans and Americans find out that the price of energy has gone through the roof—and that it was done by Trump for nothing, just for the sake of Israel, for the sake of the genocidal Zionists who are slaughtering Palestinians in Gaza and the Lebanese in Beirut and elsewhere—I don't think it's going to end well in the United States. I think it's going to create political instability there.

So Iran's ability to absorb pain is much greater than that of the United States, especially since we're the victim. We did not start this war. We did not invade the United States. We never threatened the United States. And of course, Joe Kent's resignation basically proves that everything Iran said was true. Iran was not seeking a nuclear weapon. Iran was not a threat to the United States. This war was waged to please the Israeli regime and to satisfy the Zionist oligarchy and lobby in the United States. That's what we all knew. But now someone from inside, near the very top and associated with Trump, has admitted it.

#Danny

It seems like the U.S. and Israel—we saw Benjamin Netanyahu, I think, supposedly—it appears that he was live at a press conference. Also, social media is still very much on fire about his whereabouts and his status. I think that says a lot about people's view of Israel at this point. But more to the point, Professor Moradi, Israel and the United States are pushing for further escalation. So I'm wondering, why do this if, as Donald Trump says, everything has been militarily destroyed? He says this almost every time he's on camera—he says that Iran's air defenses are destroyed, Iran's missile systems are destroyed, the military has been weakened. And of course, they've been decapitating and striking leaders, killing leaders. But then, why do this? And what do you make of how the war has been going up until this point, given that now the U.S. and Israel are choosing this path of what's potentially—definitely—a catastrophic escalation?

#Mohammad Marandi

Because they've lost the war. Because he's lying. Iran's Navy—the naval assets that are actually useful for war—are all in tunnels, deep underground along the Persian Gulf coast and the Gulf of Oman, waiting for the time to attack. These speedboats have missiles: anti-ship missiles, sea-to-surface missiles, sea-to-sea missiles. They have everything they need to destroy their antagonists. So the Navy is very much there. The U.S. has not been able to touch Iran's missile and drone capabilities. Iran is hammering U.S. assets across the board. That's why the price of energy has gone up so much—because the United States is unable to stop Iran. It's unable to stop its missiles or drones, nor is the Israeli regime able to do so. Remember, during the first few days they kept lying and saying that Iran was—uh—running out of missiles.

They're running out of drones. They're running out of launchers. "We've destroyed everything"—that was three weeks ago. And yet the Iranian strikes are growing stronger and more devastating by the day, especially over the last few days. We're seeing less and less anti-missile activity across the board because those systems have been wiped out. So it's not going well, and Trump is desperate. But instead of doing the smart thing—walking away and pretending he won, like he did with Yemen—remember, he had a seven-week war with the people of Yemen.

And he carried out all sorts of atrocities. And Hegseth, like him, kept claiming great victories, saying they were slaughtering everyone and defeating the enemy, that the enemy was on its knees. Then, after seven weeks, Trump said they had capitulated and walked away. He was the one who had capitulated. But this war is something different. Iran's capabilities are infinitely larger. And by the way, Yemen is going to enter the war soon as well. Iran hasn't escalated. The overwhelming majority of Iranian assets haven't been used yet. Its latest technology hasn't been used.

You and I have discussed this many times. This is nothing new. Anyone can go back to our discussions from last year, or just a few months ago—maybe even two years back. And I've been

saying the same thing throughout. Everything that's happening now, I've explained in detail multiple times on your show. So there's no surprise. It's clear that Iranian capabilities are much greater than what they're using right now. And the resistance in Iraq—their capabilities are also much greater than what they're using now. The escalation ladder is something we'll use wisely. But Iran and the axis of resistance can go far higher than where we are now.

If Yemen enters the war now—if they go after key Saudi assets and installations, shut down the Red Sea, and the Iraqi resistance expands its operations, destroying U.S. assets in northern Iraq and perhaps even taking Kuwait—and then if Iran begins to fire its more advanced weapons, and the United States tries to take this island, which is flat, the Iranians will just hammer it and hammer it, killing more and more Americans. And what will happen while all this is going on? The global economy will collapse. And the world will know who did it. They'll say it was Donald Trump, but more importantly, it was all because of Zionism. And who are the Zionists? They're the genocidal maniacs who slaughter in Gaza, the genocidal maniacs who bomb apartment blocks in Lebanon.

And Western journalists based in Lebanon call these Hezbollah strongholds. Why? Because they're foot soldiers of the Epstein class—too cowardly to tell the truth, that they're just slaughtering civilians. So, while the Western media tries to pretend everything is going well—if it really were going well, Trump wouldn't need all these countries to join him and help open the Strait of Hormuz. If Iran were obliterated, destroyed, collapsing, then why is he so angry? Why does he need more troops? It's obvious he's lost the war, and he'll continue to lose it. He's digging himself deeper into a hole, and it will not end well for him. It will not end well for the world, but it will not end well for him—and it will not end well for Zionism, because the world knows who is behind this.

#Danny

Well, Donald Trump has just come out and lambasted NATO, calling it a paper tiger—and, ironically, that includes the United States, given that, as he's also said, NATO is nothing without the U.S. But he's grown very angry over the fact that no other countries are falling in line with his overall objective of opening, quote-unquote, the Strait of Hormuz, which to me personally seems like a fantasy at this point, given that much of what Iran has done already seems irreversible unless Iran decides to change its course. But a lot of what we've seen, I think, shows that Iran's capabilities—even if they were smaller or more limited—would still be enough to effectively shut the Strait down.

So it's a big problem right now, Professor Morandi. And then you have reports—I don't know if you saw them—saying that the missile fire Iran is conducting against Israel is causing social calamity. There are people saying they haven't slept in days because they're constantly hearing sirens going off every few hours, if not more often. Reports say Iran is actually increasing the volume of its strikes steadily, and it's obvious there's a strategy here. Can you comment on this? Because a lot of reports in the West have said that Iran's capabilities have been, as you've noted, eradicated. But now more and more people are realizing that Iran has far more to go and is carrying out a plan—and I don't think the U.S. and Israel were prepared for that.

#Mohammad Marandi

A couple of things, Danny. First of all, opening the Strait of Hormuz—even if it were possible, and I don't think the Americans can do it—but even if it were possible, if there's no more oil and gas, if the infrastructure has been destroyed, if there are no more tankers, what's the use? If they take Kharg Island and everything is destroyed, then what victory is there? The Americans will have to withdraw, not just from this region but from across the world, because the economy will collapse. All those hundreds of bases will have to be emptied. I think a lot of soldiers around the world will be stranded because the United States simply won't have the ability to bring them home.

I don't think that Trump and his gang understand what a global economic collapse would actually mean. I don't think they fully comprehend what's at stake here, especially at a time when the global economy is not doing well at all. People have been discussing how we're on the threshold—the global economy is on the threshold—of disaster anyway, even before this crisis, before the price of energy kept going up and up. So, that aside—and of course, the Caucasus won't remain capable of exporting oil or gas either if push comes to shove—but all that aside, I think if you look at the situation right now in Iraq, if you look at the situation in Yemen, if you look at the situation across West Asia, across the region, people are outraged.

And for the first time, they're seeing the empire being punished. No one—no one except these corrupt elites—is sympathizing with Qatar. No one is sympathizing with the Saudi regime or the UAE, despite the propaganda from their media outlets. People don't like them. People hate them. People see them for what they are. People see their statement—the statement that Erdogan, Sisi, Abdullah, and these dictators in the Persian Gulf put together against Iran—without even condemning the war that the U.S. and Israeli regimes carried out. And they condemned Iran for striking U.S. assets in these regimes, even though their territory is being used against Iran.

They're firing HIMARS missiles. Their airplanes are flying from these areas. Their bases are being used against Iran. They are waging war against Iran. They're part of the war effort. I mean, to say that they are neutral is an insult to our intelligence. And the Iranians are actually being very, very wise and humane. When they strike Iran, they don't tell anyone beforehand what they're going to do. When the carpet bombing starts, we sit at home, we sit at work, we sit wherever we are, waiting to see if we're going to be killed or not. But when the Iranians retaliated against Qatar and the Emirates, they told everyone to leave those areas.

#Danny

Yeah, they even released the full outline of where they were actually going to strike.

#Mohammad Marandi

And many Iranians were upset. They said, well, this is going to help them shoot down drones and missiles. But the Iranians did it anyway, and they succeeded in destroying everything they meant to destroy. So the region has changed. People see the U.S., the Trump regime, as vulnerable, as incapable of winning a war against Iran and the Axis of Resistance. And this is something that people across the Global South are seeing as well. People are seeing that the emperor actually has no clothes—the emperor is not the power that no one can confront or resist.

It is actually quite vulnerable and weak, and that will have huge implications. Again, this is without even going into the issue of economic collapse, because when economic collapse happens, it's going to have consequences beyond anyone's imagination. Tens of millions of people, if not more, will be on the move—from Africa, from Asia, from Latin America—and they'll be going to places that are collapsing themselves. That's what economic collapse means. Nowhere will be spared, but everyone will know who to blame.

#Danny

How Trump has lashed out at allies—what that says.

#Mohammad Marandi

It just shows how weak he is. It just shows how he's failed. And it just shows how either U.S. intelligence, Zionist intelligence, and Mossad intelligence are overrated, or that the people around Trump are lying to him—or that Trump is lying. All of these things were predictable. You and I have been discussing this for a couple of years. Your audience knows this quite well. Everyone can go over our discussions from months ago, and we've gone over all of this. It was clear as day that this would happen. It was clear as day that the United States would fail. But whenever I said this, these mainstream Western journalists and think tankers would call me a mouthpiece of the regime.

#Danny

They're still pulling out their hair over you, Professor Ramdi. There's a target on you now, according to these, um, Israeli-Ukrainian Zionist, you know, shadow entities, because you've been on mainstream media in the UK and elsewhere. I know you were on, I think, Newsmax recently too. And they're still pulling out their hair every time you speak, despite the fact that, in reality, people have been sharing what you said back in 2024—literally exactly what Iran was going to do. Not because you had insider knowledge, but because you'd been following what Iran was already doing.

You've been following what Iran was saying. You know, Ray McGovern, a friend of this show, says all the time that when he was in the CIA as an analyst, briefing the president, he'd say, "Hey, how about you read what the Soviet Union is saying about things, and maybe you'll learn something." And that's kind of what you've been doing. And still, it's hard for them to believe that what you said

as far back as 2024—yes, on this program, on Sky News—made them pull out their hair. But what’s happened is exactly what you said.

#Mohammad Marandi

I actually said this before COVID. I once said it on Press TV, and it went somewhat viral a few years ago. People in the Persian Gulf were saying, “Well, why would Iran do this?” And I said, “Well, if you attack Iran—if the U.S. attacks Iran—with all those bases in the Persian Gulf that you’ve given them and that you pay for…” It’s not just that they don’t pay for those bases; they’re given the land, and all the costs are covered by the Qataris and others. They even allowed them, during the 12-day war, to use those bases to help the Israeli regime—just like Turkey did as well. Those drones that murdered General Soleimani came from Doha, from Qatar, from the U.S. base there. They flew from there to Iraq and murdered him. So what they’ve been doing to Iran is nothing new. The Iranians have tolerated this.

During the 1980s, when the West encouraged Saddam Hussein to invade Iran, they gave him chemical weapons—especially the Germans—but the collective West was behind it. These Arab family dictatorships gave him \$200 to \$250 billion back then, and dollars were worth a lot more than today. But after the war ended, Iran forgave them. When Saddam went into Kuwait, they changed their policy. Iran forgave them again. Or take Qatar, which supported ISIS and al-Qaeda in Syria and backed the Saudi genocide in Yemen alongside Erdogan. Erdogan supported the genocide in Yemen, and he supported ISIS and al-Qaeda in Syria. And, of course, now we see from Joe Kent—he’s saying this was all done by the Americans. ISIS, al-Qaeda—this was all our thing. And General Soleimani was fighting against them. Things got out of hand. And, interestingly, Kent still thanks Trump for murdering General Soleimani. No moral compass there.

#Mohammad Marandi

But the point is, Qatar supported the genocide in Yemen. They supported these genocidal monsters in Syria, which greatly benefited Qatar and Erdogan—and, in turn, the Israeli regime. The treachery is just unbelievable. But when the Saudis and the Emiratis turned against Qatar, Iran saved it—without getting any concessions, without saying, “Okay, you have to do this for us, you have to give us that.” Nothing. And then again, after the 12-day war, Iran didn’t go after them. After the murder of General Soleimani, Iran didn’t do anything. But now it’s not going to be the same anymore. Iran will not accept, in the future, these regimes—if they survive—behaving the way they did over the past 47 years.

#Danny

No, and the results are already there. I mean, in just a brief 24-hour—less than 24-hour—period, Iran essentially crippled Qatar’s capacity to pump gas for years. Qatar Energy was hit, and some analysts are saying it’s going to take months just to get it operable again, and then three to five years for it to return to what it was doing before the war.

#Mohammad Marandi

And this is just the tip of the iceberg.

#Danny

Just the tip of the iceberg, exactly.

#Mohammad Marandi

So if the Americans expand the war—if they try to take Iranian territory—Iran can wipe out everything. And that’s it, it’s finished. Then they no longer need this trade of hormones, and the U.S. economy will collapse. The U.S. armed forces will collapse. But Trump—whether it’s that I don’t know what they have on him, what he’s done to little girls, or it’s Miriam Adelson, or the money, or his son-in-law, or his daughter, or they’ve convinced him that he is... I don’t know what role he used to play. I have no idea. Maybe it’s a combination of all these things. I have no idea what goes on in this madman’s mind—the deranged mind of this fool. But he is pushing the world toward disaster. And a lot of people, Danny, are saying, “Let him do it.”

Let him do it. The system is so corrupt that people across the world—you can see it on social media, in their responses to some of my interviews, and I’m sure in others—they’re saying, “Let it collapse.” This system is so bankrupt, so horrible. I mean, I personally don’t want to see the global economy collapse, because people will die of hunger across the world. But I understand why people would say this. People in Iran and across the world say, “Look, this system that the West has created is so horrific, so unjust, so corrupt, so...” You know, everything’s in the hands of the Epstein clan. I understand why they would want, or at least be prepared, to accept a collapse. I understand why they would say that.

#Danny

Obviously, there are U.S. interests in trying to weaken and destroy Iran. We've covered that together, and we've covered it separately for so long.

#Mohammad Marandi

There are no U.S. interests. There are no U.S. interests. U.S. interests would be in having good relations with Iran. Zionist interests are for the United States to confront Iran. That’s all there is to it.

There's no reason whatsoever for the United States to be antagonistic toward Iran or Russia. There's no reason whatsoever—no logical reason. But it's the Zionist lobby, the Zionist regime, that wants control. Remember what the U.S. ambassador said to the regime in Tel Aviv: he said, if they take the whole region, that's fine.

And they are, of course, the most moral army in the world, too. So they can take the whole region and just slaughter everyone. That is unofficial U.S. policy. That is the policy of the West—the unofficial policy. So this is where we are right now. But none of this is in the interest of the United States. The U.S. ambassador to the Israeli regime is not looking out for the interests of the United States. He's an enemy of the United States, a traitor to the United States, an asset for the Israeli regime.