

Mohammad Marandi: IRAN REJECTS; Ceasefire & Compromise

Iran's strategic stance in ongoing regional conflict analyzed: new security leadership signals policy continuity and firm approach. Ceasefires rejected as they enable adversaries to rearm. Gulf states accused of facilitating attacks via bases, airspace, and funding; Iran demands reparations and guarantees they won't serve as aggression platforms. Claims of US-Iran negotiations dismissed as propaganda for market manipulation. Warning: strikes on Iranian critical infrastructure will trigger severe escalation, potentially disrupting Persian Gulf energy exports. Regional allies in Lebanon, Yemen, and Iraq remain central to deterrence strategy. Western media criticized for biased coverage. Any lasting settlement must reshape Persian Gulf security architecture, lift all sanctions, protect Iran's regional partners, and ensure no future aggression against Iranian sovereignty.

#Nima

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

#Mohammad

If I recall correctly, he studied economics as a young person, 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 Sayyid 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 would 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 to murder Iranians. 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 — and that's what all of them do — allowing attacks to be launched from their territory and using their air bases, like Saudi Arabia and Jordan do, 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. And, 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 to Saddam 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, the 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 all the actions of the United States.

So Iran will demand reparations, and Iran will demand that its allies are not — that the aggression does not continue against them. The ceasefires in Gaza and Lebanon are just fake ceasefires. They constantly kill; they've been killing people over the past 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 would only give 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 at least twice myself. So, even though they were defeated, in less than a year they started another war against Iran.

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

#Mohammad

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, Western institutions, and 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.

The media is owned and controlled by the Epstein class, and these journalists—they're just tools. Just like the politicians are tools. There's no difference. Whether it's Venezuela, Cuba, Iran, or elsewhere—Syria, Lebanon. In Lebanon, 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'm sure he is—that Iran will retaliate if he carries out these crimes. And Iran has 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. 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 take 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 that 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 kicks in, people will be saying, "They did it to us."

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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 attacked the head of the Iranian parliament—not exactly an attack, but some kind of move—because they wanted to claim he was negotiating behind the scenes with Donald Trump, that he was doing something different and was 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.

#Mohammad

Yeah, it's possible, although it's so poorly done that it's hard to be sure 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. He's a philosopher, a thinker, and, you know, into literature. I think I mentioned this before. Dr. Larijani, who was martyred, was a professor at the University of Tehran. He taught 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 Sayyid 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 wake up to see 200 little girls murdered in another school. That's not going to happen again.

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

#Mohammad

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 and 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—I mean, the truck drivers own their own trucks—to take goods from his city to another city, or vice versa, 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 one of them. I'm sure you saw that woman who survived the first strike—she was filming, and then she was killed. This is evidence. This is 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, a day of solidarity for Palestine on the last Friday of Ramadan. They bombed, they killed a woman. They fired missiles at people, and no one budged. People stood their ground. I've never seen such a thing, never heard of such a thing in my life. No one ran, there was no stampede, and it was documented—but 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, and 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 yet 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 heard about Iran for the last 47 years. Just like when they send in those terrorists, arm them, create an armed uprising—3,117 people killed—and then 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 these 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. 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.

So this is how the West works. I can be threatened. I know many journalists, as you know. They've spoken to me during these twenty-some days. They follow me. 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 on the streets, they can't be intimidated 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 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 serious.

#Mohammad

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 these elites in Washington are "Israel first." They don't care about the U.S. economy. They don't care about the Indian, Chinese, or Brazilian economies. 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 and interaction. So, Iran did not start the war. Iran is not escalating the war. But if the Trump regime and the Netanyahu regime—basically 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 strong possibility they'll escalate again soon, whether that means targeting Iran's critical infrastructure—a crime 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. They'll destroy those assets—those oil and gas facilities and electrical power plants on the other side of the

Persian Gulf. And that would be the end of Trump's presidency, because we'd go into a global economic depression. They wouldn't be able to sustain the war. People in the United States would be up in arms. He would fail. I mean, it would come at a great cost, obviously—to the world, to Iran—but he would fail. So hopefully he'll be convinced to take a sane path. But he's not very sane or stable.

So who knows? But Yemen—Yemen—there's no need for them to engage now, because so far the war has failed. But if it escalates, that 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 could sweep into the Arabian Peninsula. They could take Kuwait in a day, and we'd support them. They could go south, and Yemen could go deep inside what's 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? And the Emirates—what, a million passport holders? What are they going to do? Saudi Arabia has already lost the war against Yemen, even though they have the entire region and the world behind them.

Seven years of genocidal activity—a 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 the shortage keeps 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 the way they should. If they escalate, it's going to get far worse. Saudi Arabia is very vulnerable. If they choose to escalate, they'll bring a 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.