

Iran REJECTS Ceasefire, HAMMERS Israel as Trump DEPLOYS US Troops | Magnier

Elijah Magnier joins for a full Iran war update including Iran's new missile striking Israel for the first time as well as Trump ordering a massive US troop deployment amid ceasefire hysteria. Follow Elijah: <https://ejmagnier.com/> FOLLOW ME ON RUMBLE: <https://rumble.com/c/DannyHaiphong> FOLLOW ME ON TELEGRAM: <https://t.me/dannyhaiphong> SUPPORT THE CHANNEL ON PATREON: <https://www.patreon.com/dannyhaiphong> Support the channel in other ways: <https://www.buymeacoffee.com/dannyhaiphong> Substack: chroniclesofhaiphong.substack.com Cashapp: \$Dhaiphong Venmo: @dannyH2020 Paypal: <https://paypal.me/spiritofho> Follow me on Telegram: <https://t.me/dannyhaiphong> #iran #trump #israel

#Danny

Welcome, everyone. Welcome back to the show. It's your host, Danny Haiphong. As you can see, I am joined by war correspondent and independent journalist Elijah Magnier. Everyone, hit the like button as we get started. Elijah, good to be back with you.

#Elijah Magnier

Thank you for having me. It's a pleasure to be here with you.

#Danny

Right. Well, let's get started with the latest developments. I just wanted your comments on the last period since this show was covering the latest updates. We had Iran fire 13 missiles, according to reports from the Times of Israel, and blackouts in Tel Aviv. There were also strikes in the recent hours, I believe, on the Negev near the Dimona Research Facility again. And of course, as Iran continues its Operation True Promise 4, amid all this ceasefire talk, Israeli media leaked some kind of document—a 15-point plan that the Trump administration had supposedly concocted.

There have been reports that they sent it by text message. There's no clarity on Donald Trump's statements about who his administration is actually talking to in Iran. And, of course, Iran has said they're not talking to the United States at this point, even going so far as to say that the U.S. is negotiating with itself. All of this is happening as the U.S. prepares about 3,000 troops from the 82nd Airborne Division to head to the Middle East. So, Elijah, given this context, maybe you can go over the latest developments in the war over the last day or so and help us understand what this all means right now—where we're at.

#Elijah Magnier

Okay, so let's start with the negotiations first. We know that Donald Trump, on Monday just before the stock market opened, dropped a bomb, saying, "I'm talking to the Iranians—the excellent, fantastic decision-makers, negotiators." That completely contradicted what he'd said the day before, that "we killed everybody, there's nobody to negotiate with." By saying that, he calmed down the market, which was already ready to crash, and the price of oil, which had been set to drop from around 120 or 113, started to go up again. That statement calmed everything, and things have basically stopped since. He also said this would take five days—that he was giving the Iranians time to think about it and for the negotiations to move forward.

And by coincidence, those five days line up with the Friday when the market will close. So he's basically managed to calm things down. But what he's also done is buy time for his forces to reach the Middle East. I'll talk about that, but let's continue with the negotiations, if I may. Yes, the Iranians said that Trump is negotiating with himself. This isn't the first time Trump has said something untrue. When he negotiated with the Iranians before, he gave them an appointment on a Monday in June 2025, and the war started that Friday. Then he did the same thing at the beginning of this war in February—he said negotiations would start on a Monday, and by Saturday he was bombing Iran.

That's someone who thinks he can handle geopolitics the same way he handles real estate deals. That's how he understands it. But lies have a very short lifespan. It's obvious he didn't actually talk to the Iranians. However, today Pakistan announced that they've received a letter from the Americans and will convey it to the Iranians. So there is a letter that was sent by the Americans to the Iranians. But after Donald Trump's announcement that he was talking to someone in Iran, the Israelis leaked information claiming it was to the Speaker of Parliament, Ghalibaf. Then it turned out that Ghalibaf said, "They're not talking to me, I'm not interested in talking to them, and I'm not authorized to run this negotiation either."

So today the Iranians have received the letter, and the fifteen points mentioned by Donald Trump are correct. However, these fifteen points come from the Americans and were forwarded by the negotiators Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner—whom Iran refuses to negotiate with because they believe those two are the ones who instigated this war by misinforming Donald Trump about the content of the negotiation. This is where we are in the negotiation process. However, since nobody has achieved any real objective so far—apart from Iran, which is conducting a war of attrition—it doesn't need to win, because it's not going to win, but it doesn't need to lose either. And that, in itself, is a victory for Iran. This is where the American president is buying time. And I can expand on that if you want.

#Danny

Yeah, yeah, definitely—if you can—because there’s also this context, as you mentioned, that Trump is deploying troops to the Middle East from the 82nd Airborne Division. This is a huge contradiction. Many have noted that the ceasefire, the fifteen points, looks like, of course, another attempt to get Iran to surrender. But there are also points in there that show the Trump administration is looking to—or feels the need to—make concessions as well. So there’s a huge contradiction, I feel, not only in the ceasefire plan but also in the U.S.’s actions. They’re deploying troops as we speak, and of course the mainstream media keeps talking about what they could be used for—the Strait of Hormuz, Kharg Island, and so on. So, your thoughts?

#Elijah Magnier

So militarily, nobody negotiates from a weak position. Look at what’s happening between Ukraine and Russia. As things stand today, the war has not produced decisive results. The war with Iran has reached a kind of strategic stalemate. Neither side is winning, but neither is losing decisively enough to impose an outcome. In these conditions, the logic of conflict shifts. It’s no longer about battlefield gains, but about creating leverage. So one side—here, the Americans—needs to generate a moment that alters the balance, forces a reaction, and reshapes the political trajectory of the war. Yet even if such leverage is achieved, it will mark the beginning of the war, not the end. And don’t laugh, because I have my reasons.

Because the opposition side—Iran—will respond, adapt, and push back, the war remains far from over. So Donald Trump is searching for a political and psychological gain, to create a sudden shift in the balance of the conflict and, above all, a spectacular, low-risk, high-visibility operation. It’s not a full-scale invasion, not an attempt to occupy all of Iran, but a very carefully chosen, specific location where he can say, “Well, I’m one of the controllers of the Strait of Hormuz.” Because at the end of the day, Trump has given up on regime change and on destroying the nuclear program, since he said they agreed to give up the 441 kilograms of 60% enriched uranium. They agreed to stop producing more highly enriched uranium, which means they still have some.

And if they still have it, he didn’t obliterate it as he claimed. On the missile program, he said he destroyed it completely, yet we still see missiles falling on Gulf countries and on Israel. So the logic isn’t to stop Iran—because it’s impossible to stop it—but to have some control over the Strait of Hormuz. But that risks an uncontrollable escalation, and it would put the United States into an equation that could alter the balance without triggering a total war. Therefore, a very limited occupation of a strategic island—not necessarily Qeshm Island; there are many others—would serve his purpose. He wants to achieve a visible, defensible, temporary, and politically usable gain, and then say, “OK, I’ve controlled this island, let’s stop.”

And here he makes another mistake, because the Iranians will not stop. On the contrary, even if he occupies islands like Abu Musa, the Lesser and the Greater Tunb—the two other islands contested by the Emirates—the Iranians still consider these as Iranian territory. Therefore, with very primitive

weapons, they can bomb these islands daily and make sure he suffers large casualties. But that means pushing Trump to become more dangerous. And hence my initial words: this is the beginning, not the end, of the war. Because from one perspective, it looks like a kind of diplomatic pressure and a message. But at the end of the day, this is a war imposed on Iran, and Iran will not allow Donald Trump to dictate it, or to dictate the terms, or decide when to stop it.

#Danny

Yeah, great points, Elijah. And now, if you could maybe talk about how Iran's response—especially in the last day, since the last time the show aired, about 24 hours ago—fits into its overall approach on the battlefield. Because I think what we hear from Donald Trump is that they have nothing, everything is slowing down, and Iran is begging to come to the table to reach an agreement. But it seems like the operations Iran is running, even just in the last day, really contradict that.

#Elijah Magnier

Well, we don't need to speculate much or analyze this, because Trump is saying he has degraded or destroyed the Iranian missiles, while the Iranians are introducing new missiles every single day that are being fired at Israel. They're hitting areas like Dimona, where the nuclear research center is. I mean, it's about 15 kilometers away from the village, but they're saying, "We can hit your nuclear site if you hit ours." So the Iranians are showing a different capability, with cluster bomb warheads inflicting serious damage on the Israelis. They're bombing Haifa.

They're bombing all the military targets in Israel. Israel doesn't allow any journalists or information to come out about the damage. So everything Donald Trump is saying—we observe the developments on the ground and see completely the opposite. We see how the Gulf countries are still being bombed, hitting their energy facilities and the hotels where Israelis and Americans are staying. We see Iraq as a new player, because Iraq is becoming stronger on the battlefield. The Iraqi government has summoned the U.S. ambassador twice, because the Americans are attacking the Iraqi security forces. And today they attacked an Iraqi army hospital, killing seven and wounding thirteen. So we see the war developing rapidly.

We see different parts of Iraq under attack from the Americans, the Iranians, and also the Iraqi resistance. So there are really different forces interacting in Iraq. On the military side, Iran isn't stopping—it's launching between 10 and 15 missiles and drones every single day. Iran is conducting a long war, thinking this war isn't going to end from one day to another, or even from one week to another—and rightly so, because if the Americans are bringing 5,000 troops, they're talking about the Marines and the amphibious units, but then they're also talking about the 82nd Airborne coming into the Middle East.

They're going to occupy a piece of land that isn't very big, but we also see the A-10s and the Yampa helicopters active. These two are working to clear the area along the coast and make sure the

landing of the American forces goes smoothly, at least in their view and calculation. However, once the first clash starts, all those calculations can go up in the air. As for Iran, we've seen the Iranians maintaining a campaign of bombing Qatar, Bahrain, the Emirates, Jordan, Kuwait, Iraq, and Israel—conducting war on several fronts, sending missiles on several fronts. The Arabs said that several thousand missiles and drones were launched, which means Iran is really not short of missiles or drones.

But because the Israelis are not really thinking in terms of having a very long war, this is where Benjamin Netanyahu came out and blamed the chief of Mossad, the intelligence service. He said, "You told me that in three or four days the Iranian people would rise against their rulers and this war would end." On the other hand, we've seen Donald Trump saying to Jared Kushner and Steve Witkoff, "You told me that Iran wants to make a bomb." And he said to the minister of war, Gallant, "You were the first who said, let's go and bomb Iran." So immediately we see a shift in position, where the two leaders who decided to go to war are now attributing the reasons for it to others, but not to themselves.

#Danny

Yeah, well, then, Elijah, you know, talk about what the impact of Iran's strikes has been. Because some might say, "So what? So what that Iran is hitting Israel in this way, hitting the Gulf in this way?" And also, just to remind the audience, this is all happening in the context of an ultimatum that Donald Trump gave. It was characterized by the United States as a plan to strike Iran's electricity grid—its electrical grid and related energy facilities. That's been postponed for five days, which also coincides with the expected arrival of some of these so-called ground forces. So maybe you could talk about what the impact has been of Iran's strikes, especially in recent days, as we see all this chaos you just mentioned—with the Trump administration in the United States talking about ceasefire negotiations and Iran contradicting that.

#Elijah Magnier

Well, we've seen the New York Times saying that all the U.S. bases in the Middle East have been either completely destroyed or severely damaged. That's the impact of the Iranian missiles on those bases. We've also seen attacks on hotels where American officers are staying, which means the Iranians have updated intelligence about the new locations of U.S. offices. We also know that the Israelis, on a daily basis, are saying the Iranian missiles are exploding in open areas and not causing damage—but then, on Instagram, which is outside the control of the Israelis, we see the real pictures and the real damage those missiles are causing.

And when it serves Israeli propaganda, they show some areas that have been deeply affected by the Iranian missiles. And Iran said, "If you continue targeting our civilians, we have the locations of the shelters, and that's where we're going to start bombing as well." So the impact of the Iranian missiles is that every single day, millions of Israelis are forced into shelters. Israel is completely

paralyzed—nobody's working, everyone spends time in shelters every hour. For example, this morning, within forty minutes, there were four missile attacks. So people don't really have time to breathe, to go shopping, or to check their belongings.

The reason is that the Israelis supported this war by about 80%. And the Iranians want to make sure that those Israelis who supported the war not only pay the price but also turn against Netanyahu and ask, "Well, what are we achieving?" As for Donald Trump, there's a saying in America that he always chickens out. Giving 48 hours to the Iranians and thinking that deterrence by narrative could work against Iran was a mistake, because Iran kept its word and isn't playing around. Iran said, "I'm going to bomb every single energy grid in the Middle East. The Gulf countries are going to bomb gas and oil," which means the whole world will suffer from a lack of oil and gas.

Now, some people would argue that the Americans are bringing out oil reserves—about 400 million barrels—and the Europeans will do the same. Just let me remind the audience that the world needs 103 million barrels a day. So if there are 400 million barrels as a reserve in the market, that can last about four days, no more. After four days, it's just postponing the problem. What Iran is doing is making sure that everybody pays the price—through missiles, by hitting what the Americans and the Israelis are hitting in Iran, reciprocating exactly the same way. And this is what's really scaring the Americans, because from their point of view, they had crippled Iran's missile capabilities.

And when they say, "Now we're free to fly over Iran," they're right. They're not lying, because Iran doesn't have an air force. Iran never had a good air force because it didn't invest in one—the Americans and the Israelis have the advantage, since Israel doesn't make jets; these are American fifth-generation jets. The Iranians can't compete with that. So what Iran is doing is investing in its missile program to control the skies over Israel and the Gulf, using missiles to strike a balance. And the moment we don't see any missiles coming out of Iran, it means that's the end of the world.

#Danny

Yeah, and Elijah, I'm curious what you believe is motivating the United States right now to get into this—and Israel too—because both of them, of course... Israel is the one who leaked it. The United States and Donald Trump have been talking about talks, talks, talks. I'm curious what you think is motivating the United States and Israel to talk this way now, given that we're seeing Iranian air defenses doing more work than even earlier in the war. I believe there were some reports that a JASSM missile was even shot down by Iranian air defenses in the last 24 to 36 hours. And of course, now there's more information about the F-35 that was downed—there's confirmation it was Iranian air defenses that did this, and the pilot was actually injured quite significantly.

And reports of an F-15—CENTCOM won't acknowledge this one—but in the last day or so, an F-15 was also downed, I believe over Kuwait again. So, talk about what might be motivating the United States and Israel to come to the table—or at least the United States, I should say—to talk this way about peace. Is it simply manipulating the market, or are there maybe other factors at play here?

#Elijah Magnier

Let me start with Israel. Nothing motivates Israel to stop the war, especially when it has the United States on its side. U.S. Congressman Van Hollen said that the Israelis have been—these are his words—looking for a “stupid American president” to join the war on Iran, and Netanyahu found Donald Trump. That’s what the congressman said; you can look it up. So, for the Israelis, destroying the state is important. Impoverishing Iran for the next twenty years, at least, is the objective. The goal isn’t to destroy Iran’s missile or nuclear program, because the big lie told to the American people is about the nuclear program. Donald Trump came out and said Iran was prepared to make bombs within two weeks—or, let’s say, two months—was ready.

And this is why he went and bombed Iran. Steve Witkoff told him that the Iranians said, “We have enriched uranium.” By the way, Steve Witkoff understands nothing about the technicalities of uranium enrichment. There was also a British officer there who knew about it and was present in support of the U.S. delegation. He said there was a breakthrough, and the Iranians offered concessions like never before. So, let me go back to the bombs—the Iranian nuclear bombs. In June 2025, the Israelis and the Americans bombed Iran and hit the nuclear facilities. If the Iranians’ intention had been to make a bomb, they wouldn’t have waited eight months to start threatening again and then need only two weeks to make one.

They would have made eleven bombs in those eight months. But because they have a very clear stance that they don’t want to make a bomb, that’s why they didn’t go for a nuclear weapon. Right or wrong, that’s their position. Therefore, the talk about Iran being just weeks away from making a nuclear bomb is a false narrative. Now, for the Americans, Iran doesn’t represent a national danger or a threat to U.S. national security. First, it’s far away. Iran decided its missiles would be limited to 2,000 or 2,200 kilometers and has never attacked U.S. bases in the Middle East, except for one in January 2020, after the U.S. killed General Qasem Soleimani.

So for the Americans, it's easy to stop the war. And it's easy when we're talking about the motivation behind the war. But because the motivation for the war is the survival of Benjamin Netanyahu's political career, the question is when Donald Trump will stop putting Netanyahu as his priority instead of the American people. He's putting Netanyahu first, not America first. And because he's putting Netanyahu first, Netanyahu doesn't want to stop the war. He's bombing the customs offices, bombing 34 banks, bombing hospitals, ambulances, schools—everything. He’s not bombing the Iranian nuclear program.

He’s not bombing the Iranian missile program; he’s bombing the state. He’s impoverishing Iran. When he wants to bomb Iranian oil in Tehran, that has nothing to do with the military. Iran is one of the largest oil producers—they can immediately recover the oil they’ve lost. So it’s just sabotage. And that can continue forever, as long as Donald Trump wants. However, on Donald Trump’s side, because he’s narcissistic and because of his personality, he’s not going to accept saying, “I’ve lost.”

In fact, many countries are asking Iran to tell Donald Trump, "You won," because he only needs to hear those words from Iran. But if they say "You won," the Iranian ruling system collapses. And that's why there's an impasse. Iran is defending itself.

This war is illegal and has no United Nations mandate. No danger was posed by Iran against the U. S. Therefore, it's not up to Iran to stop the war—it's up to the Americans. But if the Americans want to stop the war, there's no trust. Who's going to play the go-between? Now we have Pakistan and Turkey coming forward, saying they can play that role, and Oman as well. However, they can't guarantee that Donald Trump won't start another war in a year's time. Because if he gets past the midterm elections and wins, he's going to start another war. But if he loses and the Democrats win, then he won't be able to do whatever he wants, because he won't have Congress on his side.

Therefore, the question is: is Donald Trump going to stop now, before it's too late? Because the war is escalating and has never been less intense than the week before—and we're in week number four. So it's up to Donald Trump to decide. But Iran has requests. Iran wants compensation. Iran wants an end to the war across the entire Middle East, including Lebanon. Iran wants the lifting of sanctions. It doesn't want to negotiate about sanctions again. Iran wants to negotiate a nuclear deal where the world is satisfied with the control of uranium enrichment. In Iran, they need to be able to produce their own electricity and conduct research with 3.75% to 20% uranium—and these are impossible demands for Donald Trump.

#Danny

Yeah, and Elijah, maybe, you know, Iran did—or at least it's reported that Iran did—release a full set of conditions. They've been talking about what it would mean for this war to end, and I'm curious if you believe there are any conditions that would actually provide the impetus for the Trump administration to accept any of these. Because a lot of them—I mean, all of them, really, if they're taken in full or even in part—amount to Iran declaring victory. A lot of these would not only be concessions to Iran but would change the entire calculus in the region. So maybe you could talk about whether there are any scenarios or conditions that would even allow any of these terms to be met for Iran. I'll give it to you.

#Elijah Magnier

Iran can put the 4.41% and 90% enriched uranium under the total control of the IAEA, the International Atomic Energy Agency. That's for sure. It can give up control of this material only if the sanctions are lifted, because Iran doesn't need this level of enriched uranium—it doesn't use it—but it is a leverage. If the sanctions are gone, then there's no need for Iran to keep it, provided there's a guarantee that the sanctions won't return. And because the element of trust is lacking, that's a problem. A third party trusted by both sides would need to come forward and say, "Okay, I'll keep it, or I'll control it." But for the Americans, it's out of the question to keep it in Iran.

And that's another problem. Iran is saying, "I want to continue enriching uranium domestically." And Trump said from day one, "Zero enrichment," which is, again, against international law, because Iran has the right to enrich uranium for electricity generation and for medical research. So these already create a big conflict between the two sides. Then there's the issue of paying damages. The Arabs are saying, "I want the damages to be paid by Iran." And Iran is saying, "Well, no—Article 3314 allows me to bomb you because you offered your land to the U.S. Therefore, you also need to compensate for all the economic damage and destruction I've suffered from the United States' actions."

And again, this is another dilemma, because the Americans will not agree to pay. Donald Trump goes around the Middle East to take their money, not to pay money back. So these are already two difficult points. And the third point is the Iranian missile program. Iran is not ready to give up its missile program, or even to negotiate it, or put it on the table, or let anyone talk about it, because it's the only defensive system it has. And we've seen in this war that Iran, only with its missiles, is managing to respond to the Israelis and to American aggression.

Therefore, we are again back to the JCPOA of Barack Obama in 2015, which Donald Trump couldn't stick to. And if we go back to 2015, then why all these sanctions? Why break the JCPOA agreement in 2018? Why start the war? So all that doesn't make sense. For the Americans to accept it, lift the sanctions on Iran, and give back the tens of billions of dollars frozen in different banks would mean the end of Donald Trump's career—and he doesn't want that. So that's the dilemma Donald Trump put himself in, and also put Iran in.

#Danny

Sorry.

#Elijah Magnier

The Israelis are happy because they're not concerned. They don't need to give money—the Americans will pay. They don't need to say, "We'll stop," because they'll be asked by the Americans to stop. They're bombing the Iranian state and infrastructure every single day. They're delighted. But have they achieved their objectives? No. Everyone gave up on the regime change objective in the first week, when they saw that it was impossible to achieve.

#Danny

Yeah, and Elijah, I see a scenario where even if the U.S. wants to pause or maybe even end—quote unquote—I don't think the overall objective against Iran from the United States will end. But I could even see a scenario where Israel continues, and therefore Iran continues, because Iran has said

from the very beginning that it will be dictating this war. And if Israel, of course, won't abide by any kind of pause the United States wants, then what motivation does Iran even have to stop itself? I don't know if you believe that could be a plausible scenario here too.

#Elijah Magnier

Sorry, what's a possible scenario?

#Danny

That the entire narrative about ceasefire talks and coming to some kind of end to the war, even on the U.S. side, just goes away because Israel will continue doing what it's doing, as you just outlined. And Iran, of course, will keep striking back at Israel regardless of whatever the U.S. says or even offers. I don't know if you see a scenario like that, where Israel literally just tries to continue this war and keep the United States in it, no matter how much the U.S. tries to concede to Iran and get Iran to take the bait of some kind of ceasefire deal or even a so-called peace deal.

#Elijah Magnier

Well, for the Iranians, there are points they're asking that are potentially possible. If we take, for example, the war in Afghanistan—the Americans invaded Afghanistan and removed the Taliban from power. After 20 years, they gave the power back to the Taliban and left Afghanistan. The Iranians are now asking the Americans to leave the Middle East. Actually, this is a fair demand for a simple reason: the Americans started the war without consulting the Middle Eastern countries or studying the consequences for them, starting a war only to please Benjamin Netanyahu. Secondly, the Americans failed to protect the Middle Eastern countries, because most of the missile interception systems are in Israel and Jordan, to help the Israelis intercept missiles before they reach Israel.

So they intercept them in Jordan. Therefore, they left the Middle Eastern countries to defend themselves with their own missiles, the ones they've acquired, and to buy more missiles from the United States. So there's no reason for them to stay. Donald Trump said, "We have oil; we don't need oil." And in fact, only about 1% of the oil that crosses the Strait of Hormuz goes to America. Therefore, with Venezuela—even if the oil there is heavy—they can say, "Okay, well, we don't need the oil coming from the Middle East." Whatever they say, it's feasible. However, what they don't want is to dethrone the dollar, because the petrodollar is the most important part. If the Americans leave the Middle East, those Middle Eastern countries will sell their oil in yuan.

They would go to the Chinese. They'd exchange goods and services. They can do that with India, they can go to other countries, and they don't need to use the dollar. That would be the end of U.S. finance, because the entire war is based on the petrodollar. As long as the Gulf countries are using the dollar to sell their oil, the United States considers itself kind of a safer country economically. But if the United States leaves the Middle East, that would be the beginning of the crumbling of this

empire. This is where the Americans cannot fulfill the request of the Iranians. So a ceasefire based on concessions that can be made on both sides is possible when the demands are within reason, not when the demands are impossible on both sides.

Now, of course, each side starts with the maximum demand and then goes down. But how far down is each side ready to go? The Iranians want to make sure this war doesn't happen again and that the Israelis don't continue the killings and targeted assassinations they're carrying out in Gaza and Lebanon. This guarantee can be offered by the Americans. However, it's not enough. They need to make sure the war doesn't return and that the sanctions on Iran are lifted so Iran can rebuild with its own money, because there are many resources and strong assets in Iran that Tehran can benefit from. All that takes a long time to unfold. That's why we don't have clarity today.

#Danny

Yeah, those are great points, Elijah. I wanted to ask you about the military situation, especially when it comes to the Strait of Hormuz, because that's where a lot of the U.S. focus is right now in terms of talk about a ground invasion and all of that. It all has to do with what's happening at the Strait of Hormuz, seemingly. I also wanted to ask you about the possible exhaustion of the U.S. and Israel when it comes to continuing this war, and how a ground invasion might exacerbate that, given that we're seeing the U.S. creeping closer and closer to Iranian air defenses.

Every other day, it seems like something's being shot at or shot down, and CENTCOM is doing its best to hide these kinds of things. But what role do you think an exhausted U.S. military and, of course, Israeli defenses are going to play in the outcome of this war, given that, as you just said, it could go on for a very long time? And the Strait of Hormuz question is one that Iran doesn't seem to be budging on at all. Actually, it seems like they're enforcing this kind of toll that's been reported in recent days and further asserting the concrete nature, I guess, of their control over it.

#Elijah Magnier

Donald Trump said he wants to control the Strait of Hormuz with the Ayatollah — those were his words — which means he wants to be part of the presence on the Strait of Hormuz. He can't control it from afar. This is where the arrival of the troops makes sense, because he wants them to land somewhere so they can have a foothold on the Strait of Hormuz. But that doesn't mean they can stay. So the whole battle now is no longer about regime change; it's about the Strait of Hormuz and the control of energy. That's where we are today. For the Americans, it's important to have that control, to stop the war, and then have leverage over the Iranians. Without that, he cannot ask for the end of the war.

But even if he asks, he's not going to get it, because the Iranians want to make sure they get back their land—or at least make sure the Americans can't stay safe on their piece of land. So the Strait of Hormuz has become important because of the price of oil, because of navigation, and because

insurance companies are raising their rates. It's not because the Iranians stopped navigation in the Strait of Hormuz. They said, "We did not stop it." We've seen the Spaniards with their tankers delivering oil. We've seen India, China—so many countries able to cross with many tankers. The problem is with the Israelis, the Americans, and the British, because the British, according to Article 3314, are helping the Americans; therefore, they are partners in this war.

They offered Diego Garcia and Cyprus to support the Americans, and that's why Iran considers them partners in this war. The Strait of Hormuz won't be closed unless it turns into a battlefield—and once it becomes a battlefield, it will automatically close. No tanker will cross it, and no insurance company will accept any tanker or ship to pass through the Strait of Hormuz. So we're at a very decisive week ahead, where we'll have more visibility on where the situation is heading, in which direction, and how the American presence in the Strait of Hormuz is going to affect this war—if the Americans are going to land there, and where they'll be landing.

#Danny

Yeah, right. And these forces are definitely not going to be sitting back. It seems like there will be some kind of operation, and that will change a lot. Definitely, Elijah. Lastly, what I wanted to ask you about—and we can get a bit deeper into this—is the regional situation, because I don't think many people expected the Iraqi resistance to be, I mean, they're working almost overtime, it seems, and they've pushed NATO out of Iraq.

They're constantly—well, I believe in the last two days—they've released videos of them attacking the Victoria base, the U.S. base there. There's talk about how U.S. forces are now kind of stuck in Kurdish Iraq, so there's a huge withdrawal happening. And of course, we have Hezbollah, which we haven't even gone into yet, fighting very hard against Israel—not only on the border but also firing their own salvos, their own missile and rocket strikes at Israel. So, if you could talk about this—and Yemen hasn't even really come into the war yet—perhaps you could give an outline of how this is impacting the war, because it doesn't get much attention in mainstream media.

#Elijah Magnier

That's a very good question, and thank you for asking it. Many people think that Iran is calling upon its proxies. They're wrong—not because these groups are proxies, but because they're actually organic allies. Benjamin Netanyahu said at the very beginning that the biggest danger now comes from the Shia, and later from the "new Sunni." By "new Sunni," he meant Qatar and Turkey. The Shia are the Shia of Lebanon—Hezbollah—the Shia of Iraq, and the Iranians. But also the Zaidi, a branch of Islam closer to Sunni than Shia; nevertheless, they share the same principles and objectives: to support resistance and self-determination, and they are anti-imperialist. Therefore, it was Benjamin Netanyahu who made the war a religious one, followed by the U.S. Secretary of War, who said this is a religious, ideological war between us and Iran and its allies—or, as he called them, proxies.

So the message that both leaders—the U.S. and Israel—convey to the Shia of Lebanon is that their turn will come, one after the other. For Hezbollah, it was a brilliant strategy to start the war and launch these attacks on Israel, because Israel is extremely busy with Iran. The bulk of the Israeli Air Force is going toward Iran, hitting Iran all the time. This reduces the pressure on Iran and on Hezbollah in Lebanon, and it changed the equation, because during 2024, Israel carried out 1,400 attacks on Hezbollah in one week. So far, they haven't conducted more than 300 attacks in three and a half weeks. Therefore, it was to Hezbollah's advantage to start a war when there was a diversion of Israeli forces on various fronts, instead of only against Hezbollah. The Iraqis are also majority Shia.

There were many voices before saying that the Iraqis need to give up their weapons, that the Iraqi resistance should no longer exist—only the government. And why do the Americans want only the government? For a simple reason: Iraq sells its oil, and the party that receives the Iraqi revenue—which makes up 90% of Iraq's total budget—is the Americans. The money goes to the Federal Reserve Bank in the U.S. because of the 2003 war and the agreement that established this mechanism, where all the money goes to America first and then comes back to Iraq. Therefore, for the Americans to deal only with the government means they can twist the government's arm anytime and make sure it's left starving.

Also, it's very easy to bomb the official institutions of a government. Everybody knows where the Ministry of Defense is, where the different divisions of a classical army are spread out. In 24 or 48 hours, you can send hundreds of jets, bomb everything, and then you no longer have an army that can face you. However, with the resistance—it's called the resistance because they know how to resist—they are part of the people. They don't have a fixed location; they're mobile, and they harass the enemy where the enemy can't see them. This is why it's important for the Americans to see the Iraqi resistance give up its weapons so they have to deal only with the Iraqi government.

This didn't happen because the Americans are still in the country. They haven't left. They don't want to leave. And this is why the Iraqi resistance decided that, again, this is the best time—because they'll be under attack if Iran is defeated and the war on Iran ends. So it was to the advantage of all these forces in Iraq and in Lebanon to be part of this war, where the war effort of the Americans and the Israelis is divided among three main stages. It was a clever move, meaning the Americans and the Israelis need to defeat all three together or none at all.

#Danny

Yeah. And, you know, with the Strait of Hormuz being controlled by Iran now, the question is when does Ansar Allah come into play, which would be a huge card. And Elijah, I'm hearing now that, in the last few minutes as we've been talking, there are reports that Iran has said if the U.S. carries out any kind of military operation on Iranian territory—tries to seize anything, occupy, or conduct any operation in Iran—they're going to move on operations they've been training for to seize parts of the

UAE and Bahraini coasts. Which, again, as you said earlier, Elijah, we'll know in the coming days and weeks how much the situation will change and in which direction. That would be a massive shift, and a very critical one. I wonder if you have any comments on this.

#Elijah Magnier

Yes, because now, with any attempt by Donald Trump to gain time—allowing the 5,000 or 6,000 men to reach the Middle East—he said two batches of Marines and amphibious forces, plus the 82nd Airborne Division with 1,000 men, are coming to the region. He already has 50,000 men in the Middle East. Therefore, he doesn't need this kind of troop; he needs specialized troops. He needs airborne specialists. They need to land with the amphibious troops on dry land coming from the sea. That's where his plans are. And this is why the reaction you just mentioned—the Iranians are going to respond harshly to any occupation—because Iran will consider any land that's occupied to be Iranian land, even if it's contested by the Emirates.

If we're talking about the Greater and Lesser Tunb and Abu Musa islands—these three islands, or others around Iran, maybe not Qeshm but other nearby ones—then that would trigger a very harsh Iranian reaction. On the contrary, it would also give Iran the opportunity to use even primitive rockets or any kind of missiles against the islands and inflict serious damage on the Americans, because the Americans would no longer just be in the air. There would be infantry, men on the ground, not far from Iranian missiles and rifles. That's where the number of casualties would be much higher. And the problem is, if Donald Trump can't stomach that number of casualties and then goes for another extreme reaction, it will escalate. So inevitably, I have no doubt Iran will retaliate harshly. But again, I have no doubt that Donald Trump will not accept those consequences without bombing Iran, which would trigger further retaliation.

#Danny

Yeah, I mean, what you just outlined there is very serious. I hope the audience understands that, as you said, this could very well be the beginning of the war rather than the winding down of it. So, Elijah, in the final few minutes, I don't know if there's anything we haven't talked about yet that you'd like to outline here, given that developments in this war are constantly shifting and changing.

#Elijah Magnier

Iran said it will not stop until the war in the Middle East stops, and that includes Hezbollah in Lebanon and the Iraqi resistance. With Iraq, it's easier because the Americans are now in the Kurdish area, in Harir and at Erbil Airport. But with Lebanon, it's completely different, because Netanyahu would be extremely disappointed if the Americans asked him to stop the war—which would mean Hezbollah had won. The Israelis thought that Hezbollah, over the last 15 months, by not responding and allowing the Lebanese government to reach a ceasefire, was weak and without missiles to respond. It turned out that Hezbollah is actually much stronger.

We no longer hear Benjamin Netanyahu talking about assassinating Sayyid Hassan Nasrallah and bragging about it, because he's seen the face of the new leadership. And every time Netanyahu kills a leader, there's a new one, tougher than the previous, with a very strong motivation for revenge. That's going to be the biggest dilemma, because Netanyahu would be crucified by the opposition, saying, "You haven't achieved any objective in Gaza, you haven't achieved any objective in Lebanon, and you certainly haven't achieved the objective in Iran." So he'll be the one blamed for crippling the economy and failing to achieve any of the objectives.

That takes me back to the words of the director of counterterrorism who resigned, when he said that Israel has a formidable army to defend itself, but not to go beyond its borders. Israel cannot attack a non-state actor like Hezbollah and win, nor can it defeat state actors like Iran. It has failed in both cases. It has tried with Hezbollah many times. But because of the presence of the Americans, Benjamin Netanyahu feels more protected and believes he can go beyond any limits. However, the day Donald Trump decides to stop him, Netanyahu will contest it but will not continue the war. And by not continuing the war, he'll have to prepare himself for jail, for the three corruption cases he's going to face, because he failed to deliver the security he promised the Israelis.

#Danny

Yeah. And, you know, when Hezbollah agreed to the ceasefire, Elijah, I've said on this program that that doesn't mean Hezbollah is gone. We've seen Hezbollah come out with a ferocity that, from the very beginning of this war—when Hezbollah entered just several days after February 28th—Israeli spokespersons said, "We were not expecting this to happen. We were not expecting them to fight with such ferocity." And yeah, this was a great show, Elijah. I just want to make sure everybody knows to hit the like button before we head out of here. That helps keep the show going. Your website is in the video description, so people should definitely check out all of your work there. Is there anything you'd like to say before we head out?

#Elijah Magnier

Well, thank you very much for having me. It's a real pleasure, and I like the interaction when people listen. It's great if they put questions forward so we can engage with them and respond. It's a great show—thank you for having me.

#Danny

Yeah, thanks so much, Elijah. We'll be back. I'll definitely be in touch with you. We'll head out together. Hit the like button, everyone—that helps boost the show so more people hear this conversation. All the places to support Elijah and his work are in the video description. Until next time, bye-bye.