

Pepe Escobar: IRAN RETALIATION IMMINENT

A heated discussion examines the escalating conflict involving Iran, describing it as a broader war impacting civilians and infrastructure. The speakers strongly criticize U.S. leadership claims, arguing attacks target critical facilities and reflect strategic failure. They highlight shifting regional dynamics, including fractures among Middle Eastern allies and growing roles of powers like Russia and China. The conversation warns of severe global economic consequences if escalation continues, while suggesting Iran may intensify retaliation. Overall, the interview portrays a rapidly evolving conflict with high risks, limited diplomatic options, and long-term geopolitical consequences.

#Nima

Finally, we had Donald Trump talking yesterday. He addressed the American people at 9 p.m. about the war—his update on the war—which really wasn't anything new compared to what he'd said before. But here's what he said regarding that line of attacks, you know, targeting civilians and infrastructure in Iran. Here's what he said.

#Pepe

Mm-hmm. For a period of time, no deal is made. We have our eyes on key targets. If there is no deal, we are going to hit each and every one of their electric generating plants very hard, and probably simultaneously. We have not hit their oil, even though that's the easiest target of all, because it would not give them even a small chance of survival or rebuilding. But we could hit it, and it would be gone, and there's not a thing they could do about it. They have no anti-aircraft equipment. Their radar is 100 percent annihilated. We are unstoppable as a military force. The nuclear sites that we obliterated with the B-2 bombers have been hit so hard that it would take months to get near the nuclear dust. And we have it under intense satellite surveillance and control. If we see them make a move—any move—we'll hit them with missiles very hard again. We have all the cards. They have none. It's very important that we keep this conflict in perspective.

#Nima

Yeah, I can confirm that everything he said is a hundred percent lie.

#Pepe

Yeah, these are monsters. It's one monstrous lie after another. Well, by now, I'd say even the grains of dust in the Sahara Desert know that this kind of information is being fed to him—especially by the

three stooges, those absolutely disgusting infrahumans: the Secretary of Forever Wars, Jared Kushner, and Witkoff. These are the people feeding him these lies that he repeats, because obviously he doesn't read anything. He doesn't fact-check anything. And obviously, if you're around him, you have to kiss his ass; otherwise, you lose your job. But worse than all that, Nima, is the line that's been going all over the world, the one that formally indicts him as a war criminal.

The only place left for the baboon of barbaria is on a war crimes tribunal, where he's going to be condemned and preferably exiled to a high-security prison with forced labor for the rest of his miserable days. He says he's going to bomb Iran back to the Stone Age—he couldn't even pronounce it correctly, saying "to the Stone Ages." Well, to be very lenient and diplomatic, we can say that when his ancestors were still trying to make fire, they were the real barbarians. Iranians were already an extremely civilized empire. So that's where it starts, to put in context who the real barbarians are, right? But the most worrying development—and obviously this was not condemned by the UN, not condemned by anybody, not condemned by the West.

You have the President of the United States basically characterizing himself as a war criminal on live TV for the whole planet, and nothing happens. Well, at least it's all clear now what these people are—not only him, but the people who are advising him, and especially those who keep him on a leash because of the compromise they have on him. That's one of the reasons why he needs to keep going with this madness. He says another four weeks, but it could be even more. And what's going to happen in these next four weeks? They're going to bomb the infrastructure of Iran to rubble, everywhere.

It already is, and it's going to get even more horrible. There are no limits. They're bombing pharmaceutical plants, just like they bombed bridges—including the B1 Bridge from Tehran to Karachi. It's a beautiful bridge, inaugurated only a short while ago. It's the highest bridge in all of West Asia, and it's essential because this highway connection, Tehran-Karaj, is one of the most important in Iran, as you know, Nima. They even bombed the Institut Pasteur. I've been to a few Institut Pasteurs around the world—they're essential health centers, vaccination centers, and scientific research hubs.

This one in Iran, if I'm not mistaken, dates back to the 1920s. And that's it. They're bombing again—I just saw five minutes ago—they're bombing, once again, civilian neighborhoods in Tehran, and across Isfahan as well. So this is what they're going to do. It's out of impotence, out of blind rage. It's envy, because they're a bunch of pieces of shit, uncultured barbarians. And that's their revenge against Tehran. If you are a sovereign, resistant civilization—nation, civilization, state—like Iran is, for them it's the absolute opposite of everything they preach about and pretend to stand for. No, they're worse than barbarians.

So-called barbarians—and I'm a big fan of nomad empires, which used to be labeled by the settled empires as barbarians, including the Roman Empire and the Persian Empire. They called non-settled peoples barbarians. But those peoples had many redeeming qualities, including artistic ones—like the

Scythians, for instance. These people, though, have absolutely nothing. The only thing they have is powerful bombs. And obviously, out of their impotence—and now that they, especially the ruling classes of the Empire of Chaos, are seeing the whole scam they built after 1945 collapsing in front of their eyes—we can barely imagine how resentful they are.

But we can understand where this rage is coming from. There's not going to be any more free lunch for them, you know. And it takes one resistant, sovereign nation to collapse the whole house of cards. But I'm very, very depressed about what awaits the people in Iran—and Iran itself—in the next few weeks. It's going to be horrible. It's going to be horrible. It's the only thing they have left, Nima. There's nothing. They've lost all the military bases. They've lost most of their assets everywhere. They have troops living in hotels. They've lost control of the Strait of Hormuz. They're losing control of the petrodollar. Soon they're going to lose most of those stupid Gulf petro-monarchies. Two of them are already working with Iran—Oman and Qatar. Sooner or later, the others will have to do something. Otherwise, they're going to disappear.

They're going to become a mere footnote— not even a side note—of history, especially the Emirates. Especially the Emirates, which, for all practical purposes, are already at war with Iran. So they are, for all practical purposes—whatever they say—it doesn't matter. They are at war. They're facilitating attacks by the Americans. There are lots of U.S. military personnel, especially around Dubai. So get ready. They're not going to last long if it goes on like this. And the Iranians—they know everything that's happening everywhere, and they're taking notes. They have names. They have locations. They have satellite information. You name it. And Saudi Arabia is the big joker in the pack. We still don't know which way they're leaning. Things changed since the "kiss my ass" remark coming from the baboon of Barbaria.

MBS, with his ego—wow—he's planning a long-term revenge, and it's going to be very painful for the Americans. It's already started. He's already said he's not buying weapons from the U.S. anymore, so we can assume they'll start buying from Russia sooner or later. By the way, if I'm not mistaken, there's a phone call today, Nima—Putin and MBS. I wonder what they're going to talk about. This is going to be fun. There'll be no leaks, but it's going to be fun. So this is changing. What we have left is Bahrain. Bahrain is going to collapse; that monarchy is going to disappear. Kuwait, sooner or later—like our Iraqi friends are already theorizing—will probably be annexed back to the governorate of Basra, which it was before, of course. So we have the Saudi Arabia joker. This is going to be quite something to follow.

#Nima

I think it's important, Pepe, what's going on with Saudi Arabia and the UAE. You can see some kind of fracture, a difference between the two states. They had it even before the war in Yemen—they were already, in a way, fighting each other. And now, as time goes by and the reality of the war sets

in, the truth is coming to the surface. These phone calls have meaning. We have to understand why they need to call Vladimir Putin. They've done it before, and now he's doing it again. Because, after all, let's assume Donald Trump was talking about selling F-35s to Saudi Arabia.

#Pepe

What does that mean for Saudi Arabia? Nothing.

#Pepe

Nothing. Nothing. So, yes—and this whole thing changed radically. The week isn't even over, but everything really shifted during these days, starting with that quad in Islamabad. It's very important to remind everyone: it was not a Sunni axis. That's nonsense. People saying that have no idea what they're talking about. It was four Muslim nations coming together—over the Organization of Islamic Conference, over the GCC, over whatever multilateral Islamic or Muslim framework—with Pakistan more or less as the coordinator. So: Pakistan, Egypt, Turkey, and Saudi Arabia.

Theoretically, they were discussing what they could propose as a sort of, let's say, crypto approximation between Washington and Tehran. So they go to Islamabad, they have this blah, blah, blah—everybody's smiling. Smiling about what? The photos are pathetic. You have these four stooges smiling like they're at a country club. Okay, so obviously they didn't come up with anything very solid. This explains why the foreign minister of Pakistan had to hop on a plane the next morning, go to Beijing to talk to the people who really count—the Chinese. So he went there to meet Wang Yi. Right. This was obviously discussed before.

The Chinese, obviously, because they have a close relationship with Pakistan—China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, etc.—said, "Okay, you go there, you discuss, but as soon as you finish, you come here to tell us if you reached something." Obviously, the Chinese knew they would reach nothing. But—and that's the major "but"—after Dar meets with Wang Yi, they release a five-point joint statement. And when you read that joint statement—I read it at least three times—I thought, are they really saying that? Because it's just a collection of clichés. Like, you know, if they believe that the United Nations Security Council or the people will be respected under the UN Charter when the US can veto anything.

It's completely absurd. So this was not—well, we can interpret it, as I try to interpret it, as a Chinese diversion tactic to appease everybody. But the real discussions are going to be between China, Russia, and Iran, in the background, not with these four. So, you know, Pakistan had a momentary protagonist role setting up this meeting in Islamabad. Now nobody's talking about Pakistan anymore, because the whole thing collapsed during the week already. And even before that—Stone Age rambling, blah, blah, blah, by the baboon of barbaria—but this lasted maybe two days at most.

And everybody knows that what really matters will be discussed by the new Primakov Triangle—RIC: Russia, Iran, China. And of course, the Chinese are not going to play their game in public. This is going to be very discreet. Another reason why the Chinese could not possibly endorse anything that was discussed by the four Muslims is: how can the Chinese possibly be the guarantor of a so-called peace plan and take the risk of being the guarantor when they know who they're dealing with on the other side? They're dealing with a bunch of barbarians. And remember Lavrov—he said the United States is “non-agreement capable.” That's even more forceful now than before: it applied to Ukraine, and now it applies to Iran, the same thing. So the Chinese will never risk their diplomatic reputation.

So that's why the conversations that really matter are happening between the RIC, the new Primakov Triangle—Russia, Iran, and China. And we'll only know at the last minute. And just to finish this stretch, Nima, yesterday the Iranian ambassador in Moscow gave an interview to TASS, and he reiterated the same Iranian points from the beginning, now reduced to four. They used to be nine, then five. But the four main ones—everybody knows them: end of the war, recognition of their new sovereignty over the Strait of Hormuz, and guarantees that they won't be attacked again. This means guarantees at the level of the UN Security Council. It doesn't matter much, because the Americans break any guarantees, but there will be guarantees that the whole planet can see—it'll be a document right there.

And if the Americans break it, it's proven that they broke it. And, of course, the nuclear program—the civilian nuclear program—continues. Everybody knows this. So when you compare these four points with the China-Pakistan Five Points, there's a lot of discrepancy. The only rational explanation is that the Chinese didn't want to compromise themselves with anything, knowing they cannot trust many—actually, I'd say most—of these other Muslim nations. Pakistan, maybe, because they have a closer relationship. They cannot trust Turkey. They cannot trust Egypt, even though Egypt is a BRICS member, but Egypt's government is basically aligned with the Zionists. And Saudi Arabia, once again, the wild card—the joker.

Nobody knows where Saudi Arabia is going next. So this whole thing, Nima, it's amazing—it lasted less than three days. After three days, it collapsed, and the new narrative was that Trump was going to announce a land invasion, or that he was going to announce he's bringing the troops home. A lot of very well-informed American analysts were saying beforehand that he'd announce he was bringing the troops home, because he's looking at the numbers—his popularity plunging into a dark abyss, the bond market, the oil market, the S&P 500. In the end, that's what we saw: an unhinged psycho-killer basically saying they want to destroy a nation of 90 million people.

What kind of de-escalation is that? This is even worse than a land invasion. Any land invasion, as we all know, Nima, is doomed beyond failure. It's not even failure—but this is worse. This is a deliberate bombing of the infrastructure of an entire state, with no discrimination. The way he framed it—obviously, his English is that of a three-year-old at best—but the way he read it, off his own teleprompter, was that this is an extermination, a decapitation campaign against the whole

population of Iran. And that's why it's so serious. I'm not surprised there isn't a single repudiation coming from the so-called international community.

#Pepe

Nothing.

#Pepe

Nobody's saying anything.

#Nima

Pepe, I think you're right about that.

#Pepe

Sorry if I ask, but I'd like to ask you a question. Go ahead. Did you interpret his speech the same way?

#Nima

Yeah, I did. I did. I really think he's going to attack everything in Iran—hospitals, pharmaceutical plants, schools, universities, you know, everything: highways, everything. He wants to destroy it all before leaving the Middle East. That's the plan on his part, because from a strategic point of view, the whole operation was a total failure. He couldn't do anything militarily to defeat Iran, militarily or strategically. That's why he's attacking civilians—because he wants to bring pain to the society. He wants to throw the Iranian economy into turmoil, with problems popping up all over Iran.

This is what he's planning, because he couldn't do it militarily—strategically defeating Iran. But, you know, the repercussions of what he's going to do, and what he's done so far, are so grave for the whole region. It's unbelievable. I think it's important to consider how that would influence the whole region—not only the Arab states, but also Israel, I would say. Is Israel going to survive that? I think, as time goes by, maybe two to four weeks from now, Iran is going to hit Israel in a way they've never experienced before. They're going to hit something—everything, everything in Israel—if the United States continues on this path. I don't know how that's going to play out for Donald Trump.

#Pepe

Mm-hmm, mm-hmm.

#Nima

How do you see the pressure on Israel? How do you think Iran would bring some sort of disaster? Israel would somehow stop—everything is going to stop in Israel.

#Pepe

Which will be the next logical step in the Iranian strategy: raze Israel to the ground, paralyze the functioning of the Israeli economy and the Israeli state, attack all their key nodes—basically paralyze them, make that mini-state nonviable. They have four weeks to do that. Considering that they haven't even started properly, four weeks is more than enough to destroy most of Israel—most of what carries any sort of value in Israel: connectivity corridors, research centers, scientific centers, especially all the military nodes, all the special military sites. Israel is small, but it's an enormous military base. So hit all the key nodes of this military base. They can do this in four weeks.

And then, obviously, we're going to have, once again, a phone call to the White House. And all bets are off on what the baboon is going to say. He could say, "There's nothing I can do to help you." He could say, "Look, I'm leaving this war. It's not my war." Or he could double down and bomb even more of Iran. We don't know what might happen. But there's a serious possibility that he will try to extricate himself. Of course, he cannot do that, because we all know why—the donors, you know, compromise files, abstinence files, you name it. But considering that now he is... if there were a psychological examination of his brain at the moment, the result would be "lunatic asylum" straight away. Consider that he is now completely unhinged.

Anything is possible. As long as he has something, after these self-imposed four weeks, to sell to domestic American opinion—not to the world, because nobody around the world is buying anything he says anymore—but to a fraction of U.S. public opinion that he won. Which is the famous, "Okay, that's it, we bombed everything, we won, let's do something else." He could have said that yesterday. He had an opening to do that yesterday. He decided, perhaps at the last minute, to prolong it for another two to four weeks. Once again, our analysis of the destruction of Iran as much as possible totally fits. In his revengeful mind, that's it: since I could not win, I'm going to destroy them.

But obviously he's not calculating, because he doesn't—because he's not a strategist. He's not calculating the amount of punishment that Iran can deliver to Israel in the next few weeks. That's why we still don't know how he would react by the end of April. In his mind, this thing ends soon, one way or another, by the end of April, because in May there's the trip to China. He needs to arrive in China with something; he cannot arrive in China as a defeated, uh, potentate. And of course, he's already thinking about the midterms. And in parallel, built into all that, there's the destruction of the global economy. If this thing goes on for another four weeks, then the destruction of the global economy is irreversible, and it's going to take years to more or less come back to something approaching normality.

And everybody already agrees on that. Goldman Sachs, JP Morgan, even American studies already agree about it. Some are saying that if we stopped now, it would take until the end of the year, maybe next year, to get back to some sort of normality. If it goes on for another four weeks, then we should start thinking about years of disaster ahead. So that's it. We are on a path where, in another four weeks, the amount of disaster inflicted on the global economy will be irreversible, with unimaginable consequences—especially for indebted countries, countries that have no access to oil and gas, you name it. It's terrifying, Nima. Can you imagine? Because essentially, if we want to narrow it down, because of two war criminals, most of the planet is plunged into this dark void.