

Seyed M. Marandi: Iran's OBLITERATED Air Defense Just Did the IMPOSSIBLE

#Nima

Hi, everybody. Today is Saturday, April 4th, 2026, and our dear friend, our brother, Professor Seyed M. Marandi, is here with us. Welcome back, Professor. Thank you very much for inviting me, Nima.

#Seyed

It's always a great pleasure.

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Professor Marandi, yesterday and the day before yesterday, I would say there was something going on in the Pentagon, in the military, in the U.S. Army, because many generals—more than twelve—were somehow forced to resign or were dismissed from their positions. And there is a huge, I would say, disagreement within the command system in the United States. On the other hand, yesterday we had, after all, the supposedly obliterated air defense system of Iran responding to American fighter jets and to Black Hawk helicopters that came in the aftermath of what happened with the downing of the fighter jets. What is your understanding? Because many people are—well, even CNN had an article arguing that 50% of Iran's arsenal was depleted during this war. What's your take? What do you make of what's going on right now?

#Seyed

I think those generals were actually quite fortunate that they were removed right after the events in Iran, where the jets were downed and the helicopters badly damaged. I think it's quite clear that the generals believe what Trump and Netanyahu are pushing for—and what the Zionists are pushing for—is a terrible idea. Trump is either so obsessed, or he's being forced to because he's compromised, that he has to carry on. And I think that's exactly what the Iranians want. The Iranians want the United States to attack, because they've been prepared for this war. As I've said on many occasions over the years, Iran has been planning for a U.S. attack on the country for well over two decades. And, um, it's not just the missile systems and the drones.

And remember, we have to keep in mind that it's been well over a month now. There's no shortage of missiles, no shortage of drones, and there won't be any shortage in the months ahead either. The Americans and the Israeli regime either miscalculated, or there are people who intentionally lied to get the United States into this war. But the Iranians have been preparing themselves for a very long

time. So when they prepared their missiles, drones, and anti-aircraft systems—I think we discussed this at least once before—I retweeted a post of my own a while ago, maybe ten days ago, showing Iranian air defenses deep underground in Iran, in underground tunnels, just like the drones and the missiles.

So Iran's air defenses are protected. They didn't leave them out in the open for the Americans and the Israelis to target at the beginning. And as we all know, over the last eight or nine months, the Iranians have put out huge numbers of decoys—for air defense, for launchers, for all sorts of things: drones, planes, everything. So the Americans and Israelis have destroyed a large number of decoys, spending billions of dollars, I suppose, destroying those, while the real systems were underground. Iran's navy is in a similar situation. The Americans bombed a few naval ships that aren't useful for war. Those were in port when they were hit, and they'll be repaired later on.

Of course, they destroyed one that was unarmed, and it was part of an international program between India and Sri Lanka. But aside from that, the Americans haven't touched the Iranian Navy. The Navy's speedboats are in huge underground bases, and they'll be deployed when the time comes. So when Iran has all those underground bases—and we've seen footage of the ones for the Navy, for the air defenses, for the drones, and for the missiles—it's clear that Iran has also prepared itself for a land attack, for an attack on its territory in the Persian Gulf.

They've been preparing for decades. So when the Americans try to take an island or try to take territory, they'll be badly hammered. They might hold territory for a while, but ultimately they'll have to leave. And that will have no impact on the status of the Strait of Hormuz, as we discussed before. The Strait of Hormuz isn't controlled by people standing along the shore. This isn't the 20th century. This isn't the 19th century. Iran's bases are hundreds of kilometers inside its territory.

The same way Iran strikes the Israeli regime on a daily basis, and the same way it strikes U.S. assets in the Persian Gulf, that'll be the same way it strikes U.S. troops, ships, and tankers in the Persian Gulf, the Strait of Hormuz, the Gulf of Oman, or the Indian Ocean. So the Iranians are prepared for this. The longer the war lasts, the better it is for Iran—not that we like war. We didn't want this war; we didn't start this war. We didn't start the previous war nine or ten months ago, and we didn't start the war the Americans imposed on us in 1980 by encouraging Saddam Hussein to invade us, when the West gave him chemical weapons.

We didn't start a single war. But now that we're in this one, we have to make sure the Americans never attack us again. The only way to do that is to punish them so they regret attacking Iran—so that when a future president, after this psychopath, comes to office, everyone will say, "Forget Iran." Iran's security has to be assured, and that can only happen when the facts on the ground change. Iran has destroyed U.S. bases in the Persian Gulf and will not allow them to be used against the country ever again. Those regimes in the Persian Gulf, from now on, are going to have to behave differently.

That is changing the facts on the ground, and one way of doing that is by controlling the Strait of Hormuz. So these regimes now know they have to behave differently. Even the Saudis—who are perhaps exporting, who knows the real amount, because a lot of this is propaganda—maybe they're exporting three or four million barrels a day to the Red Sea, maybe less, maybe a bit more. I'm not sure, because a lot of different things are being said, and some of it is just meant to bring down the price. But the Saudis and the others still rely heavily on the Persian Gulf, and they always will.

And they will always be forced, in their foreign future, to make sure they do not carry out any act of aggression against Iran, nor be used as a platform to carry out acts of aggression. So the Strait of Hormuz, for Iran, is not just about seeking or demanding reparations from those regimes for killing all these Iranians, because Qatar, the Saudis, the Emirates, Kuwait, and Bahrain are all complicit in war crimes. They're all complicit in massive death and destruction. Right now they're bombing Tehran—I don't know if you can hear—but in any case, it's not just about that. It's also about the fact that the United States has been using the Strait of Hormuz to build those bases.

So Iran is going to make sure that, in the future, the Persian Gulf is a Gulf of peace where Iranians can feel safe. That is changing the facts on the ground. And also, of course, Iran's allies across the region will have to be able to feel safe and secure as well. This is what has to happen. The United States has not yet reached that stage, but it will—it will. The crisis that the Zionists and Trump have imposed on the world is going to end badly for the Israeli regime. Indians, who are now facing severe economic difficulties that will get worse by the day, will recognize that the Israeli regime brought this upon them, that the Zionists brought this upon them, that Trump brought this upon them.

Across Latin America, in Argentina, they will recognize the hardship strikes. They'll know who started this war. They'll know that it was the Americans, the Zionist regime, the Zionist lobby, and those Arab proxies that are obedient to the United States who brought this upon them. This is not going to end well for the Israeli regime. True, we're going to be hurt—we're going to be badly hurt. Iranians recognize that. Those who are on the streets at night recognize that. Last night in Tajrish, they fired missiles very close to where people had gathered, and foreign journalists were there. They were shocked to see that people would not budge.

Apparently, they weren't at previous gatherings to see that this wasn't the first time people had been killed by missiles, and still, people didn't budge. The people on the streets who are steadfast, and those across the country who support the armed forces, recognize that every day we're being hit, we're losing martyrs, our infrastructure is being struck—but the only way to end this aggression is to make sure the price is so high for the Americans and the Zionist regime that it never happens again.

#Nima

How are these Arab GCC countries participating and cooperating with the United States? Because these helicopters that shoot—have they come from, you know, I don't know, the UAE, Kuwait, or

some other country in the Persian Gulf, one of these Persian Gulf Arab states? Or are they still using these countries? And to what extent are they using them? Because we had two drones come into Iran from the UAE, if I'm not mistaken. You're taking that.

#Seyed

Those two drones you're referring to are UAE drones. In other words, they're directly involved militarily—the UAE is directly involved militarily. That's important. All of these countries are providing the United States with their airspace, their territory, and their coasts—all of them. HIMARS missiles are being fired at Iran from these countries, not even from within the bases the United States controls, but from outside the bases. U.S. forces are stationed outside the bases, U.S. weapon systems are outside the bases, and U.S. jets fly over and land in these countries.

In the case of the Emirates, Iran, Qatar, and Saudi Arabia, they pay for this war—they help fund it. All of this is well known to the Iranians. And of course, the helicopters all land in these territories; where else can they go? It's clear that these countries are all part of the war effort. Every time they pretend they're neutral or feign outrage when Iran retaliates, they're just insulting our intelligence. It's obvious they're in the camp of the Israelis, the Zionists, and the Americans. They're proxies; they don't have much agency. Qatar can pretend it's a bit different, but it's not. They're all in the same camp, even if they don't like each other that much.

They may not be happy with the situation, but really, if these five regimes—these five family dictatorships—told the Americans today, "Okay, enough is enough. You have to leave. We're going to have great relations with you, we'll continue to have excellent economic and political ties, but no more military presence. You can't use our airspace, you can't use our territory, you can't have bases here, and you can't use the Persian Gulf along our shores," the war would be over. Of course, Iran would still demand compensation—and it would receive it. And every day the war continues, the cost is going to be much higher for these regimes. But the war would be over, because the Americans cannot wage a war against Iran without using their territory.

It's just not doable. So we are where we are. The war will continue. This war is not in the interest of the United States, obviously. It's going to be catastrophic, but it's not in the interest of the Israeli regime either. It may be in the interest of Netanyahu and his people, but it's not in the interest of the Israeli regime. The longer this war lasts, the more despised this regime will be by all those people across the world whose lives are going to become more difficult. Everyone will know who's behind the war. It is Zionism. It is the Zionists. It is Netanyahu. It is Trump. And that, just like the genocide in Gaza, is going to make the regime sink further and further and further.

#Nima

Professor Marandi, what happened yesterday was unique, because you see the people living in the region, in Yasuj—they're taking up their rifles and firing at the American helicopters.

#Seyed

This is something I think, for many people who are— You're talking nonsense. Iranians want regime change. They're waiting for their freedom. Those police officers shooting at the helicopters—they thought they were ducks they were hunting. It's hunting season, you know. I'm sorry for interrupting and joking, but people in Iran are so proud of these people across the country, because they're just taking light weapons, and they know they can't bring the helicopters down. They may be able to cause some damage—maybe, with a great deal of luck or with God's help, they could do something—but it's more symbolic than anything else. They're telling them, "We're not afraid of you, and we're going to kick you out of our territory."

So how are the Americans ever going to think about invading this country? People in the small villages take up their pistols and their local guns—whatever it is they have. And the kids, I'm sure you heard the girls saying, "Dad, shoot them, shoot them, hit them!" It's clear where people stand—on the streets of Tehran, in the cities, in the villages. Wherever you look, there's resistance, there's resilience. General Soleimani said, "We're the nation of martyrdom, we're the nation of Imam Hussain." That was no exaggeration. The Americans fantasize, the Europeans fantasize, these Arab despots and their media fantasize, these monarchists or whoever they are—the corrupt people in the West—they all fantasize about Iran. They produce propaganda, and they believe their own propaganda. It's been five weeks now.

And they've—the superpower supported by the entire West—not that they're fighting, but they impose sanctions, they're doing whatever they can to weaken Iran, short of actually sending troops. These despots in the region—even Turkey, even the family, the dictator in Azerbaijan—all of them are in their camp. Erdogan is transporting oil to Netanyahu to help him out. Whose oil? Azeri oil. The dictator there is part of these Arab family regimes. Jordan, the most treacherous of them all probably—all of them are in this. The Koreans, the Japanese, their governments, Australia, New Zealand—they're all part of it. But they failed against Iran and this axis of resistance that has been saying no to genocide. So I thought that footage—and I'm sure you saw it—you saw the little girl telling her dad to shoot, to shoot, to bring him down. It was fascinating.

#Nima

I think a lot of people are asking what would happen to the second pilot if Iran captures him. Because many people in the West, in the United States, are wondering. Last night we learned that around 11 p.m. they were trying to find him somewhere in the Yasuj region. But what's the latest news from that area? And if Iran captures this guy, what would happen—what would Iran do with the pilot?

#Seyed

Well, he's murdered a lot of Iranians, hasn't he? Perhaps he was involved in the slaughter of 165 schoolgirls. Perhaps he was involved in the killing of the 20 young girls who were playing volleyball in that gymnasium. Perhaps he was involved in bombing a hospital—or several hospitals. Perhaps he helped slaughter people who were driving across the bridge in Karaj, or under the bridge having a picnic, when all those things began to fall down on their heads and the heads of their children. Perhaps he murdered some of those little girls in their homes, the ones we see being pulled out from under the rubble. These are murderers. So I don't think they're going to be welcomed. And any other pilot who's shot down—I don't think those who find them are going to be very pleased to see that person alive.

So I don't know what happened to this person. I have no idea. I would assume that if the Iranians captured him, they wouldn't announce it for the time being. They'd want to leave the Americans in a state of confusion. Maybe they could gather more information about U.S. capabilities and the routes they'd use inside Iran, that sort of thing. But maybe they haven't found him—maybe he's dead. It's unclear. What's important, though, is that it's becoming evident what we've been discussing for a long time: that Iran's capabilities were hidden away for when the time was right. And I would imagine that when the United States carries out its assault—well, I think those generals were probably saying, "Don't do that." They were probably saying, "Let's not do this."

The Iranians are prepared for that assault, and I think they gave the Americans a taste of it. They proved that the generals were right. And if the Americans—and if Trump—carry out this assault, then I think a heavy price will be paid. You know, Nima, I said this elsewhere—I tweeted it too—the Americans could have had a completely different relationship with Iran. It didn't have to be this way. They didn't have to fight a war, and they're going to lose this war. This so-called "Epstein coalition" is going to lose. These pilots for Epstein will not succeed. They can kill kids—these American pilots and these Zionist monsters who've been killing kids out there since childhood, or have been planning to do so since childhood—but they're going to lose this war. There's no doubt about it. We will defeat them.

And the axis of resistance will defeat them. The Iranians are determined. But it didn't have to be this way. It's because of the Zionists—the same Zionists who are bringing down the world economy. They pushed the Americans in this direction. There's a book I think you know, **Going to Tehran**, and I advise all your viewers to read it. It was written by two people who worked in the White House, Flint Leverett and Hillary Leverett—a Catholic and a Jew. They were in the White House during the Bush years, in the National Security Council. Flint was in charge of the Middle East, and Hillary was in charge of the Persian Gulf.

That's how they met, and that's how they got married. Flint resigned over the invasion of Iraq, so he's a principled person—and so is his wife, Hillary. Both are very principled people, very scholarly, top-notch academics with enormous government experience. They wrote a book about Iran, which I think is a very good book. I don't agree with everything in it, obviously, but among the books on

Iran that I've read, this is the best one around. The idea in *Going to Tehran* was that the United States should go to Tehran, solve its problems, and deal with Iran in a realistic manner.

It's not that demonic state or regime they tell their own people about—and they believe it themselves, that nonsense coming from CNN, The Guardian, the BBC, The New York Times, The Washington Post, Fox News, and so on. It's not that. Iran is something different. All that media is Epstein-class controlled media—oligarchs, the media of the oligarchy, the plutocracy. They wrote that book, and they were hammered for it, by the way. They were marginalized, attacked day and night, just for saying, you know, "Let's choose a reasonable path." So they wrote this book, and I think people should read it.

If U.S. analysts, if U.S. experts—those who were influential in the United States—had read the book instead of demonizing these people, from both sides, by the way—the Republicans and the Democrats, all of them are the same when it comes to empire, just like The Guardian and Breitbart—when it comes to the empire, they're not that different. But if they had listened to these people, we wouldn't have this war. We would probably have diplomatic relations by now. But that's it. That's how it is. When the state is captured by Zionists and neocons, which are more or less one and the same, then you're going to have forever wars, and ultimately that empire is going to collapse.

#Nima

Donald Trump said he's going to hit Iran and send them back to the Stone Age—"where they belong." Those were his exact words. Professor Marandi, what does that mean? How do Iranians understand this kind of rhetoric? We can argue that Donald Trump, you know, doesn't really understand the reality of what's going on in the Middle East. But after all, he's the president of the United States, and whatever he says is important. It has to be taken seriously by Iranians, by policymakers in Iran.

#Seyed

Well, he's a psychopath. He's utterly evil, and his supporters are evil too. But my question to you, Nima, is: have you seen people in the media, in the United States—in the liberal media—show outrage that he said he'd put Iran back to the Stone Age? Have you seen the New York Times publish major articles saying these are crimes against humanity, that this is what monsters in human history would do or say? No, because the entire political class of the United States is utterly evil. It is an evil regime. When people in Iran say "death to America," it's not, of course, to be taken literally. If I say to you, "he bit the dust," it doesn't mean he ate the earth.

But they want death for this evil empire, not for ordinary people walking around in Michigan or New Jersey or, I don't know, California—somewhere in Los Angeles. No, it's this evil empire that has done nothing but evil for decades against our region and our country. The maximum pressure of sanctions is meant to crush ordinary people. We discussed this once before—when he lost the Supreme Court

case over tariffs. He went and complained, saying, "I can't impose one dollar's worth of tariffs, but I can destroy countries." That doesn't make sense. No one said, "Who are you? What right do you have to destroy?" I think he was alluding to Cuba when he said that, because he's strangling Cuba. Is anyone in the political class or the media outraged that he's strangling Cuba?

He's a psychopath, but so are they. The United States is led by psychopaths. The people at the New York Times and the Guardian are no different from those at Fox News or Breitbart. They're psychopaths. They have no moral compass. They pretend to be humane, but that's just part of their hypocrisy. No one has said anything about the barbarism. I mean, ordinary people, of course, have—I've seen reactions among friends and others. That's a different story. But I'm talking about the media, the elites, the journalists who work for the media and have Twitter accounts. I haven't heard any of them say, "This is outrageous. How could you talk about sending a country to the Stone Age?"

But if he tries that, we'll meet him there. We'll meet him there. When the infrastructure in these Arab family dictatorships is demolished—and of course the Israeli regime too—when they're demolished and there's no more oil and no more gas, the entire world will know who to blame. It'll be Trump, Netanyahu, and the Zionists. So all those factories, all those companies in the United States, all those corporations, all those businesses—when they can no longer sustain themselves or make money through agriculture because of the price of fertilizer—then everyone will know who to blame. The U.S. economy will collapse just like Iran's. You don't have to bomb their factories; when it just becomes meaningless to keep using them, it's as if they're bombed.

So if the Americans want to take Iran back to the Stone Age, and no one is going to stop the Americans and these regimes that are complicit and continue to play a role in this, then they're going to have to face retaliation. And there will be retaliation. Iran has shown that it has more than enough capability. Iran has not yet escalated. Remember, Iran did not start this war. If you look at Western media, you'd think it was Iran that started the war—just like every other war they've carried out against the country. It wasn't Iran that started it. It is not Iran that escalates; Iran responds to escalation. So when they struck key installations, the Iranians struck back hard. And now, this morning again, they've hit petrochemical plants. The Iranians will retaliate hard.

And this cycle will continue. So if Trump wants to go there, Iran will go there. And that will be it. That will be the end of Trump. That will be the end of many things. That will be the end of life as we know it, because the world will go back decades. And since human beings are not prepared for that world, it's going to be extremely hard. So I hope we don't go there, because everyone will suffer. Ordinary people—it's not their fault that the United States is a country run by psychopaths. It's not Iran's. It's not ordinary people's fault that Zionists are so sinister and evil and have captured the United States in this way. But Iran is not going to allow the Americans to destroy their country and get away with it. There's not a chance in the world of that happening.

#Nima

Just moments ago, Professor Marandi, Donald Trump posted something else: "Remember when I gave Iran ten days to make a deal or open the Strait of Hormuz? Time is running out—48 hours before all hell rains down on them."

#Seyed

This is a psychopath. And he's probably—well, they probably have... you can only imagine what they have on him. You can only imagine what dirt they have on him. But Iran is not going to back down. And when the ten days are over, if he begins to annihilate Iran's key infrastructure, we will annihilate everything in the Persian Gulf region. That will be the end of Kuwait. That will be the end of Qatar. It will be the end of Saudi Arabia. It will be the end of Bahrain, and it will be the end of the United Arab Emirates. It will be over. Everyone will have to immediately leave and cross the desert. And by the way, you know, we are in spring.

It's going to heat up pretty fast. The weather's going to get hot. You live in that part of Iran—you know that region, the Persian Gulf on the other side. Everything depends on electricity. Without electricity, those regimes collapse immediately. And so everything under the U.S. empire collapses in West Asia overnight. And of course, the Iraqis will take them out, and Yemen will take them out. So if they go for all-out war, the Iranians will go for all-out war—and so will the Axis of Resistance. And who will be the big loser? It will be Zionism. It will be Trump. It will be Netanyahu. Because the world will see who destroyed their world.

Everyone will see who destroyed their world. In India, those people who foolishly supported Netanyahu and the Zionists—consider them to be dirt. I mean, they're considered just as subhuman as the rest of us. But, you know, out of ignorance, or in many cases out of malice, they support him. They will recognize that it was Netanyahu and the Zionists who destroyed their lives. The world will see everything for what it is. So when the ten days are over, fine, he can begin—but Iran will finish the job. We are determined. We are going to end this war, this aggression that's been going on against our country since 1953, once and for all.

#Nima

I think the point is, when he's talking about opening up the Strait of Hormuz, what would be the role of the United States in all of that? Because they're not prepared to go and fight the Iranians in the Strait of Hormuz. They were encouraging, you know, somehow trying to convince the Europeans to do that. We know, as we speak, the Europeans are in contact—they're trying to talk with the Iranian foreign minister, for example. We had the foreign minister of Austria, just before coming on this live, say that she was talking with the foreign minister of Iran, Abbas Araghchi, about how they can facilitate their tankers passing through the Strait of Hormuz. This is new—everyone who wants some sort of solution should talk to the Iranians, because no one else is in charge of the Strait of Hormuz but Iran. Well, that's exactly the point, isn't it?

#Seyed

The mafia's done—he's not in charge anymore. So they have to talk with, they have to speak with Iran. And you saw how, at the UN Security Council, France changed its position. They know where the power lies. They know that even if they joined the Americans in the Strait of Hormuz, they wouldn't be able to change anything. They'd only make things worse for themselves and for the world. The Strait of Hormuz is under Iran's control, and in the future, it will remain under Iran's control—jointly with Oman, probably, if they choose to be partners. But Iran will control the Strait of Hormuz. That's how it will be from now on.

Whether the Americans like it or not, whether the Europeans like it or not, the Europeans are beginning to recognize this reality. And Trump is like a five-year-old child—a psychopath, but a five-year-old child—constantly throwing temper tantrums because things aren't going his way. So he'll break all his toys, he'll break your toys, he'll break my toys, and he'll... And this is the person who leads the United States. The political class—there's not much difference between them and him; he's just more crude. But the very fact that these people are speaking... I mean, the French ship—why did it go through?

Because France changed its position. So the Europeans, if they want anything from the Persian Gulf, are going to have to change their attitude—their mentality. Remember, these are the same Europeans who, when the Israelis attacked Iran during the 12-day war, supported it. When they targeted our peaceful nuclear program, they supported it. During this war, when the Americans murdered our leader and murdered our children, they supported it. Now, suddenly, they're making phone calls to the Iranians, trying to sort things out because they know they miscalculated—big time.

#Nima

I think the main problem, in the eyes of those military commanders in the United States, is that they're running out of targets in Iran. You remember what happened with the war against Yemen and Sarawak—they reached a point, sometime after the initial attacks, when they said they were running out of targets because the intelligence just wasn't there. They didn't know where to strike, where to hit. I think that's becoming the reality of what's going on against Iran. That's why you see, for example, petrochemical plants, as you mentioned, in Bandar al-Mahshahr or Bandar al-Imam being hit. You see the bridge—one of the most beautiful and largest bridges in the Middle East—was hit too. It's not a difficult thing.

#Seyed

Do you see how these monsters try to justify this? This bridge wasn't being used by, I don't know, the armed forces—it's just an ordinary bridge. At this axis before, yeah. They're all tools of genocide. And journalists in the West, they don't express outrage. They're cowards. I mean, many of them follow me—you know their names, they're famous people—but they won't say anything critical. And

the alternative media, of course—I mean, the decent people are in the alternative media. Not all of it, though; a lot of the alternative media is controlled by the oligarchy. But yes, because they can't defeat Iran, they're taking it out on ordinary people. They want people to suffer. That's why he says, "We're going to send it back to the Stone Age."

And that's the so-called monarchists in the West, the MEK terrorist groups, and all those monsters who cheered Trump on. They all have Iranian blood on their hands. They're all monsters like Trump. They're all psychopaths like Trump, like Netanyahu, like the Zionists, like the media class, like the elites in the West. They're all psychopaths. Either they're psychopaths or they're cowards—and that's even worse, because cowards who close their eyes to what psychopaths do are more guilty than the psychopaths themselves. But nothing is going to change on the ground. They've already started targeting key infrastructure. Iran will target key infrastructure. They send us back to the Stone Age—we will survive. But those Arab dictatorships on the other side of the Persian Gulf, they will not survive.

We will install new people there. And the U.S. empire will be gone, because it will bring economic collapse. The United States will have to withdraw from across the globe. They don't have the ability to sustain their empire anymore. And Trump—he'll be put on trial, no doubt. And Netanyahu—do you think Israel will win? How would Israel win when the people who fund it collapse? Everything the Israeli regime has depends on the United States. Its own people are going to fall into extreme poverty too. But at least we know we've been hit hard because we were defending ourselves, in legitimate defense. And all those people on the other side—they know they've destroyed their world, and the world of others, because of Zionism.

#Nima

Do you think the GCC countries—maybe some of them, one or two—how do they really feel about the situation in the Strait of Hormuz? Is there any kind of communication between Iran and those GCC countries?

#Seyed

Two countries have basically acknowledged that in the future they're going to accept it. I can't name them—excluding Oman. Oman obviously benefits from this situation. But two countries have expressed readiness to work under this new mechanism. I've been told the names. I don't know if I can mention them. You know me, I'm not in government. In the West, they like to think I'm the spokesperson. I do my own thing. I have my own views. They have no comprehension of the diversity in Iran. It's just beyond their little minds to comprehend how diverse Iran is, how different opinions are expressed. Just a couple of days ago, Dr. Zarif wrote an article that was widely attacked in Iran. He wrote it—it's not state policy. The government is not happy about it. People on the streets are not happy about it.

But he has the right to write that sort of thing, and I have the right to say what I believe. I think we have more openness here than they have in the West. We're seeing that nowadays—if you oppose genocide in the West, you lose everything. You can go to jail. If an 85-year-old Jewish woman who survived the concentration camps in Eastern Europe holds up a cardboard sign that says “No to genocide,” she can go to jail in the UK. They just don't comprehend how diverse Iran is. I speak to people, I meet people, and I've been informed that two countries have been named, but I didn't ask if it's okay for me to mention them. If you remind me later, I can ask and send you a message, and if you want, you can talk about it in another program.

#Nima

But what is the content? Are they talking about getting ready to pay the toll for using this trade route?

#Seyed

They're prepared to accept whatever mechanism Iran puts in place. I think it's clear that some sort of financial agreement will have to be accepted by these regimes—if they last. Because if Trump goes after Iran's key infrastructure, Iran will destroy everything. They host U.S. bases, and whatever is destroyed in Iran would be done through their territory, from their territory, or from above their territory.

#Nima

They have no reason to complain.

#Seyed

I mean, if I were living in any of these countries, I'd leave now—before the ten days are up. Even though Trump could do it tonight. He's already started in Mashhad and in Khuzestan by targeting key infrastructure. So no, you should never believe anything he says.

#Nima

And how about the payment system? Is it going to be in Iranian currency, or in some other Global South currency, from other countries? It seems they're not going to pay in dollars—Iran is not going to accept dollars, that's for sure.

#Seyed

Yes, that I know. That much I know. But I don't know if it's going to be in yuan, or if it's going to be a basket of currencies, or if it's going to include the Iranian currency. I don't know the details. I

don't think they've finalized that yet. For now, no one is leaving the Persian Gulf, except for a very few boats and ships that Iran agrees to let through for humanitarian reasons—like countries in the global majority that are very vulnerable, exceptionally vulnerable. Or, in the case of France, when they make a decision that's important enough for Iran. I don't know if there's a financial aspect to it as well, but in any case, a few will go. For now, though, the bulk of the ships aren't allowed to go in or out until the situation is resolved one way or another.

#Nima

Looking at the targets, Professor Seyed M. Marandi, in Iran, anyone who is independent and understands the reality of the targets would say these are war crimes by the United States—what they're doing. And the other important issue, mentioned by Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi in his latest post on X, is that the United States, together with Israel, attacked and hit a nuclear power plant in Bushehr. And many people know that all of these countries in the Persian Gulf rely on this water for their survival, after all.

#Seyed

And also, the oil and natural gas in the Persian Gulf will be contaminated.

#Nima

Exactly.

#Seyed

As I said, the Israeli regime doesn't care about humanity. They see themselves as the master race, the chosen people, and the rest means nothing. Yeah.

#Nima

You know, when it comes to the nuclear power plant in Bushehr, it's important for all of these Arab states. Do you think there's any sort of communication with the United States? We've heard what the foreign minister of Qatar said before this war happened—he said all of us are dependent on Iran, on the Persian Gulf, on this water. That's why it's hugely important for the survival of Qatar and other countries in that region. But it seems that Donald Trump and Israel don't care about any of these countries. I think one of the reasons these countries might change their course, change their policy in that region, is because their survival is directly connected to what's going on right now in Iran.

#Seyed

But it's not just them; it's the entire global economy. It's the American people. I mean, some Americans say we're energy independent. Those oligarchs may be making billions of dollars as we speak, but ordinary Americans are going to suffer like everyone else. It's going to bring about a collapse. But the Israeli regime doesn't care. Of course, the Israeli regime is foolish, because when there is a collapse, there will be huge implications for them—whether they strike nuclear power plants and contaminate the region, or whether they push the United States to try to destroy Iran's critical infrastructure. Iran retaliates, destroying all the critical infrastructure in the Persian Gulf region, along with the axis of resistance, and then brings about another global economic collapse.

Either way, the Israelis don't win. It just shows how barbaric they are, how backward they are, and how they don't care. The people who root for them—the very few left on this planet, in India, or older Americans, or some foolish Europeans—when their lives are destroyed, I think they'll be... When the MAGA people see their lives destroyed, I think they're going to think very differently about what Zionism means to them. Ultimately, we are in a very dark period, and we saw this coming for a long time, because the Israeli regime is carrying out genocide as we speak, and no one will stop them. The Americans—well, I was on Amanpour's show, and I said how your government is complicit in genocide, and she rolled her eyes.

These people have no sense of morality. They're empty, you know? They're bound to money and wealth, to their status and social standing. But that's going to go away too if we have that sort of all-out war. Ultimately, we will survive; we will rebuild the country. But the United States will no longer be in this region. Their proxies will be gone—have no doubt. There will be no United Arab Emirates if they push much harder. There will be no Kuwait. There will be someone else in charge. The slaves and the workers who are trapped there right now—the indentured servants, the underclass—perhaps they'll be in charge. That's something to be welcomed.

#Nima

Yeah. Thank you so much, Professor Marandi, for being with us today. A great pleasure, as always.

#Seyed

Thank you. Thank you, Nima. It's always a pleasure being on your show. And even though it's dark, we should all have faith in God. There is definitely light at the end of the tunnel. It may be one of those Iranian underground tunnels that go on and on for quite a while, but then there's that open space where the missiles come out from. So people should be optimistic—work hard, be active, work against the empire, against Zionism, have faith in God—and ultimately, people will see better days.

#Nima

Yeah, sure.