

# Seyed M. Marandi: Iran's Next Move: Israel's Energy & Water Systems

**#Nima**

Hi, everybody. Today's Tuesday, March 24th, 2026, and our dear friend and brother, Professor Seyed M. Marandi, is here with us. Welcome back, Professor Marandi.

**#Seyed**

Thank you, Nima. It's always a pleasure to be on your show. And once again, I just want to apologize to you personally, because I always call you Nima, even though you're a university professor.

**#Nima**

Let me start with the new head of the Supreme National Security Council, who was announced just hours ago. His name is Mohammad Bagheri. We know that he's the former IRGC commander, and he's very prominent in Iran. But outside of Iran—among English-speaking audiences, mostly in the West—people don't really know who he is, what his position is, or how close he is to the Supreme Leader of Iran. What are his policies toward the ongoing war with the United States? What can we learn from his understanding of the current war between Iran and the United States?

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If I recall correctly, he studied economics as a young man, then at the University of Tehran—a very good university for economics, probably the best traditionally. I think he also did his M.A. in economics. Then he went on to military college or something along those lines. So he's highly educated. He fought as a volunteer in the war, then joined the Guards and fought throughout the war. So he's a war hero. He's held key positions over the decades, and more recently he was in a high-ranking position in the Expediency Council, which deals with all issues in the country, both local and international. So he's a very good choice. Dr. Larijani, of course, is a loss—he did a fantastic job—but this is also a very good choice.

I think it's clear that Iran's policy under Ayatollah Seyed Mojtaba Khamenei is one of continuity. It's clear that Iran is going to take a tough approach in this war and will continue to do so. It's not going to accept any ceasefire, because a ceasefire basically means that Trump and Netanyahu will go back to the drawing board, rearm, and start killing kids again. That's not going to happen. So Iran is going to continue down this road and change the facts on the ground so that the Persian Gulf

region, in the future, will never again be a platform for murdering Iranians. As for the regimes—the Arab family dictatorships—if they last, they can no longer be allowed to provide bases for conspiring against Iran.

As we speak, Nima, this is something that many people don't know. The Emirates and Saudi Arabia not only provide airspace—that's what all of them do—and allow them to fire from their territory and use their air bases, like Saudi Arabia does and Jordan does, but they also fund the war. These three countries—I don't know about Kuwait, and I don't know about Bahrain—but the Emirates, Qatar, and Saudi Arabia fund the war. They pay the United States; they give financial assistance for the war. That's what they've been doing since the beginning. So they have a lot of blood on their hands.

And they are aggressors. In the future, Iran is going to have to make sure this never happens again. The facts on the ground will have to remain such that Iran's security is guaranteed for decades to come. Also, Iran will demand reparations, and it will get them from these regimes. You know, this isn't the first time they've betrayed Iran. After the revolution, when the U.S. encouraged Saddam to invade our country, they gave him hundreds of billions of dollars to carry out the war. Those chemical weapons that the Germans gave Saddam were used to slaughter so many Iranians. I survived two chemical attacks myself, and many didn't survive.

The money came from those hundreds of billions of dollars that these countries gave him. And then General Soleimani—he was a great hero who stood up against ISIS and Al Qaeda. How was he murdered? The drone took off from Qatar. So all these regimes are complicit in the actions of the United States. Iran will demand reparations, and Iran will demand that its allies are protected, that aggression does not continue against them. The ceasefires in Gaza and Lebanon are just fake ceasefires. They keep killing people; they've been killing people throughout this last year on a daily basis. That will have to end.

So there are key demands that the Iranians are making. And until Iran feels that real change has been brought about, it will continue to fight. Because, as I said, a ceasefire is useless. It only gives the Zionists an opportunity to regroup, to rearm, and to start all over again. So Iran is saying, we're going to finish it. Because eight or nine months ago, we defeated them. They begged for a ceasefire. Netanyahu, as we all know, was begging Trump to save him. As Steve Bannon said—I heard him say it twice myself. So, even though they were defeated, in less than a year they started another war against Iran.

## **#Nima**

Professor Marandi, yesterday Donald Trump suddenly came out and said that after issuing a 48-hour ultimatum to attack Iran's infrastructure and power grids, he was going to extend it to five days because negotiations between Iran and the United States were going so positively. What has happened, and what's your understanding of what Donald Trump is doing?

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There are no negotiations, and there are no plans for negotiations. So that's just propaganda. He said this one hour before the markets opened, and he extended it five days. And surprise, surprise—the five days end after the markets close on Friday. So it's clear he's trying to manipulate the market to keep the price of energy down. But there are no negotiations. Also, I think he's very concerned—fearful—that if he starts targeting Iran's vital infrastructure... And notice that no media outlet in the West is screaming that these are crimes against humanity. None of them. His opponents don't say that. It just shows how corrupt the West is—how corrupt Western media is, how corrupt Western institutions are, how corrupt Western elites are. Just like now in Cuba—they're strangling the entire country, and no one in the Western media cares, because they just... they have no humanity.

This is—the media is owned and controlled by the Epstein class, and these journalists, they're just tools. Just like, you know, politicians are tools. There's no difference. You know, whether it's Venezuela or Cuba or Iran or elsewhere—Syria, Lebanon. In Lebanon, you know, they bomb apartment blocks, bring them down, and the media calls them Hezbollah strongholds. Why? Because they want to help with the genocide. So the Iranians have not been negotiating. Trump, though, is fearful—perhaps, I mean, I'm sure he is—that Iran will retaliate if he carries out these crimes. And Iran said it will hit back much harder. Iran has already proven that before, because when the Israelis bombed the Iranian gas infrastructure at the South Pars gas field, Iran hit back—and it was done with full American coordination.

I mean, when Trump says he didn't know, that's nonsense. Maybe personally he didn't know because he was playing golf or distracted by some woman. But without a doubt, the Americans knew. So when the Iranians retaliated, as they had promised, and destroyed significant parts of Qatar's gas infrastructure, as well as the Saudi and Emirati infrastructure, he backed down and said, "I didn't know about this. The Israelis won't do it again." But it's quite possible he still will. So right now, I think the reason he extended this for five days is to manipulate the prices—but also because he's fearful of what the Iranians will do.

But there could also be a third element, and this is something the Iranians take very seriously—and that is, he's buying time to conspire against Iran. He may want to escalate, whether in the Persian Gulf or by striking key civilian and vital infrastructure, or both. But the Iranians are prepared. They've said that if he attacks Iran and tries to invade the country, they will defeat him. And if the war escalates in any way or form, Iran will escalate. And the irony is that, Nima, if Trump escalates, that means the oil and gas infrastructure on the other side of the Persian Gulf will be destroyed. The tankers will be destroyed. So let's say, down the road, there's a halt in hostilities and Iran achieves its demands—there won't be any oil, gas, petrochemicals, or fertilizers.

And there won't be any ships to carry those non-existent products. So it would just lead to an economic depression far worse than 1929. And the world will say Trump did it. It will say the Zionists did it. This is not going to end well for Zionism, because the world sees this war as—Kent,

Joe Kent, in his resignation letter and in his interviews—has clearly pointed out something we already knew. I mean, you knew this, I knew this, your viewers knew this. But this is an important document for history. This war was carried out despite Iran not being a threat, despite the fact that Iran was not pursuing a nuclear weapon. This war was carried out because of Zionism. And when the misery sets in, people will be saying, “They did it to us.”

## **#Nima**

We are witnessing a total shift in Trump’s strategy with this war against Iran. The war started on the premise of so-called regime change in Iran, and now it’s shifting. Yesterday we saw how they were attacking the head of state and the Iranian parliament—somehow not directly attacking, you know, but it was a kind of attack because they wanted to suggest he’s negotiating behind the scenes with Donald Trump, that he’s doing something different and he’s behind it. What are they trying to do? It doesn’t seem like they really understand what’s going on in Iran—the unity that has been forming and is getting stronger.

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Yeah, it’s possible, although it’s so poorly done that it’s hard to tell whether he was actually trying to divide the Iranians or not. It’s not going to work. Ghalibaf, who is a professor at the University of Tehran—it’s very interesting. They always call Iran “the mad mullahs” and so on. I mean, Ayatollah Khamenei—both the martyr and the current Ayatollah Khamenei—are high-ranking scholars. The father knew four languages; the son, I know, knows three. Both are philosophers, thinkers, and men of literature. I think I mentioned this before. Dr. Larijani, who was martyred, was a professor at the University of Tehran, a professor of Western philosophy. Dr. Ghalibaf is also a professor at the University of Tehran.

I mean, the leaders in Iran are much more highly educated than Western leaders—and much more sophisticated. But Dr. Ghalibaf is a war hero. He fought as a volunteer when Saddam Hussein invaded the country, and he has the backing of the leader, Ayatollah Seyed Mujtaba Khamenei. So no one is going to accept the Trump narrative—someone who lies all the time, and even his tweets are full of grammatical and spelling mistakes. This is not going to work. The Iranians are going to continue until they feel assured that six months from now there won’t be another war, a year from now there won’t be another invasion, a year and a half from now we won’t suddenly be waking up to see 200 little girls murdered in another school. That’s not going to happen again.

## **#Nima**

We learned yesterday that Iran, the United States, and Israel attacked some energy sites in Khorramshahr and Isfahan. How serious was that?

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I don't think they were that important. I don't know the details, but I don't think they were targeting any critical infrastructure. But Iran said that any strike on Iran's critical infrastructure would be met with a much more severe response. So have no doubt—if they did that... I mean, they did strike. Just today—your viewers should keep this in mind—just today they struck the border between Iran and Iraq. They bombed government employees who are in charge of regulating trade on the border. I mean, what sort of monsters do that? And remember, all of these strikes are coordinated. So customs officers—what crime have they committed? Or people who are just taking goods, buying and selling goods?

And I may have said this on your show last week—I'm not sure—but a friend of mine, his brother-in-law is a businessman. He hired two truck drivers—well, the truck drivers own their own trucks—to take goods from his city to another city, or maybe the other way around, I don't know. They bombed them and killed them. Two ordinary truck drivers. I mean, this is the viciousness of the Trump regime and the U.S. Armed Forces. They're a bunch of criminals, these pilots. They're like Zionists—they just slaughter and kill. They bomb ambulances. They've carried out many double-tap attacks. I tweeted about one of them. I'm sure you saw that woman who survived the first strike—she was filming, and then she was killed. And this is evidence, clear evidence for people to see. They bomb demonstrations.

People in their millions came out on the streets to defend the state and the armed forces—and they fired missiles at them. I was at one last Friday, on International Quds Day. They show solidarity for Palestine on the last Friday of Ramadan. They bombed them; they killed a woman. They fired missiles at people, and no one budged. People stood their ground. I've never seen anything like it. I've never heard of such a thing in my life. No one stumbled, there was no stampede, no one ran away—and it was documented. And Western media doesn't show it. Why? Because they're tools of empire. I mean, I don't know if you know—I think I told you—but right now, I think about five days ago, there's a verified Twitter account with a paid partnership.

The tweet is still there. They're fundraising a million dollars to kidnap me—and of course that means they'll torture me and kill me. They'll murder me. Despite the fact that many, many thousands of people have complained, if anyone checks the tweet, it's clear. And still, Musk refuses to remove it. His employees refuse to remove it. It's open warfare against people. They want to silence the resistance. They want to silence those who criticize the Western empire. It's not just about murdering little girls at school and blaming the Iranians. I mean, what Trump did was try to say that Iran fired Tomahawk missiles at their own school. And what's your immediate reaction? They didn't care. They don't care. And these are the same lies we've been hearing about Iran for the last forty-seven years.

I mean, just like they send in those terrorists—they arm them, they create an armed uprising—3,117 people are killed, and they blame Iran. They brought in the terrorists. They slaughtered hundreds of police officers and volunteers on the streets. You know, one of the police officers—while they were

killing him—his wife called, and the terrorists answered the phone and said, “We’re slaughtering your husband. We’re slaughtering your husband.” That’s who these monsters were. And then they blame Iran. But young kids—a lot of these young kids who were fooled by the Western narratives, who went out on the streets and got involved in this—not that they carried arms like the terrorists, but they were out there, misguided—they see what the West is doing. They see what the Israeli regime is doing. They see them bomb hospitals and schools, and then try to blame Iran.

So they're waking up to reality. This is how the West works. I can be threatened—no problem. I know many journalists, as you know. They've spoken to me during these twenty-some days, they follow me. But not a single Western journalist has called to ask what's going on. Not a single person has condemned this. Not a single person is investigating. No one in Western governments. That's just how it is. But of course, I'm going to continue doing what I do. When these young kids are out on the streets, they can't be intimidated, even when missiles are fired at them. I mean, who am I to go and hide somewhere when these teenagers are standing their ground against empire? So this is the reality of the Western empire that we're experiencing. It's becoming uglier, more unpredictable, more ruthless—but it is collapsing.

## **#Nima**

There are two articles in the Wall Street Journal and the New York Times, both pointing out that Saudi Arabia and the UAE are somehow, as you've mentioned, not doing their part in this war. When do you see the moment when the Yemenis and Salah join the fight? It doesn't seem that Iran needs them right now, but do you see them joining the fight at some point down the road? We know how fragile those governments are in their own countries, and that could lead to some sort of regime change there. I think that's a serious concern, you know.

## **#Seyed**

Yeah, of course. I mean, Iran didn't start this war. This war was initiated by Trump and his allies, just like the twelve-day war. Iran doesn't want the Persian Gulf to be destroyed. It doesn't want the global economy to collapse. That's what the Americans and the Zionists are bringing about. Because, at least in Washington or Israel, they don't care about the U.S. economy. They don't care about the Indian economy, or the Chinese economy, or the Brazilian economy. They couldn't care less. It's all for Zionism and the Israeli regime. They'll sacrifice America for Israel. Iran doesn't want escalation. Iran wants the Persian Gulf to be a center for commerce and trade, where people can build better lives through business, trade, and interaction.

So, Iran did not start the war. Iran is not escalating the war. But if the Trump regime and the Netanyahu regime—and they're one and the same, there's no difference—if they escalate, Iran will escalate much further. And they've already proven this. When they struck the gas installations, the Iranians said, “We'll strike back much harder.” And they did. There's a big possibility that things will escalate soon—whether it's destroying or targeting Iran's critical infrastructure, committing crimes

against humanity, or expanding the war and bringing in Marines. Either way, Iran will escalate in a much bigger way than the U.S. and the Israeli regime.

And they will destroy those assets—those oil and gas facilities and electrical power plants—on the other side of the Persian Gulf. And then that's the end of Trump's presidency, because we'll go into a global economic depression. They won't be able to sustain the war. People in the United States will be up in arms. He will fail. I mean, it will come at a great cost, obviously, to the world and to Iran, but he will fail. So hopefully he'll be convinced to go down a sane path—but he's not very sane or stable, so who knows. But Yemen—there's no need for them to engage now, because so far the war has failed. But if it escalates, escalation could lead to Yemen being directly involved.

They've already said they're going to get involved. And the Iraqis are engaged, but they can go much further. The Iraqis can sweep into the Arabian Peninsula. They could take Kuwait in a day, and we'd support them. They can go south, and Yemen can move deep inside what is today called Saudi Arabia. I mean, after all, it's named after a family. Do you really think the Saudi people are going to sacrifice themselves for a country that's named after a family? The Emirates has, what, about a million passport holders—what are they going to do? Saudi Arabia has already lost the war against Yemen, even though they've had the entire region and the world behind them. Seven years of genocidal war against Yemen.

The Americans blocked the Red Sea to impose starvation. The entire region, including Qatar and Turkey, was part of the genocide until Saudi Arabia and the Emirates turned against Qatar, and then Qatar tilted away—and so did Erdogan. But they had the entire world behind them, and ultimately, after seven years, the Yemenis forced them to kneel. They accepted a ceasefire after Yemen started destroying their key oil installations. Saudi Arabia and the other Arab regimes can no longer export oil or gas from the Persian Gulf, and the Emirates cannot export gas from outside the Persian Gulf. There's only Saudi oil going through pipelines to the Red Sea—and that can be stopped at any moment, at any moment.

And then the oil crisis is going to get much worse, even though it's already getting worse by the day, because this shortage is building up. It's getting worse and worse. I mean, they're using different measures—it's like taking aspirin—but it's still getting worse, and they're not dealing with the problem as they should. And if they escalate, it's going to get far worse. So Saudi Arabia is very vulnerable. If they choose to escalate, they'll bring collapse upon themselves, because right now Iran is showing restraint. Again, Iran did not start the war. Iran and its allies did not want this war. But if the other side escalates, this side will escalate much further. And if Saudi Arabia and the Emirates push harder, that gives Iran and its allies the opportunity to deal with them in a very different way.

**#Nima**

One of the crucial points raised by the Iranians, which was mentioned by the Supreme Leader of Iran, Ayatollah Khamenei, and later reiterated by IRGC Commander Mohsen Rezaei, was that there must be full compensation for all losses. One of the main points in this, connected to the case of the Strait of Hormuz, is that Iran seems to have every possible leverage to pressure these Arab states to pay for that.

## **#Seyed**

That's right. Yes, absolutely correct. I would advise your viewers, if they can get a hold of Mohsen Rezaei's interview on Iranian television last night—I saw parts of it translated—I think it's worth watching because it shows how confident the Iranians are. As I said, people are on the streets; they stand their ground, and so do the armed forces. I mean, Americans were saying after three or four days that Iran was running out of missiles, running out of drones, that they'd destroyed all their factories. Well, then why is Iran hitting harder and harder over the last seven, eight, nine days?

It's obviously just propaganda. I remember reading that during the Vietnam War, every day the Americans would give some kind of report on how many Vietnamese had died that day. Then someone did a calculation—I'm not sure if it was accurate—but when he added those numbers up, it turned out to be more than the population of Vietnam. So they just make up numbers and say, "We're destroying them." That's what they did in Yemen. Remember, every day Hadi's side was saying, "We're destroying them, we've crushed them." And then Trump would say the same thing. And suddenly, after seven weeks, he said, "Yemen capitulated. I won."

Goodbye. Because he lost. So this is exactly where we are today, only at a much, much greater scale than last time. This is—Nima, this is truly catastrophic for the world, what Trump has imposed on the world. I mean, people still don't recognize how bad things are going to get. And there's no way the Americans are going to be able to open the Strait of Hormuz and have oil, gas, and petrochemicals get through. He doesn't have that ability. He's just going to make things worse because he's a fool—and because he's a gambler, and God knows what they have on him. I mean, I don't know if he's... you know, he's a very corrupt person.

Maybe they've convinced him that he has some kind of religious Zionist mission, or maybe they just have really bad dirt on him—something, you know, I don't want to say, or I don't even know what it is. But he's destroying—he's wrecking—the United States. Obviously, the empire is collapsing right before our eyes. But they're lashing out and slaughtering people as they push forward. And by the way, Hezbollah is doing excellent work in Lebanon, punishing the Israeli regime. Remember how they were saying Hezbollah was defeated? And these haters of the resistance—they were gloating. Even these pretend, you know, these Takfiri Wahhabis and Salafis who claim to support Palestine but don't do anything for anyone—and their backers, we know which regimes they are, no need to go there—they were gloating when Hezbollah gave all those martyrs. The government of Lebanon was against Hezbollah, as they are now, but they still stand their ground against Zionism. They were

gloating then—now let's see them gloat. Look at how Hezbollah is hitting the Zionist regime, even though the government is conspiring against them, even though Jolani, this ISIS and Al-Qaeda thug, is being encouraged to attack the resistance.

But if he does, of course, Iran and the resistance in Iraq will destroy him. The point is, everything the West said turned out to be wrong. They said Yemen would be destroyed—Yemen won the war. They said Hezbollah had been diminished and destroyed—Hezbollah is standing firm. Right now, the Iraqi resistance is basically expelling NATO and the U.S. from Iraq. Iraq is finally being liberated. And in the past, they said Iran was weakened, but they brought everything they had, and now, in the fourth week, Iran is hitting them very hard.

## **#Nima**

You mentioned the situation in Syria. It doesn't seem that Jolani is going to be in a good position, because something is happening there and people are not happy with him. If he joins the fight against Hezbollah, he's going to face some kind of resistance from within Syria. And the other point, Professor Seyed M. Marandi, is that Israel is talking about the Litani River as the new border of Israel. While the government in Lebanon says nothing of the sort, they're putting pressure on Hezbollah. But it doesn't seem that Hezbollah is going to bend under these kinds of pressures.

## **#Seyed**

Remember, the Israeli regime took Beirut in 1982—that's why Hezbollah was born. And in the year 2000, it was expelled. Eighteen years. This time around, it won't take eighteen years. One of Iran's demands will concern its regional allies, whether in Palestine, Gaza, or Lebanon. The Israeli regime will fail. Already we're seeing on the battlefield how Hezbollah is courageously standing. And they're surrounded—surrounded by ISIS and Al-Qaeda, these American agents, to the east. To the north, they're surrounded by a regime in Beirut that's hostile toward them. To the south, they're facing this genocidal menace. The Mediterranean Sea is basically controlled by pro-genocide NATO. Yet they're standing their ground. They are an amazing people.

And they've done this—remember, they started this resistance in 1982 to expel their country from the occupier. Over the past couple of years, they've been fighting against the Israeli regime to stop the genocide. They've been sacrificing their youth, their women, and their children to stop kids from being killed in Gaza. These are the heroes of our era—whether it's the families of the resistance in Lebanon, or those in Iraq or Yemen, or these young men and women who, when U.S. or Israeli regime pilots are firing missiles at them while they're protesting and standing in the streets in defense of their country, they don't budge. These are the heroes of our time. And if the West—if there were any real journalists in the West—they would write something about their heroism. But they're a bunch of cowards.

As I said, Elon Musk allows them to use his platform to fundraise a million dollars to kidnap me—just because... what am I doing? I'm just speaking out, I'm just saying the truth. They can't tolerate it. He won't remove it because he supports terrorism. And not a single journalist has contacted me, not a single media outlet is asking, "What are you doing?" No one. That's how it works. And they've exposed themselves. But people are waking up—people in Iran, people across the world—they're waking up to the reality of this empire. And I think that's the best thing that's happened in the last two and a half years. The last two and a half years have been very painful for everyone, to see the suffering and to watch the suffering. I mean, I've had so many posts removed from my Twitter account.

Like, I would post pictures of kids—like when they'd collapse the buildings in Gaza, you'd see the legs of children hanging out from under the rubble, crushed. They're all dead. And then I wrote "Western civilization." And then they'd lock me out of my account and say, "You have to remove this post." So I can't criticize Western regimes for the genocide in Gaza, but someone can fundraise—an organization, an Israeli-Ukrainian organization can fundraise—to kill me, to kidnap and kill me, to torture me. That's how it is. But again, I'm not going to be intimidated. Why should I? I can't. When those young teenagers in Iran are not intimidated by U.S. missiles, I have no right to be intimidated.

## **#Nima**

Yeah. Yesterday, the New York Times reported again that Pentagon officials are weighing the development of airborne troops to be sent to Iran—to be on the ground fighting Iran. And when it comes to Khark Island, what's the assessment from the Iranian IRGC and army if they go in that direction, or somewhere else close to the Strait of Hormuz? What's the strategy? What's the plan on Iran's part to counter that?

## **#Seyed**

Two things, Nima. One is that the Iranians will strike them with missiles, drones, and other capabilities, day and night. They'll be vulnerable—especially if they go to an island, especially Khark Island, which is very flat. I've never been there, but that's how it is. They will fail. But more importantly, what will they achieve? They'll only cause Iran to escalate—and escalation means permanent destruction. Why do they want the Strait of Hormuz open? To get their oil and LNG and so on. Well, if there's none, then the Strait of Hormuz is of no use. Trump, instead of being a sane actor, is an insane actor.

I think it's because either they have a lot of dirt on him, or they've convinced him that this corrupt old man can redeem himself by pursuing an ethno-supremacist policy in the region—to help the "master race" or the "chosen people" kill off the Amalek. I don't know what it is. But he's not going to succeed. There's zero chance of success. He's going to lose this war. And as I said, the Iranians are going to keep fighting until they're completely assured there won't be another war again, for

very understandable reasons. So attacking these islands will only make the situation worse. And as I said, Iran doesn't escalate—they are escalating.

But Iran's response to escalation will be much greater escalation. Iran and its allies have many cards to play. The destruction of infrastructure on the other side of the Persian Gulf—permanent destruction—the tankers, everything, could just end these countries, these regimes, forever, for good. And then Yemen, Iraq. Again, the people around Trump—they don't care about the American people. They don't care about the global economy. They don't care about India, or Russia, or China, or Brazil. They don't care about anyone. They only care about Israel and Zionism. And that's why we are where we are. Otherwise, there's no logic behind the continuation of this war.

## **#Nima**

We had two American aircraft carriers. One of them is far from the Iranian coast, and the other one is basically in Greece because they're having a lot of difficulties, a lot of problems. On the other hand, Donald Trump is asking Europeans to engage in a conflict—a war in the Strait of Hormuz—because he wants Europeans to die for the agenda that the United States and Israel have against Iran. Do you think that the war—because of the escalation, the huge escalation we've seen—now seems to be fading? Not only with the two aircraft carriers, but also, as you mentioned, the situation in Iraq, with all these NATO countries withdrawing, even the United States moving its troops to Jordan. Are these signs, for the Iranian army and their assessment of the ongoing conflict, that the war of attrition is going in the right direction for Iran?

## **#Seyed**

Yes, but again, the decision-makers in Washington—it's not clear how sane they are. I mean, if they were rational, they'd understand that, look, Hezbollah is hitting the Israeli regime hard. Yemen—we already lost them. Look at what's happening in Iraq; they're kicking us out of the country. And Iran—we thought it would be 24 or 48 hours, and they're hitting us back day and night. The price of oil, natural gas, fertilizer, and petrochemicals is going through the roof. You'd think they'd say, "Okay, let's cut our losses, leave, and find a solution." But so far, they're not moving in that direction. Yes, they can kill more Iranians. They can kill more kids.

They can make life unbearable. They can target Iran's vital infrastructure so that people die—so that hospitals, like in Cuba, can't function. That's what they've done in Cuba: they've taken away the gasoline so people die in hospitals. That's what they're doing now. It's intentional suffering, and Western media is silent about it. But Iran will hit back—and Iran will hit back so hard that the global economy will collapse. The U.S. economy will collapse too. Bombs won't drop on the factories, but those factories won't be working anymore. Those companies won't be working anymore. It'll be a different world. The devastation to the U.S. economy would be catastrophic. But again, we don't see sane people in the White House.

And Trump—I mean, when he’s talking about it—Trump wants the Europeans, as you said, to die for America’s policy, which is for Israel. I mean, Americans are dying for Israel. Americans are losing out because of Israel. And they want the Europeans to be part of this. But didn’t he just say he’d obliterated Iran already? He said Iran’s been defeated. Now he’s calling on everyone to help him. And then he says, “Well, I don’t need them.” But then he threatens to destroy the lives of all Iranians and obliterate Iran. Mass murderers. And no one in the West says anything. I mean, he talks about mass murder, and no one in the West says a word. And no major Western media outlet is screaming about this.

Just like with Cuba—when the Supreme Court ruled against him over tariffs—he said, you know, he’s complaining, “You say I can’t, but I can destroy Cuba.” I don’t think he mentioned the country, but he was alluding to Cuba. “I can destroy countries, but I can’t put a single dollar of tariffs.” No one said, “What are you talking about? Why are you talking that way? Why do you talk about nations like that?” No one said anything, because they’re all like him. They may be more sophisticated in their language, but the New York Times is just as genocidal. After all, they supported the genocide in Gaza, the genocidal attacks in Lebanon, and the illegal, unprovoked war against Iran. So they’re not any different from him when it comes to morality.

But in any case, the point is that we’re not dealing with sane actors. And he’s always lying. When he talks about negotiating with Iran, it’s just another lie. He’ll just move on to the next one. It’s like when he said, “I obliterated Iran,” and then he’s begging people to come in. Then he says, “I don’t need you,” and threatens to destroy Iran. Then he backs down and says, “Well, you know, we have these great negotiations happening.” How can you negotiate with him? It’s not possible—unless the facts on the ground change so that, in the future, Kuwait, the Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, and Qatar will not be used as tools against your country. If the facts on the ground change, then everything changes.

## **#Nima**

We know that the war in Ukraine has reached a point where Russia says no ceasefire. It seems that Iran is in the same position right now—they don’t see a ceasefire as a viable option for them. From what you’ve seen so far, how long do you think it will take for the Americans to understand the situation, or for the Iranians to achieve what they’re trying to achieve on the battlefield?

## **#Seyed**

I don't know. That's a very good question. But did you or I ever think the proxy war in Ukraine would last four years? I didn't. I thought it would last a year and a half. When it started, I never imagined it would go on for over four years. And who knows how long it'll last? I don't know how much longer it'll continue. But ironically, what the United States has done—as you know better than

I do—is empower Russia. They've made the situation in Europe even worse, because Europe no longer has Russian gas or oil, nor does it trade with Russia. And Russia's exports are now earning a lot more money than before.

So the war in Ukraine is going to get worse. But the Russians, as they rightly pointed out, say a ceasefire is of no use to them. There has to be a settlement. And for Iran, there has to be a settlement too. That settlement has to mean that the United States can't just wage wars against Iran or its allies and get away with it. So the security structure in the Persian Gulf region will have to change fundamentally. And of course, there will be the constant compensation that Iran will get—and they have the Strait of Hormuz to use to get it. This change will also have to include Iran's allies across the region.

## **#Nima**

You mean the security architecture between Iran and the Arab states, without the United States and Israel being involved? That's right.

## **#Seyed**

I mean, Iran has no problem with the Arab regimes—whether they continue to exist or new people come to power. Iran has no problem with them having relations with the United States, the UK, or with whatever oppressive regime they want to be associated with. That's none of our business. But they cannot be platforms for war against Iran. That's over. That was the big mistake Trump made, because now Iran is going to force this change. They can live their lives, do business, do whatever they want—but they can't be platforms for aggression. And no one in Iran can. It's an insult, again, as I said earlier—it's an insult to our intelligence whenever the Qataris say, "We're neutral." No, you're not neutral. The blood of all these kids is on your hands, just as much as it is on Trump's hands and the Saudis'.

And you're all foot soldiers for this Zionist project, even though just recently the U.S. ambassador to occupied Palestine was saying that if they take the whole region, that's fine. And they're the most moral army, so when they take that region, they can slaughter everyone and that's okay. Despite that, you still see Erdogan, Qatar, Sisi, Abdullah in Jordan, and Mohammed—all of these regimes—sign a letter not condemning the Israelis and Americans for the war, but condemning Iran for retaliating, when these regional regimes are at the service of empire. This is the world we live in, and Iran knows it has to create that change on the ground, because the neighbors we have right now are not independent. They're all proxies and allies of the West. None of them are friends of the Palestinian people.

## **#Nima**

We know that another key point in what Iran is demanding is that all economic sanctions must be lifted. And it's not just about the United States—it's about the Europeans as well. Do you see a future where Iran negotiates separately with the United States and then separately with the Europeans, instead of having some kind of general discussion with all the parties together? How is Iran going to approach this? Because right now it's about the Arab states in the Persian Gulf and the United States. Israel isn't part of any concern for Iran, since Iran doesn't consider any kind of relationship with Israel. But when it comes to the Arab states, the United States, and the Europeans, how does Iran see them—as one group, or is Iran prepared to negotiate separately with these different parties?

## **#Seyed**

These tiny family regimes in the Persian Gulf—they're not in any position to be at any negotiating table. At the end of the day, when the fighting stops and Iran achieves its goals and objectives—of course, this is hypothetical, and who knows when that will be—they'll negotiate, but not with the minor proxies. I think that after this war, as things are moving, U.S. sanctions won't be that important anymore, because the United States is increasingly and rapidly becoming a diminished power. I'm not saying it's going to collapse or anything like that—of course, who knows—but I don't think they have the clout anymore to impose the kind of sanctions they used to.

I think Iran is growing much stronger now, despite the war. And I think after the war—I mean, Iran is respected across the world. People everywhere are cheering for Iran and the resistance. Look across the Arab world: as these family dictatorships push their media outlets, no one's buying it. People are cheering Iran on, cheering on the resistance, because they know these regimes are just agents of empire. They know they're not friends of the Palestinian people or the Arab people—they're proxies. So the world is changing very rapidly. And of course, as this war continues, the war in Ukraine continues too.

And that is going to, I think, become much worse for the West too, because the West is focused here now—because, of course, Zionism is their everything. So they're going to be suffering increasingly on the eastern front in Europe. They brought about catastrophe for themselves. They were at the height of power after the collapse of the Soviet Union, and then, because of their neoliberalism and the empowerment of this Zionist, Epstein-class oligarchy, the weakening and destruction of the middle class, and their endless wars, they've just—within three decades—destroyed everything. They were at the top of the world, and in three decades, they just wrecked it all.

## **#Nima**

Professor, what do we know about the missiles that were fired at the Diego Garcia airbase—the American-British base? Were those Iranian missiles?

## **#Seyed**

No. The Iranians have been very clear that they did not fire missiles in that direction. They don't have missiles with that range, and they did not attack anyone. Oman, Turkey—these were all false flag operations. Iran said specifically that these were false flag operations; they did not strike Kuwait or Qatar. I think the first report that came out regarding Diego Garcia actually came from the Israeli regime. How would they even know? They don't have access. So yeah, I think it's clear they were trying to raise tensions, as they always do.

## **#Nima**

And the other point is the Iranian attack on Dimona for the first time since this war started. Iran is hitting Dimona without facing any difficulties from Israel's air defense system. What was the main reason? Because it didn't just happen in a vacuum. We saw an Israeli attack on Natanz in Esfahan, on a nuclear power plant, and then an Iranian response to that. But Iran didn't hit the nuclear power plant—they hit somewhere else. What was the agenda?

## **#Seyed**

What was the message from the Iranians? Yeah, my understanding is that the Iranians struck a key research center and destroyed it. Apparently, they also targeted assets linked to the military nuclear program, and with great precision. Right now, Nima, the Iranians control the skies over Israel—over occupied Palestine. Their defenses are depleted. And the Americans are taking whatever they can from Korea. I mean, they've hurt Korea; they've imposed air defenses on Korea that damaged its relationship with China, and now they're taking those systems away from them. It just shows they didn't care about Korea. They don't care about anyone. They only care about this supremacist, monstrous regime in Palestine. So the Koreans should be thinking more carefully about the future of their relationship with the United States.

## **#Nima**

Yeah. Thank you so much, Professor Marandi, for being with us today. A great pleasure, as always.

## **#Seyed**

It's a great pleasure being with you, Nima. It's a great pleasure speaking with your audience. I hope everyone prays for the children of Gaza, Cuba, Venezuela, Lebanon, Palestine, Syria, Iraq, Iran, and Yemen. The days are dark, but hopefully, with God's help, the empire will be forced to retreat. Thank you.