

Yemen Joins War Against US & Israel | Mohammad Marandi Explains What Comes Next

Yemen has officially entered the war against the United States and Israel — and this could mark a major turning point in the conflict. In this explosive interview, Mohammad Marandi explains what Yemen's involvement means for Iran, the Gulf states, and the global balance of power. Support Independent media to remain bold: <https://patreon.com/IndiaGlobalLeft> Link for donation: <https://paypal.me/sankymudiar> We discuss: • Why Yemen joining the war is a game changer • The future of the Strait of Hormuz and global oil supply • Whether Gulf states will rethink alliances with the US • Volodymyr Zelenskyy's Gulf visit and new defence deals • Russia's position and possible shift toward Iran • Is Israel facing internal crisis? This war is no longer contained — it is expanding.

#Mudiar

Hello and welcome to another episode of *India and Global Left*. If you're new to the show, please hit that subscribe button. Also, consider becoming a YouTube member, a patron, or donating a small amount using the link in the description box. Without further ado, let me welcome our guest tonight, Professor Mohammad Marandi. Professor Marandi teaches at the University of Tehran in Iran. Professor Marandi, welcome back to *India and Global Left*.

#Mohammad

Thank you very much for inviting me. It's always a pleasure to be on your show.

#Mudiar

I wanted to start with the latest news today — Yemen joining the war against the United States and Israel. Could you tell us the significance of this moment?

#Mohammad

It's very important because Yemen can block the Red Sea at will, and that would be catastrophic for Saudi oil exports that pass through it. The supertankers can't go through the Suez Canal, so if the Red Sea is blocked, oil exports would drop sharply. And if they decide to strike Saudi assets, then even the smaller ships wouldn't be able to carry oil through the Suez Canal. That's one thing they can do. They can also fire missiles at the Israeli regime, which they've already done. The regime already faces a serious shortage of missile defense capabilities. And obviously, I'm sorry about that.

#Mohammad

They've been preparing themselves since the seven weeks of fighting have focused on Iran and the Red Sea. Powerful. There's talk that they may go into Kuwait at some point, and Ansarullah could also move into Saudi Arabia. There are three provinces in Saudi Arabia that the people of Yemen believe to be their own. So we're in very extraordinary times. But of course, the resistance — the axis of resistance led by Iran — didn't want this war, and they're not going to climb the escalation ladder overnight. There's a lot more that Iran can do, that the resistance in Iraq can do, and that the resistance in Yemen can do.

Of course, Hezbollah is hitting the Israeli regime very hard and effectively, which undermines that whole argument that's been made for well over a year now — that Hezbollah has been destroyed. Hezbollah is hitting the Israelis very hard and very effectively. They are the true heroes in this whole story because they've made so many sacrifices for the Palestinian people in Gaza, drawing away the armed forces of the Israeli regime and making huge, huge sacrifices. Their families, their children, journalists, innocent people — all slaughtered by the regime.

Apartment block after apartment block destroyed, with Western media pretending these are Hezbollah strongholds to justify the slaughter. They did all this to help spare the children of Gaza. They are the true heroes, alongside, of course, the rest of the axis of resistance. But being right beside the Israeli regime, they face—uh—massive destruction. So the people of Lebanon, the supporters of the resistance, history will remember the role they played, and people across the world should look at them as role models in every way imaginable. But, um, by expanding the war and making it a regional war, the Americans have only made things worse for themselves.

It's believed that an escalation by Trump is imminent — that there will be strikes on Iran, possibly a campaign to take islands, territory, or the southern shores of Iran, and maybe even attacks deep inside the country with special forces. But escalation means the Iranians will escalate too. They can easily destroy the oil and gas facilities on the other side of the Persian Gulf, and Iran's allies in Iraq and Yemen can also escalate. So the Americans are making a catastrophic situation even more catastrophic. The reason is that the Zionists want it. Trump wants a way out — he's seeking an off-ramp — but the Zionists, Netanyahu, the Israeli regime, they won't permit him to do so.

#Mudiar

I'll come to some of the things you said, but I just wanted to start with the second important news of the day, which is Zelensky — after having dragged Ukraine into this war, provoking Russia into launching a special military operation and causing chaos, a catastrophe for Ukrainians most of all — is now touring the Gulf states. There are media reports; we don't know the exact details, but one is with Saudi Arabia, one with Qatar, and another coming with the Emiratis. They're talking about a decade-long agreement that covers a whole range of issues, including defense.

And the top news is that they would be helping them — Ukraine would be helping the Gulf states shoot down Shahed drones, because apparently they've had experience with that in Ukraine. Analysts are saying that might be because Ukraine is worried that their air defense and other intercepting missile systems are now being diverted to West Asia. What's your reading of that news? Well, the very fact that he's traveled to these countries is obviously not going to make the Russians happy.

#Mohammad

And it's not going to make them happy with these countries either. If he's so successful, then why is he losing the war against the Russians? I don't think Ukraine under Zelensky will be around much longer — if Ukraine itself exists much longer — but I don't think, with him as president or leader, there's...

#Mohammad

We're not going to see that last. And these regimes may not last either. The way things are going, they're all completely dependent on oil and gas. The Emirates, which has made itself a center of global commerce, is never going to be seen as a safe place again in the future. So we're not going back to the past — that era is over. And these regimes, if they do survive the coming weeks and months, and if people don't take over, they'll have to deal with a new reality: they'll have to compensate Iran for all the damage they've done. Iran will no longer allow them to be platforms for aggression — that era is over. Iran has forgiven them for many atrocities. When the West pushed Saddam to invade Iran in 1980 and gave him chemical weapons, they funded the war. They gave Saddam hundreds of billions of dollars back then.

And then Iran forgave them after the war. After that, they supported ISIS and Al-Qaeda in Syria and Iraq — especially Qatar, of course, along with Turkey, Jordan, and the others. But Qatar funded it more than the other regimes in the Persian Gulf. And it was from Qatar that the American drones flew to murder General Soleimani. And then, of course, during the 12-day war, U.S. bases were used against Iran — the radar systems, and the genocide in Yemen, the Saudi and Emirati genocide in Yemen. They used U.S. bases in the region to attack them, to invade Iraq, to carry out the dirty wars here. That era is over. Iran will not allow that anymore. So if these family dictatorships survive — and it's not clear that they will, because if the war expands and these key assets are destroyed, the oil and gas installations — then there's nothing left.

They're not like Iran, or like Russia, or like China or Brazil. They're completely dependent on two or three things — maybe just one thing, and in a couple of cases, two things: oil, or oil and gas, or oil and commerce. So they're not in a position of power anymore. The smart thing for them to do would be to tell the Americans to get out, try to restore relations with Iran, and pay compensation. That would end the war very swiftly. But as things stand, despite the fact that Trump told Mohammed bin Salman that he would have to kiss his—well, despite all that humiliation, these regimes, for the time

being, I think, instead of taking the right course, will continue to kiss Trump where he tells them to kiss.

#Mudiar

You mentioned that Russia wouldn't be happy about this. I'm just wondering if Iran would be happy about it, given that Russia, let's say, has a decent relationship with the Gulf states. Of course, it has a very good relationship with Iran, but Russia, as they are, doesn't have this polarizing mindset. Still, if this continues, Russia might tilt more to one side. Would Iran be happier, ironically?

#Mohammad

Yes, I think Russian anger toward Zelensky, and their contempt for the Zelensky regime, will fade. His moves in the Persian Gulf region will have an impact, because obviously he's there to make a lot of money—possibly part of it for himself and his cronies, and part of it to continue the war with Russia. So I don't think it's going to be a good deal for these countries in the Persian Gulf. Not that Russia is going to bomb them or break off relations, but it will probably lead the Russians to make extra efforts to ensure Zelensky has no success anywhere. But in any case, this isn't really a key point. There's not much any of these Arab family dictatorships in the Persian Gulf can do. They're not powerful forces. The Emirates has about 1.2 or 1.3 million passport holders—citizens. Qatar has 350,000. Kuwait has...

#Mohammad

Bahrain—these are tiny countries. The only big one is Saudi Arabia, and we saw that even after having the full support of the entire Western world and the region, including Turkey, in their genocidal war against Ansarullah in Yemen for seven years, they failed. So Saudi Arabia is very vulnerable. All of its assets—and all the assets of these countries—are along the shores of the Persian Gulf. They're completely exposed to any Iranian strike. So they're not really in a position of power.

So if they escalate, they can easily be hurt very badly and ultimately destroyed. So I don't think Iran sees that as a very important shift. The real force in the Persian Gulf in this war is the United States, and Iran is at war with the United States. The United States carried out this aggression, they continue to escalate, and Iran is responding. The rest of them are just there—the real reason Saudi Arabia and these other countries matter is that they're allowing the Americans to do whatever they want on their territory.

#Mudiar

I had Ambassador Chas Freeman on recently, and among other things, he said that after many years—perhaps centuries—the Persian region has been able to regain its control over the Strait of

Hormuz and, indirectly, over the Indian Ocean. It was the beginning—going back maybe 500 years—the start of the Portuguese intervention in the region, followed by the Dutch, the British, and so on. But up until 1736, the Safavid Empire held on. Then began the phase of the breakdown of the powerful states there. He said that after 1946 or 1947, Mohammad Mossadegh started to gain control, or at least thought about establishing an independent government in the Persian Gulf. What is your response to Chas Freeman's point that Iran, after many years, has been able to take full control of the Persian Gulf—and that this would have a tremendous impact in the long term on the global stage?

#Mohammad

Well, obviously, Iran is in control of the Persian Gulf as we speak. Despite all their attempts, the Americans can't do anything about it. They may attack Iran tonight, they may attack Iran's islands, they may attack Iran's shores, or carry out strikes deep inside Iran—but they will fail. They won't be able to reopen the Persian Gulf to oil and gas trade. Time will tell. Iran wasn't planning this. These Arab regimes—with their 47-year history with Iran after the revolution, how they supported Saddam, how they supported ISIS and al-Qaeda at the behest of the United States and the West, murdered Iranians, helped with the 12-day war, and helped murder General Soleimani—the Iranians could have accepted that it was business as usual until about a month ago.

So they brought it upon themselves. And now, the reason Iran is saying it's going to control the Strait of Hormuz is because it wants reparations from these regimes and wants to make sure that, in the future, these regimes aren't used as platforms for aggression against Iran. Otherwise, Iran has forgiven much of what they've done so far. Take Qatar, for example, which has done so much to destroy our region through its support of al-Qaeda, Daesh, and other groups. Remember, the official religion or ideology in Qatar is Wahhabism. They follow Muhammad ibn Abd al-Wahhab. Their main mosque in Doha—a huge mosque—is the Muhammad ibn Abd al-Wahhab Mosque. They and the Saudis are the only two countries in the world that claim Wahhabism as their official ideology.

Muhammad bin Salman has somewhat distanced himself from these groups, but in any case, that's the reality. They funded all these terror groups, and then when the Saudis and the Emiratis suddenly turned against them, Iran saved them—Iran saved Qatar. And Iran didn't get any concessions. They didn't say, "You have to give us this much gas." They just said, "Okay, you can fly through our territory." And then these ungrateful people—the regime, I mean—after they were no longer in danger, they went back into the arms of their overlords in Washington. So if we hadn't had this war, Iran never showed any ambition of taking the Strait of Hormuz. But after what they've done—after all the murder, death, destruction, and the slaughter of the kids on the first day—obviously the Iranians are going to have a different set of expectations.

#Mudiar

Do you think they might rethink their security deals with the United States—given that, for the first time, they're probably realizing, or at least I hope so, that those deals are costing them a lot?

#Mohammad

They may not even be around to rethink. Who knows what's going to happen? Because, let's say, the critical infrastructure of these regimes is destroyed—will they be able to control the people? The Emirates: one million citizens, eight or nine million foreigners. Will they be able to control the people in the country? Will the Qataris be able to do that? Will the Kuwaitis be able to do that? The regimes—will Bahrain be able to do that? Will Saudi Arabia be able to do that? It's not even clear if they'll still be in power, because we're at a very sensitive moment. The war so far has caused limited destruction, and despite that, the impact on the global economy is already very serious. It's bad, but it's going to be devastating. And if there's escalation, then a global economic depression is a certainty. If it escalates, all those tankers will be destroyed.

The oil and gas installations will be destroyed. Right now they're bombing Tehran—I don't know if you can hear. So with that happening, will these regimes survive? I don't think so. And if they do, obviously Iran is not going to tolerate them being a platform ever again, because we've suffered so much at their hands. We didn't carry out this aggression. We didn't start the war with Saddam Hussein. We weren't in Syria. They began destroying Syria with ISIS and al-Qaeda. We went to stop these extremist groups. They killed our people in the 1980s, and later they helped the U.S. in the 12-day war. It's Iran that has the grievances, and Iran is now saying enough is enough. Either you behave like normal countries, or you're in trouble. Iran has no problem with them having excellent relations with Europe and the United States, but it's not going to accept them being a platform for aggression anymore.

#Mudiar

Aren't you saying, Professor Mohammad Marandi, that the project of breaking up Iran—the project that was started, and this war was meant to be part of that—might end up breaking up, or causing an uprising against, the governments in the Persian Gulf? Aren't you saying that?

#Mohammad

Yes, yes. Iran is not going to break up. Iran will emerge stronger, even though it's being hit and damaged, and the economy is suffering, and the Americans are bombing hospitals and schools. They bombed a major university in Tehran last night, and the day before, a major university in Isfahan. They're striking universities. They bomb schools. They slaughter children. So of course we're being hurt. They bomb hospitals, ambulances. This is the Epstein coalition—that's what they do. And they seem to have a thing for kids, as we see in Lebanon too: the slaughter of journalists in Beirut, in Lebanon, the slaughter of medics. For the West, this is like normal stuff.

The mask of human rights and all that—they threw that away two and a half years ago. For Europe and North America, it's the law of the jungle. And with that policy, the Iranians have no option but to resist. It's a war for our survival, an existential war. And despite the hurt, we will emerge stronger. But our antagonists will either be destroyed by their own actions—through the economic crisis they bring upon themselves—or through the destruction caused by hosting Iran's enemies. They will be weakened, or they will be destroyed. Europe is going to be far weaker. Europe is in crisis right now. No oil, no oil.

Great shortage of oil, prices going up—natural gas, the same. War in Ukraine. They're all going to be hurt. The United States is going to be hurt. But these Arab regimes in the Persian Gulf, they're going to be hurt the most. So Iran will emerge stronger. Iran's antagonists will be weaker. Even though there are dark days ahead, it's almost inevitable that the United States will attack Iran and try to invade the country, or parts of the country, in the coming hours or days. But they will fail. It will just make things worse. But as I said, Trump wants an off-ramp. He's seeking an exit route, but Israel and Zion won't allow it for now.

#Mudiar

And there would be increasingly greater pressure on the Persian Gulf states as time goes on. The Far East population would see that their governments are supporting the Zionist entity against a fellow Muslim nation, wouldn't they?

#Mohammad

Oh, yes. I mean, if you look across the Arab world, people don't have sympathy for these regimes. If you look at the comment sections on, let's say, Al Jazeera and so on, there's no sympathy for them because people know they're not representative of Arabs, or Muslims, or even human beings. They've worked very hard—Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the Emirates, and others—to demonize Iran for 47 years. Sectarianism, slander, sectarian lies, racism—they've used everything in the book. Everything. But people now see through it. They see that these are proxies of the United States. They will never do anything for Palestine. The Emiratis are allies of the Israeli regime.

And the Iranians and the Axis of Resistance are the only entities that care for the Palestinian people among nations, among governments. So they have no allies—they're despised. But it's not just Muslims. I mean, look at India. The Zionists, by bringing about this war and preventing Trump from exiting, are harming the Indian economy. Do you think the Zionists care? Of course not. They don't care for a moment about what's befalling the Indian economy, or the Brazilian economy, or the Mexican economy, or any economy. Well, the Mexicans, since they export oil, are benefiting at least on one level. But they don't care about the global economy.

They only care about Zionism and their own ethno-supremacist group of people. That's it. So these regimes are despised not just by Muslims, but by Arabs, of course—whether they're Muslim or not—

and by people across the world. I haven't seen anywhere, except in these mainstream media outlets and among people in the Western mainstream, any sympathy for them. I see governments siding with them because the United States holds a gun to their head, or because they're hopeful they can get some money from these governments. But that's not going to last very long, because they're not making any money anymore.

In order to pay for their expenses, they're selling gold right now, because the Americans apparently won't let them sell their stocks or their treasuries or bonds. But ultimately, they're going to have to do that, and that's going to hurt the economy too. So all of their excess money goes into U.S. stocks and bonds, and into buying U.S. weapons that they don't know how to use—they've never been able to use them properly. I digress. The point is that, except for these mainstream media outlets and a certain class of people, there's no sympathy for them, especially the Emiratis.

#Mudiar

Talking about the regime standing on the Faisal Foundation, I wanted to ask you about Syria—given what the mainstream media would call the conclusion of the civil war. It's hard to believe everything is silent in Syria, as it's sometimes reported, because many fought the Takfiri forces for decades and more than that, on the side of the Assad government. And if things get worse in Iraq, as we're seeing signs of, I can imagine people who've been fighting for the Assad government for decades might cross over to Iraq and start fighting the U.S. and their allies there. Isn't that right?

#Mohammad

I think that the Al-Qaeda government, Jolani, and the ISIS groups will never fight against the United States—unless there's a breakdown in command and control, unless the people at the top lose control over them. Jolani was actually being encouraged to help Israel, and he was considering it. They were even moving troops toward the Lebanese border, until the resistance in Iraq and Iran—and the Iranian government—threatened them. Iran warned them with missile and drone strikes, and Iraq said they'd move into Syria if they helped the Israelis. In general, the behavior of this Al-Qaeda government and the Jolani regime has vindicated Iran and the resistance.

Those who are saying this is sectarian—well, everything has been exposed. The only country and the only group supporting the Sunni Palestinians is the Axis of Resistance. Just like in Bosnia, when Bosnia was being destroyed, it was Iran. So people are now seeing that Jolani does nothing for the Palestinians, and he's actually a threat to Hezbollah. So, you know, these events have really woken many people up. Many who supported this dirty war—or, as you pointed out, what the Western media calls the civil war—now see clearly that either they were mistaken or they were themselves proxies.

But they were working for the—well, you know—they were effectively pursuing Israeli and U.S. policy. They're helping them. So in that respect, Iran has been vindicated. But Syria is in no position.

I mean, these terrorist groups—I don't believe they're ever going to do anything. I mean, they're Takfiris. Nothing good ever comes from Takfiri ideology. So I don't see them going into Iraq to target the Americans. They may try to go into Iraq to do what they used to do—kill people. I mean, Jolani used to plant bombs on the streets of Baghdad and slaughter innocent civilians. That was his job, to create chaos. They might attempt that, but the Iraqi resistance is much stronger than they are. So if they do move in that direction, they'll be on the losing end.

#Mudiar

Yeah, I was thinking more about the opposition to Jolani's forces. I mean, I was thinking about an uprising in Syria, and then opposition forces moving in and joining the resistance—which hasn't happened so far.

#Mohammad

Yeah, I don't think it's a priority now for anyone, but as the empire weakens, as these dictatorships in the Persian Gulf that fund Takfiri ideology weaken—and sadly, Turkey, you know, under Erdogan, plays a key role in this horrific rise of these sinister groups of people—I think that as the money runs out, we're already seeing, for example in Sudan, the terror campaign that was funded by the Emiratis collapsing, because the Emiratis don't have that kind of money to hand out to these groups. So I think the fact that this oil and gas wealth, which has been at the service of empire for all these decades, is now lessening and gradually depleting—that itself will be good news for people across the region and beyond.

#Mudiar

Thank you very much.

#Mudiar

Iranian missiles and drones are falling in northern Israel. Hezbollah is fighting, firing rockets that are landing there. There's a lot of censorship, but if you read between the lines, you can find enough evidence about it. And now Ansar Allah is attacking southern Israel. So much so that top Israeli military official Yael Zemir criticized the government for being stressed out and not preparing the troops. How dangerous is this situation for the Zionist entity itself, particularly if opinion in the United States pushes Trump to cry louder for an off-ramp? Could there be a regime change in Israel, or could Israel break up?

#Mohammad

I don't know how this will end. I think, ultimately, this war will end with a very different world—probably, if it expands. I think life across the world will change, and people will be much more

impoverished. You and I will probably have very different lifestyles, just like everyone else. Many people will go hungry, and tens, if not hundreds, of millions will be on the move. They'll probably head toward the places they traditionally go—Europe and North America—but there will be collapse there as well. So, you know, if this war reaches the point where the oil and gas assets in the Persian Gulf are destroyed, the tankers and all that, then that's where we're going. But I think that ultimately the war will end, and Israel will probably exist after the war, but as a diminished entity.

A lot of people will no longer have support. People across the world right now know that their difficulties are being brought about by the Israeli regime. And as things get worse, people will turn away from the Israeli regime. It will be diminished; it will have no support. I think many Zionists will be disillusioned. I think that ultimately, at some point down the road, it will collapse, or there will be civil war. I don't see a good future for Zionism, and I think many young Jews are at the forefront of the resistance against it. Some even say that the majority of very young Jews now see themselves as anti-Zionists, which is a very good thing, because Judaism is not the same as Zionism. Many of my friends—Jewish friends, both religious and not so religious—are anti-Zionists.

All my Jewish friends are anti-Zionists. Just like Christians—you know, not all Christians are Zionists. Increasingly, the numbers are dwindling. Zionist Christians who believe, or claim, that Christ supports genocide are becoming fewer, just as Muslims are distancing themselves from Takfiri ideology like ISIS and Al-Qaeda. And we're seeing people very unhappy about the role the Jolani regime is playing. So I don't see a good future for the Israeli regime. Iran has always believed in the one-state solution, where everyone has equal status—Muslims, Christians, and Jews. We have Jews in Iran, we have synagogues, we have kosher restaurants, and we have a Jewish member of parliament. And that, basically, is the only way forward.

It's quite extraordinary how the West—and Western journalists and elites—over the years, whenever I would say, "You support ethno-supremacism in Palestine," they just immediately change the subject. That's how it's always been in my interactions with Western journalists from the mainstream media. MPs from Western countries, as soon as you talk about racism and ethno-supremacism, they just change the subject. They won't go into it. But now it's being forced upon them, because their own people, especially the youth, see the reality. And as the misery of the world increases because of this foolish war, everyone will know who to blame. It will be Zionism, Netanyahu, and Trump. And Palestine will be free—hopefully for Jews, Christians, Muslims, and whoever else lives there. Hopefully.

#Mudiar

We'll leave it there, Professor Marandi. Thank you so much for joining us, and I wish you safety and all the best.

#Mohammad

Thank you very much for having me. It's always a pleasure.

#Ayushman

Hi, my name is Ayushman. I, along with Mudiar Jyotishman, have started this platform. Over the last two years, we've tried to build content for the left and progressive forces. So far, we've interviewed economists, historians, political commentators, and activists. If you've liked our content and want us to build an archive for the left, I have two requests for you. Please consider donating to the cause—the link is in the description below. And if you're not able to, don't feel bad; you can always like our videos and share them with your comrades. Finally, don't forget to hit the subscribe button.