

Seyed M. Marandi: They Hit Iran's WATER & POWER... Now RETALIATION Has Started

#Nima

Hi, everybody. Today's Tuesday, March 31st, 2026, and our dear friend, our brother, Professor Seyed M. Marandi, is here with us. Welcome back, Professor.

#Seyed

Thank you, Nima. It's always a great pleasure to be on your show.

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Let me start, Professor Marandi, with the new targets. Right before coming to this podcast, we had Pete Hegseth together with General King talking about how precise the United States' targets in Iran really are. We know they've hit some pharmaceutical companies in Iran that provide remedies and medicines for cancer patients. So what are the targets? It's not only pharmaceutical companies—there's also a new one. Yesterday we learned they hit a school, killing ten kids along with their teacher. What are these targets, considering what Pete Hegseth tries to present to the West in the mainstream media, and what's the reality on the ground in Iran?

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They're lying. It's clear as day to anyone in Iran that they're targeting homes and apartment blocks. I just told you before the show that they've been hitting poultry farms to wipe out the country's food industry. They've been targeting pharmaceutical companies, schools, hospitals, and universities—important universities in Tehran as well as in other cities, places where young people go to get educated so that tomorrow they can build their homes, their communities, their cities, their country. This is basically what they've been doing, and the reason is that they're frustrated.

They can't strike and destroy the hundreds of underground missile bases, the hundreds of underground drone bases, the many factories that produce missiles and drones, and other key assets that will be revealed as the war continues—or when the Trump regime begins its invasion of the islands or other areas in Iran. So their revenge is on ordinary people. Just the night before last, Nima—the night before last—only a short walk away. It's like a 30-minute walk from where I am now. Less, maybe 15 or 20 minutes. They bombed a demonstration. They fired missiles at a

demonstration because at night, across the city of Tehran and across the country, people gather in large numbers. When I travel across the city at night, sometimes to go to a studio or just somewhere else, you pass by many of them—small, medium-sized, huge.

Sometimes they're just people from the neighborhood. Sometimes they're official gatherings, which are very large—like in Enghelab Square, or Khorasan Square, or, you know, Tajrish Square and all these other places. Near where I am now, they bombed near Artish Square. There was a gathering. They bombed it. They fired missiles at them, and a woman was killed. She died. She was badly wounded, and then I just received news, literally 20 minutes ago, that she died last night—from someone who was there. So this is what we're dealing with. We're dealing with monsters. The Trump regime, the Netanyahu regime—these are monsters. The Zionists, the collective West, the regimes in the Persian Gulf that have been hosting these bases and facilitating the airstrikes for over a month now—these are all monsters.

And they constantly try to hide this. It doesn't really matter if it's pro-Trump media in the West or anti-Trump media. They may dislike Trump, but they have no problem with killing kids. They have no problem with murdering demonstrators. I mean, we discussed this before—when the demonstration, the Quds Day demonstration, which I participated in on the last Friday of Ramadan, was bombed and a woman was killed there. There was a lot of footage. I tweeted it, others did too. None of the mainstream media, the legacy media, or the Epstein-class controlled media in the West showed it, even though it would've been the footage of the year.

And people, of course, did not stampede. They didn't run away. They stood their ground. And it's happening across the country. As I said, just the night before last, near Artish Square. And in Hamadan, I know of another strike. In Anzali City, I know of another strike. I've posted footage of all of these online. The one from the night before last, I don't have any footage of that. But the West doesn't either. So it's not as if the opponents of Trump in the West have any humanity. They're just like Trump. But this is the daily reality. They're constantly striking. Their focus is on civilians. They bomb trucks that take goods from city A to city B. They bomb ambulances.

I mean, right now in Lebanon, they're striking all the ambulances. They've murdered large numbers of medics there. Why? Because they want as many people to die as possible. But the Western media isn't dwelling on this. They're trying to do to Lebanon what they did to Gaza. And have no doubt—when this war comes to an end, Iran will make sure that Lebanon is part of any agreement, along with its allies across the axis of resistance. The Israeli regime will not be able to take Lebanon and annex it like in Syria, under the government of Jolani, the Al-Qaeda leader, where they are completely indifferent.

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I think that's important, Professor Marandi. Sorry for interrupting. That's important because right now we've heard from the Israeli Defense Minister, Israel Katz. He's saying they're going to keep the southern part of Lebanon as a buffer zone, a security zone, something like that.

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Yeah, that's not going to be tolerated. Neither Hezbollah nor the Axis of Resistance will tolerate that. And Iran, as part of the Axis of Resistance, will not tolerate it either.

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Professor Marandi, the other part—you know, we've learned about the attack on the water resources in one of the cities. I happen to know it because it's located in Khuzestan, in the city of Haft-Tappeh. I know the city. I know that it has nothing to do with the military-industrial complex, with the nuclear program—nothing, nothing. Do you think that if they continue these kinds of attacks on water resources, which are important for smaller cities far from the big ones, it could cause serious management problems if something happens? Because it seems they're trying to bring suffering to the people, trying to put pressure on the government through society—which they don't understand. If that's their goal, they don't understand Iranians, in my opinion. But what would be the response if they continue with this sort of attitude?

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Well, you're right. They targeted the water resources of that city, and of course, it's not in the Western media. And in general, Nima, nowhere near our borders do we have significant military installations—nowhere. All of the underground bases for missiles and drones are deep inside Iran. The underground bases that are near the borders are meant for defense in case of an invasion. So if there's an invasion, they'll be met by people who are very well entrenched, very well in place. They have underground facilities for resistance. But there's no major military-industrial center or any major base near any of the borders, because that would be foolish.

They're all deep inside so they can't be easily accessed. But it's not just there—they also targeted the water resources. A few days ago, they hit the desalination plant on Qeshm Island, which has a significant population. Iran has warned that if this continues, it will target desalination plants in occupied Palestine and on the other side of the Persian Gulf. Because remember, all of them are complicit in this war. They're all part of a broad coalition—the Israeli regime, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the Emirates—they're all in the same camp. The Americans and the Israelis coordinate all their strikes.

When they bomb demonstrations in different cities, when they bomb people on the streets waving flags, it's done in coordination. They're completely coordinated. But the Americans do it through

these regimes that are family dictatorships. Therefore, Iran will seek revenge to prevent it from continuing—by striking these regimes in the Persian Gulf and the Israeli regime as well. And Iran has already done this before. So I think Trump recognizes the dangers. When they targeted Iran's gas installations, Iran retaliated immediately and caused far greater devastation. Why? To prevent this from continuing.

And then Trump backed down and said, "I didn't know anything about it," which is nonsense. They're fully coordinated. He may not have known about it personally because he was busy playing golf or something, but it's coordinated. And then, when they bombed a number of Iranian factories, Iran began striking factories in the Persian Gulf—like the aluminum factories in the Emirates and Bahrain, and other facilities. So anything they do, Iran is going to hit back harder. And that includes oil and gas, of course. So if Trump carries out the threat he made again yesterday—that he'll destroy all of Iran's key infrastructure—well, those are crimes against humanity.

And no one in the West is complaining about it. No one is saying that this is outrageous—just like no one is saying that it's outrageous to strangle the Cuban people. The elites in the West, whether it's the media, the left, the right, or the liberals—they're all the same. They may dislike each other, but they're all the same when it comes to empire. So if he does that—if Trump moves to destroy our key infrastructure—Iran will destroy everything. There'll be nothing left. And if that happens, then the Strait of Hormuz, opening it or closing it, really becomes irrelevant because there will be nothing left to export. So it's really Trump's choice.

Iran did not start this war. If you watch Western media, you wouldn't know that. Iran did not start this war. Iran did not murder the leader of any other country. Iran did not begin a war by slaughtering children—that was intentional. The first targets are always very carefully chosen. There's no chance this was a mistake, targeting the school in Minab. I saw Human Rights Watch write something about Iran's missiles, saying four people in Israel, in the Israeli regime, were killed. And this is, I don't know, a crime against humanity. I didn't check their previous reports, but someone told me they haven't even said anything about Minab.

It's unbelievable. It's unbelievable how Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International—how disgusting and disgraceful they are, and how openly they act as tools of empire. So, you know, this is what we're dealing with. Iran has to be tough; Iran has to hit back hard, and it will do so. We'll have to see if they continue—we'll have to see what happens in the coming days. But there's no doubt that if they strike Iranian water supplies and other key assets or infrastructure of the country, like desalination plants, then Iran will hit back much harder than the first time, in response.

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Pete Hacksett today, with General Cain, both said that the United States and Israel have reduced the capabilities of Iran's arms production. They were talking about missiles and drones, and from what we've learned from the IRGC and the new report coming out, the argument they were trying to

make in this briefing was that the number of missiles and drones is going down because Iran isn't producing them anymore. That's why, they said, the numbers are dropping. But from this report, we see the numbers are actually going up instead of down. For example, on March 27th—or maybe it was March 11th—we had 33 missiles going to Israel or the Persian Gulf Arab states.

Right now it's 40—an all-time high, if you consider that. The number of drones is 63, and both of those numbers are increasing compared to before. They're not even providing accurate information, because nobody's reporting what the Iranian side is saying in these IRGC reports—the real numbers of what's going on, what they're firing at Israel, and whether the production of arms, missiles, and drones is happening as we speak. My understanding is they're producing 24/7. Is that the case? Yes, they are producing 24/7. And also...

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They've been making these missiles and drones for 20 years now. They can, and most of the underground bases haven't even been used yet—they're waiting for orders. Iran is only using the known missile bases so the others can stay hidden and be used when the time comes. I mean, they were saying this on day three and day four. During the first week, remember, they brought those charts and kept showing how the numbers were supposedly decreasing day by day. Well, okay, if that's the case, then let's continue this war. It's the Iranian side that has no problem continuing the war. The Trump regime wants out. So, you know, the Iranians are saying, "Come in, come and invade."

We're waiting for you because the Iranians want them to attack. The Iranians want a land attack. They want this war to go on because they want to give the Trump regime a punishing response so that this will never happen again. It's not that Iran wants war—it's that Iran wants to make this the last war. They want to make sure the United States doesn't come back in a year, or six months, or a year and a half, or two years, to threaten or strike the country again. So he can say all he wants on television, but the Iranians are saying, "Let's go on. Let's continue with this war. Come on in. Invade the country. Take our islands. Take our territory. We're waiting for you. We'll give you tributes."

We'll give you gifts. So come in. It's all nonsense. He knows it. Everyone knows it. The media knows it. The media that opposes Trump is now speaking critically, not because they're any different from him—they're the same. But if things aren't looking good, then they want their revenge on Trump. And they know this is going downhill for the United States because the energy crisis is just beginning to be felt, Nima. And this is sad. I mean, I don't want the world—and no one in Iran wants the world—to suffer the consequences. But there's no option left for us. This oil, this LNG, these fertilizers are coming from countries that are family dictatorships, that host U.S. forces, and that facilitate the attacks on Iran.

And then they stand back and say, "We're neutral," and they moan and groan about Iran. This has to come to an end—and it can come to an end. If these countries expel the United States and say,

“We will no longer allow our territories to be used,” then they will have gone a long way toward ending this situation. But in any case, Iran is not going to allow the United States to use the Persian Gulf in the future as a platform to attack Iran. And Iran is going to be unforgiving toward these regimes. They will have to pay full compensation to Iran for the crimes they’ve committed and continue to commit against the Iranian people. Every one of these poultry farms, every one of these pharmaceutical factories, every woman who is murdered on the streets by these missiles—they’re going to have to pay for it.

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The other dimension of the war is the economic war, and the way Donald Trump is trying to manipulate the market every Monday, Friday, or Sunday. He’s always putting something out to move the market. This week, we’ve seen that the market doesn’t really pay much attention to what Donald Trump is saying anymore, because people see the manipulation coming from the president of the United States. But so far, this manipulation has benefited Donald Trump and Pete Hackett—they’re making a lot of money from it. On the other hand, we have a new player in this game: Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf, the head of the Iranian parliament, who entered the scene by offering Americans investment advisory services for the U.S. financial markets, which caused quite a stir on X. How do you see the way Iran is confronting the United States on every front?

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Well, I’ve read that Dr. Ghalibaf’s tweet turned out to be right, and those who followed his advice made the right move. The fact is, the entire political elite in the United States is utterly corrupt, and they’re doing insider trading. Those who are close to the center of power, of course, make more money. But Trump’s opponents—as this ship sinks, as Trump’s ship sinks—they’re going to target people around Trump.

They won’t target their own people, but they’ll increasingly go after those around Trump for insider trading—not because they’re against corruption, but because this ship is sinking, things aren’t working, and they’d like to blame Trump for it. Not for humanitarian reasons, not because they’re decent people, but because it’s politically the right thing for them to do. But Dr. Ghalibaf’s tweet—I think people should follow him. They should definitely follow him. And the statements he’s been making about the battlefield and the future of the war are important to take into consideration. People know him less, but he’s also very important, especially because he used to be a senior general in the armed forces and has held significant positions over the past few decades.

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The Telegraph reported that thousands of flights were canceled as jet fuel costs soared. And Donald Trump is trying to put pressure on the United Kingdom, for example, saying, “You have to buy it from us or join the war against Iran in the Strait of Hormuz.” What is your assessment, Professor

Marandi, of the Europeans' position so far? They've said they're trying to do everything to defend Israel, but on the other hand, they're not willing to join in this trade-off, at least from what we've learned. They've said, "This is not our war." Germany said that, the United Kingdom said that. Spain has taken a very bold stance on what's going on in the Middle East, and Italy the same way. As for France, today Donald Trump was tweeting and posting that the French are not cooperating with them in using their airspace. What's happening in the minds of Europeans? Because it seems that, after all, they see the long-term strategy somehow. I don't know—what's your take on that? What do you make of it?

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Well, I'm talking about their elites, not ordinary Europeans. These European elites are like rats who see that the ship is sinking. They're already in a lot of trouble as it is. I mean, the war in Ukraine has depleted their resources, and of course, the foolish EU policies even before that pushed them in this direction. But the EU is not in a position to wage war against Iran. They're already losing the war in Ukraine, and they've emptied their pockets. They're entering a long, long European winter, and it may last for many years, even decades. So they understand where things are going.

And increasingly, in the United States, people understand where things are going. By the way, the fact that Trump is now saying they may discontinue this war and leave the Strait of Hormuz as it is—no one in Iran believes that. The belief here is that he's preparing to launch a ground offensive, and the evidence indicates that. So this is all about manipulating the market. As you said earlier, it's widely believed that an assault on Iran is imminent. And despite the fact that we all hate war—they started this war—the belief is that it's necessary, that we have to go through this next stage to make sure it never happens again.

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Well, first of all, from my understanding, I don't know about the second AWACS. I read the report you mentioned. But the first AWACS—the one we saw pictures of, destroyed—was hit by a drone. From what I've read in Iranian sources and media, it was a drone that struck it. And this shows how vulnerable the United States is. It's not like some hypersonic missile went and destroyed it; it was an inexpensive drone that took out a key U.S. aircraft, which is vital, especially now that all their radar installations—except for the one in Turkey, which Iran won't strike because of its relationship with Turkey—are gone. But Turkey continues to allow AWACS jets to fly over its airspace and gather intelligence against Iran.

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You know.

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Anyway, these Arab regimes are detached from reality. From the very beginning, they were hoping that the United States would destroy key Iranian infrastructure, murder key Iranian leaders, and that Iran would capitulate. They're just proxies of the United States. They don't have much agency. I'm not saying they're all identical. But when Trump says publicly that Mohammed bin Salman has to kiss him wherever, it just shows the nature of the relationship. It's not as if Mohammed bin Salman convinces Trump to do something—Trump is in a commanding position in this relationship. So what he says, I think, is probably going to be in line with Trumpian thinking, whatever that may be, because it changes from minute to minute.

So these regimes are neither stable, nor are their leaders very bright. Mohammed bin Zayed is not a very bright person—he's not very smart. I know some of the people around him; I've met them many times. I don't want to humiliate them here by naming them, but they're well-known people. I've spent a lot of time with at least two of them. They're not very smart. They live in their own alternative universe. And, you know, because they've accumulated so much wealth for themselves, they give out lots of handouts. One of the things is—well, first of all, we all know that Wahhabism, for example, and this extremism, this Takfiri ideology, have been funded by these regimes.

Saudi Arabia and Qatar in particular—in recent years, Qatar has done more than anyone else—but in the past, it's historically been Saudi Arabia that leads through these massive networks of religious centers and media outlets they control. But none of them work independently of the empire; all of them are in full coordination with it. The Emirates—everything it does in Yemen, Sudan, or Somalia—is not independent either. There may be differences in their policies with one another, but they're all in the Western camp. That's how Wahhabism was spread through extremist groups in Afghanistan, Syria, Iraq, Libya, and elsewhere.

They use these terrorists—Qatar especially helped fund them—and sadly, the Erdogan people too, to bring down the Libyan government. Syria is a more famous example because it took so long for the West and the United States to bring it down and install a puppet regime. But Libya came first. So they are not independent actors. They may be affiliated with different people in the West, in the United States. Their lobbies are not the same. The Emirates lobby certain groups—they have a particular sector of people in the United States who lobby for them. They fund them, they promote them, through think tanks and university centers. Qatar has a different set of people. Often they're in conflict with each other. But at the end of the day, none of them operate outside the U.S. camp.

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Yeah. Netanyahu says he wants to make some sort of coalition, some kind of alliance with Arab states in the region to go against acts of resistance. I think it's delusional, because who's going to be the army? The people in these countries are totally against what's going on in Gaza, against what's happening with this new war. So it seems as though, if the leadership agrees with Netanyahu, he assumes that public opinion favors him. But does he know? Do they really understand that? Because

they say Mossad is so powerful—Mossad does this and that—but how powerful are they, really, in understanding the reality of the Middle East?

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Well, we're told it was the head of Mossad who convinced the United States to get involved in this war, claiming that Iran would immediately collapse. They mythologize their own capabilities. Iran has been fighting for over a month now against this huge coalition. Some are directly involved, like these dictatorships. Some are less involved but still part of it, like the regime in Baku or Erdogan in Turkey. Others are indirectly involved because they're firmly in the U.S. camp, like the Europeans. They don't want to get involved militarily because they know it would hurt them more, and they're already in deep trouble. But they still antagonize Iran. They still work against Iran.

They still impose maximum pressure on ordinary Iranians and use sanctions to target everyone in Iran. You know, I wish I had looked this up before coming on your show. There's this report that says—I'm probably getting it wrong—but that over the last 50 years, U.S. sanctions around the world have killed something like 37 million people. I think I tweeted it yesterday. But this is what we're dealing with: the United States has a series of countries that are its allies and its proxies, and they all work together. So, in the case of Iran, they're all working together against the country. All the Israeli analysts, the Israeli regime analysts, the U.S. analysts—they all got it wrong.

They all got it wrong. Their knowledge of Iran is very limited. Some say, well, why are they effective at carrying out assassinations? That's what they do—they're good at it. It's like, they've been assassinating since Kennedy. So, when they can assassinate a U.S. president and get away with it, obviously that's their specialty. But still, they haven't been able to deter Iran. They haven't been able to weaken Iran. Iran continues to fight, continues to hold its ground against this huge coalition alongside its allies in Lebanon, Iraq, and Yemen. And you're absolutely correct.

When Netanyahu talks about this coalition he wants to build, he's basically humiliating Mohammed bin Salman and the others, just like Trump did, because people hate them. People don't support the West or these regimes and their war against Iran. Look at the comment sections on Al Jazeera Arabic and other media outlets—people across the Arab world are supporting Iran. People across the Global South are supporting Iran. A substantial number of people in the West are supporting the Islamic Republic of Iran and the axis of resistance. Despite the mainstream media, despite the takfiris doing their best to slander the Iranians—you know, they're all working overtime—but it's not working.

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Professor Marandi, I know that in the parliament, one of the members of parliament in Iran was talking about the NPT. What would Iran's policy be if the NPT is not effective? Not only the NPT—there were others talking about how international law is not respected by the president of the United

States, because they're attacking hospitals and schools in Iran, and nobody seems to think the president of the U.S. cares about international law. And when it comes to these international institutions that are supposed to protect, for example, the main objective of the NPT—to protect the IAEA, to protect Iran, since Iran is part of the NPT—they're going against Iran instead of protecting it. What is happening in Iran when it comes to the NPT and these international institutions that are supposed to be important?

#Seyed

Sorry for interrupting. I think you're alluding to Dr. Boroujerdi, right? He said that a couple of days ago. Yes, actually, I saw him two or three nights ago, and we spoke about this. That's increasingly becoming the consensus in Iran—that we should leave the NPT. Not because we want to build a nuclear weapon, but because we want to protect our vital infrastructure so they can't bomb it in the future. If they have access and they're going to give that material, that knowledge, that information to the United States, then at some point in the future it could be used to attack us. So the Iranians are saying, they bomb us, they murder us, they sanction us—we have nothing to lose. They're waging war against us. So let's leave the NPT and build our own infrastructure where they can never find it.

And it's not very difficult. I think Professor Postel, on your program and elsewhere, has explained how technologically advanced Iran is, and how easy it is for Iran with the new technologies. I mean, the world is changing by the hour. You have AI now, you have swift advances in new technologies. So for Iran, it's not like before, when you had to use those huge centrifuges, you know, like the IR-1s. Now you have much more advanced centrifuges—you can enrich uranium and do many other things. I mean, the nuclear industry... the cancer patients in Iran need it. And by the way, one of the pharmaceutical companies that was bombed was producing cancer medicine for those patients.

But the nuclear industry is very broad and very important for the country. So there is serious talk. I've been saying this for years now, but it's becoming—well, when Dr. Boroujerdi says this, he's pretty high up in parliament. And I think the sentiments are there. And, of course, the question is, what leverage does the West have against Iran? They've done everything. They've been slaughtering women on the streets of Tehran—slaughtering—and, of course, without any complaints in the West or from Human Rights Watch, which instead attacks Iran. But I think that's the direction we may be going in. Yeah.

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You mentioned the case of Lebanon. Right now, Lebanon is fighting in a way that, as the head of the IDF says, they're on the verge of collapse because of the significant losses happening in the southern part of the country. Not casualties—their tanks are being destroyed by Lebanon's acts of resistance, by Hezbollah. On the other hand, you see they're trying to put pressure on the Iranian ambassador in Lebanon, Professor Mehendi.

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They murdered, I think, in two attacks—ten Iranian diplomats. Has the UN said anything about it? Have Western diplomats in Lebanon said anything about it? No, they don't care.

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But that doesn't really put any pressure on Hezbollah, because the whole game is to pressure Hezbollah. When it comes to the Iranian ambassador, or to other political moves, Hezbollah is coming out in a way that surprises many people—how prepared Hezbollah was, and how they're participating in this war. Do you think Hezbollah is finding itself in a new position? Many people were arguing, after the assassination of Sayyid Hassan Nasrallah, that those who are now leading Hezbollah were the ones fighting on the battlefield. Now they're commanders in Hezbollah—they're the decision makers. Is that the case?

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Well, you know, we've been discussing this for a year now. After the ceasefire in Lebanon, the narrative in the West was that Hezbollah's force had diminished, even though the Israeli regime was unable to take any territory. It was only after the ceasefire that the Lebanese government—being an agent of the West—was formed. The regimes in the Persian Gulf and Western governments together forced this government into existence, and it's not supportive of the resistance at all. Even though the majority of Lebanese, according to polls and elections in Lebanon, support the resistance, they're still able to manipulate politics there to get an anti-resistance government in power every time.

This is probably the most anti-resistance government we've seen so far in its actions. Despite all that, they said Hezbollah was weakened. Under this government, they allowed the Israelis to move forward after the ceasefire. They refused to protect the south and let the Israeli regime come in. And as you and I remember—and everyone else remembers—they kept saying Hezbollah is a diminished force. I would always say that's not the case. Hezbollah is a powerful force, and it's been heroic. It entered the fight to protect Gaza, to draw forces away from Gaza so that fewer children would be massacred. They sacrificed their own children.

They sacrificed their own men and women. And the Takfiris were gloating—I mean, the Takfiris and many in the West were gloating about Hezbollah, like they wanted to believe it had failed. Because the Takfiris are no different from the Zionists. They're all part of the same broader camp. They're funded, created, and trained in centers financed by Qatar, the Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the Bahraini regime, and so on—and sadly, in places controlled by Erdogan. But that turned out to be false, and our assessments were true, just like our assessments about Iran were true. We were sure that when this war was ultimately waged, they would fail.

And we said that all this would happen. But they believe their own propaganda. I mean, propaganda is fine—they can, you know, the Takfiris and the Zionists and the West can use all the anti-Iranian propaganda they want. But they should be careful not to believe their own propaganda, because then they formulate policies that fail. They hit brick walls all the time and wonder why. They should learn about the resistance; they should learn from sources close to the resistance. Of course, they should learn from people close to Hezbollah to understand why Hezbollah is so powerful—why it is so steadfast.

Why is it that they are so unique in the world we live in? Despite being located right beside the Israeli regime, they're willing to make sacrifices—not just to defend their own land, but to defend the Palestinian people. And as I said, their assessment of Iran is always wrong, just like their assessment of Yemen has always been wrong. They always ridiculed Yemen. But then, when the Americans launched a war against Yemen, we saw that Yemen had the upper hand. The same is true in Iraq. And, you know, I just said this on another program a while back—these analysts, a couple of very good analysts, wrote a book about Iran a decade ago.

Flynt and Hillary Leverett. They worked in the White House—Flynt was Catholic, Hillary was Jewish. They met there, actually, and they got married there. So they worked at the center of power. He was head of Middle East affairs for the National Security Council under Condoleezza Rice. He resigned over the Iraq War, and she was head of Persian Gulf affairs. So they knew the region. After they left, they wrote a book called **Going to Tehran**, which is a very good book, actually. I don't agree with everything in it, but if there's one book about Iran I'd advise people to read, it's that one. And they were saying that we should go to Tehran and solve our problems.

And they dealt with many of the myths about Iran. Well, after that, these two people were humiliated—well, I don't know if that's the right word. They're dignified people, but they were targeted, marginalized, ridiculed. If those analysts and the people of influence in Washington had actually read their book objectively, and refrained from listening to Zionist, Wahhabi, and Takfiri Salafi propaganda promoted by the dictatorships in the Persian Gulf region, then we wouldn't be in this war today. The nature of the relationship would have been completely different.

By now, there probably would have been political relations between Iran and the United States. If people had just read the book—well, I advise your viewers to buy it, to read it. It's a few years old, but I think it's still, again, I'm not saying I agree with everything in it, but it's probably a very good source for people who want to start understanding the politics of Iran, its foreign policy, and its relationship with the United States. But in the United States, people who talk sense are swiftly cast aside as apologists for the regime, even though they have nothing to do with Iran.

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This is the reality, Professor Marandi. It's not just about Iran—it's about Russia, Iran, and China. Whoever hates these countries becomes the expert in Washington, advising the government and the decision-makers. That's been hugely, hugely destructive to what has happened so far, both in Russia and in Iran right now. And there's no learning curve, Professor Marandi—it's flat.

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Not at all. Zero. Nothing has changed. I think change is going to be forced upon the Trump regime, and the regime in Washington, after this war. But it's not because they've suddenly seen the light—it's because the reality on the ground is going to...

#Nima

Professor Marandi, one of the important points for Iran when considering this war—because we know the death and destruction happening in Iran—is reparations. Iran is talking about that; they have to pay for it. One of the practical ways of receiving those reparations is through the Strait of Hormuz. Is Iran going to charge all the countries that participated in, or somehow cooperated with, the United States during this war on Iran—using the Strait of Hormuz, collecting money, maybe putting some sort of new fee or new line in the way they charge these countries?

#Seyed

Yes, I think that is a decision that has been made. And it's not just about receiving reparations for the enormous damage they continue to inflict on our country. I mean, every day they're bombing us. This morning they bombed us, this afternoon they bombed us, last night they bombed us in Tehran and other cities—and they're doing it all the time. As I said, they're targeting farming, they're targeting everything: pharmaceutical companies, factories, universities. They're targeting key industrial factories vital for the country's future—basically food production. Yeah, we've seen it. Exactly, they're targeting everything. So every day the price goes up. They're going to pay for this, no doubt. But it's not just about reparations; it's also about changing the facts on the ground. Iran will use the leverage it has to make sure these countries are no longer a platform for Western military bases to carry out death, destruction, and slaughter in Iran or anywhere else.

Because they've used those bases against Yemen. They've supported all the crimes he committed. And these regimes were backing Saddam Hussein. But when the United States invaded Iraq, Iran was the only country that opposed it. I was part of the anti-war movement in the UK—I was a student there. I joined those protests, especially the huge one in London. Hassan Nasrallah spoke out against it very openly and very clearly. But these regimes provided the platform for the United States.

#Seyed

They want to have political and economic relations. It's fine. Who cares? No one here cares.

#Nima

Except for Israel.

#Seyed

The Israeli regime. But if they want to host bases that can be used against Iran or its allies in the region, the Strait of Hormuz is that leverage.

#Nima

Yeah, it seems we have some sort of problem with Professor Marandi's connection.

#Seyed

Yeah.

#Nima

Yeah, it seems that—can you hear me, Professor Marandi?

#Nima

Yeah.

#Nima

It seems that—let me just check. Is he connected? Yeah, he's out. He'll be back in just a minute.

#Seyed

Yeah.

#Nima

I think what Iran has learned so far from the war is how important Iraq and the neighborhood are. Yeah, Professor Marandi is back.

#Seyed

Sorry about that. That's how it is these days.

#Nima

Yeah. What was the part that got cut off? You were talking about Iraq and the war there—how Iran opposed the war in Iraq, even though Iran and Saddam Hussein had been enemies.

#Seyed

But these regimes—these out-of-touch family dictatorships—hosted U.S. forces against Iran to make this possible in the future.

#Nima

Yeah, it seems we still have a problem with the connection, Professor Marandi.

#Seyed

Okay, you couldn't hear me?

#Nima

Yeah, no, we couldn't hear you. We couldn't hear your response.

#Seyed

Let me try one more time. Okay.

#Nima

Yeah, he'll be back. Unfortunately, the internet connection isn't good right now, but he'll reconnect soon.

#Nima

And they're not going to—you know, these Arabs say they're not going to learn anything. I don't see it that way.

#Seyed

Yeah, you're back, Professor Marandi.

#Nima

Your point, your point.

#Seyed

Yeah, I was just saying that these family dictatorships have been used as platforms against multiple countries—against Syria, Iraq, Yemen, Iran, and Lebanon. And of course, all of this is to protect the Israeli regime. Even these family dictatorships have figured that out by now. But Iran is not going to allow them to be a platform for aggression in the future. The Strait of Hormuz is part of the leverage the Iranians have to make sure that doesn't happen. So it's not just about reparations; it's also about making sure the West doesn't have a foothold here that could let them carry out another war six months from now, or a year, or a year and a half from now.

#Nima

Yeah, thank you so much, Professor Marandi. It's a great pleasure.

#Seyed

Thank you, Nima. Sorry for— We totally understand the reality of what's going on. But I do advise your viewers to read the book **Going to Tehran**. **Going to Tehran**, yeah.

#Nima

It's a very good book.

#Seyed

Yeah, thank you. Again, I don't agree with everything in it, but I think it's a very good book.

#Nima

Yeah, thank you, Professor Marandi. Thank you, Nima.