# Stanislav Krapivnik: Israel-Iran Escalation Sparks Regional Nightmare

Israel’s strike on Iranian nuclear-related sites and Iran’s missile response are framed as a dangerous new phase of escalation, with doubts raised about missile defenses and strong criticism of U.S. policy. The discussion warns that attacks on nuclear, power, oil, and desalination infrastructure could trigger far wider humanitarian and environmental disasters across the region. It argues that grid failures, water shortages, and retaliatory strikes could spiral beyond any single battlefield, affecting millions and destabilizing the Middle East on a massive scale.

### #Nima

The new escalation is that the Israelis attacked the Iranian nuclear facility in Natanz. Then we had the response from the Iranians. For the first time, you know, Iranian missiles are hitting Dimona. And not only Dimona—Arad was hit as well, two missiles in these two cities. Dimona is so important because it’s one of the most protected cities in Israel. They have everything there to defend it because of its importance, of course, since the nuclear power plant is there and it’s their main source of nuclear capability.

And I think the nuclear bombs and nuclear weapons are there as well. But a single missile was fired and actually hit the target—the Iranians were sending a signal to the Israelis that whenever they want, they can strike inside Israel. How do you see the escalation that’s happening? Donald Trump is part of it; he gave the Iranians 48 hours to open up the Strait of Hormuz. That’s another issue. But starting with these attacks—the Israeli strike on nuclear sites in Iran, then the Iranian response—what’s your understanding of that?

### #Stanislav

Well, first of all, I’d say Trump and Israel are playing good cop, bad cop. You have Israel striking the South Pars gas fields, striking a nuclear power plant, and then Trump saying, “Oh, I told them not to do that. They’re not going to do that again. Iran, don’t react to this,” basically telling them to stand down. So it’s incremental—we just keep slowly raising the temperature, and they’re being told to keep stepping down, keep stepping down. And I think the proper answer is just to go ahead and strike back.

Don't listen to anything the good cop is saying, because the good cop is just as crooked as the bad cop. So the proper response is always to strike back and ignore them. Let them know there will always be payback—maybe even more than they’re expecting. Dimona—you know, it’s hard to say whether they were targeting the nuclear power plant or not. It’s a small power plant. But what was

clearly seen was two Patriot missiles going up—maybe they were Iron Dome missiles, I'm not sure which. You can't really tell. They went up and flew right past the ballistic missile that was coming in, the one that struck.

So that's pretty much it for air defense in this case. Ballistic missiles are hard to stop because of their speed. They're not hypersonic, they're not maneuverable, but they're usually just as fast—they're on a parabolic arc coming in. So I'd probably… I don't know, I don't know what to say about that. More likely it was a warning shot, or it might have been a miss. But the thing is, you know, first of all, if you're hitting a nuclear power plant, let's be clear about a few things. If you actually want to cause a nuclear meltdown, those towers are usually designed to withstand a strike from something like a Boeing 747.

## #Nima

Sorry for interrupting you. They hit the research and technology building in Dimona. It wasn't, you know, the actual nuclear site.

## #Stanislav

Yeah, they damaged a bunch of apartment buildings around there too, but that was from the blast. It happens in the city. You know, if you've got questions about the war you ordered—don't order the war. The Israelis are screaming "war crimes" as they're massacring Lebanese, shelling deeper into Syria, and bombarding Beirut, using white phosphorus on civilians—while screaming war crimes. I think the term is "cry-bullying." You bully people around, and when you get smacked upside the head for it, you start screaming and crying that you're the victim. And they do that all the time. We're seeing that right now. So yeah, it looks like my bucket list item of going to the Holy Sepulchre for Holy Pascha isn't happening.

It's not going to happen in my lifetime for me anyway, because I'm pretty sure I'm on a blacklist with the Israelis by now. Of course, they also closed the church for safety. That church, if you don't know, is the one with the stone where Christ's body was prepared. And the cave where his body was placed is inside that building. Well, the cave is no longer really a cave—it's been carved into a separate structure inside the building. Originally, it was a cave on the hillside, a prepared burial cave. Then the Romans, when they were pagan and suppressing Christianity, built a temple of Aphrodite on top of it, filled everything in, and built that temple.

And then, when Rome Christianized—the Roman Empire, I mean—St. Helena went there and they found the site. They destroyed the Temple of Aphrodite, found the cave, built a small church over it, and that small church became a bigger church, and the bigger church became a giant cathedral. It had never been closed since then. And now the Israelis have closed it. Holy Pascha is three weeks away, and the question is whether or not they'll open it. This is an insult to all Orthodox Christians, to all Catholic Christians, to all Armenian Christians. I'm not even going to count the Protestants

because, hell, they don’t know what they believe half the time. There are thirty thousand branches of them, and half of them scream at each other that they’re not the right branch.

And if they're Zionists—the Zionist heresy—then they're worshiping at the feet of Netanyahu, so why would they care? So yeah, there's that too. Sorry, I went on a tangent. It's just been on my mind lately, what they've done with the church, with the cathedral. If you’re hitting, you’ll go back to the towers. Those towers are built to withstand a full-speed strike from an airliner. You’re not going to damage those towers—well, a ballistic missile probably would, depending on the warhead size. But you know, those towers are very hard to bring down. They’re brought down the same way the Germans demolish their nuclear power plants—as they did to every single one of them—using shaped charges to bring them down.

They don't fall on their own. Now, having said that, if you want a nuclear meltdown, you don’t aim for the towers—you aim for the pumps in the coolant section, because those pumps and the backup generators… So, you can switch off the electricity, but the power station still needs a certain amount of power to keep cooling, to pump water into the cooling towers—I mean, from the cooling tower into the reaction chamber—to cool the rods. Otherwise, the rods will keep generating heat. They’ll overheat. I mean, you’re not going to have a chain reaction unless you have enough uranium at a high enough level for a nuclear explosion. But what you will have is the rods continuing to heat up until they start to melt, and the water that’s already in there will explode in a preliminary steam explosion.

Usually, the way these things are built, there’s a big reservoir of water underneath. That water is already radioactive, so the steam that goes up is radioactive steam. Those reservoirs are part of the whole system, and they’re also radioactive. If the core melts down through the base and hits that water, it will instantly create a massive steam explosion, sending radioactive steam into the atmosphere. Chernobyl didn’t actually have that big explosion—it only had the preliminary steam explosion from the water that was already inside. Three guys went underneath the Chernobyl plant. There are actually three power blocks at Chernobyl; two of them are still operating to this day.

One of them blew up, one of them melted down. And that was Fukushima—I think three blocks went off there, much worse. These guys went underneath and drained the water out, the radioactive water. I don’t know where they drained it. So when it actually melted through and reached the lower chambers, there was nothing there, so it didn’t have a steam explosion. Even with just the preliminary steam explosion and the radioactive cloud that formed, for about a decade Scottish herders were told not to go up into the mountains to feed their flocks, because there was still radiation on them. The good thing about being in a wet climate is that any radioactive fallout tends to get washed away.

Steadily, you know, rain cycles will wash it away. Some of it will get into the food chain, of course, but even that will filter out eventually, and it’ll wash away into the ocean, where it’s diluted by insane amounts of water. And that’s just with the preliminaries. So, I mean, that’s the kind of

biological—uh—disaster you can create. I mean, Israel has already created one biological disaster by blowing up the oil reserves north of Takaran. That cloud didn't just hit Takaran and affect nine million people there, plus the people of northeastern Iran—it went up into Central Asia. I don't think it reached Russia, but it got into Kazakhstan, the southern portion of Kazakhstan.

So it hit Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, went into Kyrgyzstan, then into Pakistan, Afghanistan, and India, and possibly even reached the edge of China. So right off the bat, just for that—if Israel survives as an entity, and it's backed by America, which pays for it—they need to be sued for the damages they caused: the ecological damage to those countries, and possibly to livestock, crops, and so on. But if it's a nuclear power plant that goes off—well, Dimona is about 120 kilometers south of Jerusalem.

It probably wouldn't go up into Jerusalem because it would blow out toward the sea, right into Ashkelon and Tel Aviv, and straight toward Cyprus and southern Turkey. Now, if Iran is destroyed, depending on which way the trade winds are blowing at that time of year, it would probably go northwest into Iraq, Kuwait, northern Saudi Arabia—into those areas. So, yeah, I mean, we're not talking about something that's going to be limited to just one country in either case. We're talking about major disaster areas. How much fallout? You know, people living in—it's also questionable. There are about 10,000 people living in the Chernobyl exclusion zone, and they've been living there—a lot of people just didn't leave.

Now, they don't live inside the actual city, though the radiation is pretty low at the edge because the big concrete blocks absorb a lot of it. But when you get toward the intersections, you know, moss builds up, radiation collects, the Geiger counter starts going off, and the rad count rises pretty quickly. Further out, the human body can adapt to those levels of radiation—it may cause cancer, it may not. My uncle was building nuclear power facilities for the Soviet Union. He died of cancer; his whole team did. Stomach cancer. He was 79 when he died. And his older brother—they were using that soil for gardening because they were also military engineers.

They set up a garden, not realizing they were using radioactive soil. He also died of stomach cancer—he was 84 when he passed. So, you know, it raises the question: what's the lethal dosage? Did the cancer come from the radiation? Maybe. But when you're living to 79 or 84, you're pretty much at the end of your life anyway. Still, if you're point-blank in that area, yeah, you're going to get a high dose of radiation that can cause a lot of damage. So there was that. But now Trump is threatening—and this is just to add on from before—so that was Trump with Israel, playing good cop, bad cop. Then Trump comes out and says, "Hey, Europe, come over here. We don't need the Straits of Hormuz."

You need the Straits of Hormuz. There's no problem—they're all defeated, you can just come through. It's not much of a job. Well, then why doesn't the U.S. Navy do it? And then, within like two hours, he's screaming, "You've got 48 hours to surrender," basically, over the Straits of Hormuz. "We're going to destroy everything in your country." To which Iran said, "Oh, fine, we'll do the same

thing to Israel and to Jordan and to all of your allies until there's nothing left." Whether Trump carries that out or not, the impression he's leaving—at least for anybody who's not just a diehard fanatic of Trump—is that this is not a man who is rational. This is a guy who is emotionally disturbed. He's all over the place. And, you know, maybe it's time for the 25th Amendment.

## #Nima

Yeah.

## #Stanislav

In case anybody doesn't know, that's the amendment that allows you to remove a sitting president for physical or mental deficiencies.

## #Nima

Yeah. I think they don't understand that the Iranian power plants—or, let's say, the power grid—aren't something you can just hit in one spot, like the most important one, and expect the whole country to go dark. That's not going to happen, because they're designed to back each other up. You know, if one part goes down, another part takes over. The north, the south, the east, the west, and the center—they're all connected. If one goes out, the others step in and keep the system running. It's not going to be that easy to take it down.

## #Stanislav

Yeah, Nima, that's actually bad. That's not good, and I'll tell you why. You'll get a cascading effect. This is what happened in the U.S. when the entire Northeast went out because one Canadian generator—part of the same grid—blew. That put the load onto the next generators or electric stations, and when one more blew, it just became a cascading effect, one after another. You have to cut off portions of that grid in time, or it's going to cascade down and hit all the others. The best thing would be if each one of those zones were separate from each other. That's the safest—so if you took out the center, it wouldn't affect anybody else, just that one area.

Redundancy is good, and power generation is good if you—well, even then, I mean, like I said, one Canadian power station went out. Spain had the same thing just recently—Spain and Portugal. Basically, it started with one or two power stations going out, and it took down the entire western portion of the Iberian Peninsula. So that's actually—yeah, I've been talking to people about it. The theory now is it's better to disconnect them, just have localized grids. That gives you more protection. But the Americans—of course, the Americans are going to just hit one. They're going to go after everything. And of course, Iran's going to hit everything back.

And as we see with Ukraine, of course, Ukraine's getting a lot of transformers brought in from Europe—to the point where they're running out. First, it depends on what you hit. Second, it depends on how you hit it. And yes, that can be brought back online, obviously. When you're hitting transformer networks, there are the regular blocks—they're actually glass. The transformers are glass and steel, plus the metallic ends and ceramic portions. The standard rows, those get mass-produced. But the first big block transformers, the ones for large power stations, can be three stories high. They're basically handmade. The whole world produces maybe around 1,200 of them total.

The U.S. produces about 400 or 500, and they're usually made for specific projects—either to replace existing ones or for a new power station. So there are fewer than 1,200 produced globally each year. And they're very expensive. They're huge, and those things are hard to replace for obvious reasons. That's one of the issues in Ukraine: once you hit one of those, even if you bring one in from somewhere else, there's only a limited number available. It's one of those very niche industries worldwide. Maybe it's not even 1,200; I think it might be a lot lower. I think Russia produces about 120 a year, and on average, the U.S. is somewhere around the same—maybe a little higher than China.

But, you know, again, if you hit that—and likewise, if you hit it in Saudi Arabia, or in Qatar, or any of these others—they're going to have the same problems, maybe even more so, getting equipment to them. You know, Iran has a deep rear; it's called Russia and China. Those Saudi countries don't have a deep rear. Unless their deep rear is so deep it's called the United States—and then, you know, we'll see about that too. So their logistics are much, much worse for any kind of replacement. And we're going to see how this plays out very soon, because the world is heading for a massive—well, parts of the world are heading for massive crashes. And I think at this point they're absolutely unavoidable and already starting to happen.

## #Nima

It's not going to be just power grids. They're going to go after desalination—everything. Oil facilities too, because it's not going to be limited to power grids. Iran just said that: if you do that, we're going to go after all of these facilities in Arab states and in Israel.

## #Stanislav

And here's the thing: about 5% or 6% of the Iranian population—well, Iran has been in a drought. It's climatic; it's been in a drought for the last couple of years. So Iranian agriculture is suffering a lot. However, there's enough water for the population. It's only 5% or 6% of the population that needs desalination plants to survive. Oh, is it 2%? Okay. Israel has enough water for its population—I've been asking people—but about 75% of its agricultural sector depends on desalination plants. They

don’t have enough water for agriculture. Again, arid environment, and again, it’s been in a drought like the whole region. Having said that, then we go to the artificial nations—Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates.

These are artificial nations. We know this. You know, I went to Dubai on a business trip. I was a director at Halliburton. We had a meeting there, so we all went for about a week—back in 2013. And I’m the kind of person who likes to visit historical places. I like ruins, reading about them, walking through them, seeing other civilizations. I was determined to find historical Dubai. I searched all over the internet before I went, and found nothing. When I got there, I talked to the locals, and they laughed—because “historical Dubai,” for those who don’t know, is basically big Dubai city. Historical Dubai was a mud-brick fort for the local warlord, a few dozen houses, and a tiny little port. That’s historical Dubai.

There's no historical Dubai left. They just took it all down. There are no ruins because it was mud brick. I mean, it was just a poor little port for one local sultan, and most of the population were nomads. So there is no historical Dubai. This entire city—everything—grew up on imported technologies. First and foremost, because of the money, of course, from oil and gas. And first and foremost, desalination. These countries are 75% to 100% dependent on desalination. Saudi Arabia isn’t that much, of course, because Saudi Arabia has wheat fields in the south. They have water in the southern part of the country. But still, they’re way overpopulated for the amount of water they have.

## #Nima

Which regions are Shia?

## #Stanislav

Exactly. Well, right. Yes, they are. They've got wheat in the south and things like that. But Riyadh and all these cities are in dry, dry, dry areas—at least for the last six or seven thousand years, I’m sure. In the last ice age, they were very wet areas. But we’re not in an ice age, thank God—and they’re dry. You can’t import the water to feed these people; you’d need to import rivers, constantly flowing. So without desalination—let’s be frank—if those desalination plants are taken out, you’re looking at a massive mass-casualty event. The human body can go about three weeks without food.

And if you're really fat, like some of these obese cows you see that just have morbid obesity in the U. S. or the U.K.—if they're given enough water, they'll probably survive quite a bit longer because they've got stored reserves. The average human being, maybe three weeks before he's dead from starvation, maybe less. Three days without water. In the desert, you wouldn't last one day. And let's be realistic: when the heat’s hitting 45, 50 degrees, it’s just sucking the vapor right out of your body.

Every time you breathe, you sweat—everything is drying out. You go a day without water, that's the reality of it. Now, there's, what, 100 million people in that area? Let's even say 60 million people would be affected.

How many people are going to die off within the first few days? You cannot evacuate that many people physically. You cannot move that many people. You cannot feed that many people in an emergency. You cannot bring drinking water. You've got to figure the average human body—especially on the move, trying to survive, trying to get out in that kind of heat—even if you're only moving at night, you're going to need at least three liters of water per adult person. Children will need less, of course. It's physically impossible to bring that much water. I mean, you would have a mass, mass-casualty event. Within days—one, two, three, four days—you'd see a massive die-off of humanity in that area.