

# Stanislav Krapivnik: War Bluff? How Iran Threats Manipulate Markets

This interview examines the rising costs and risks of the U.S.-Iran conflict, focusing on a rescue mission that reportedly caused major equipment losses and exposed the limits of military pressure. It argues that threats of quick deals and ultimatums may be more about influencing markets than real diplomacy. The discussion also warns of wider regional fallout, including energy disruption, economic shock, and the danger of nuclear contamination, while claiming outside support helped fuel unrest inside Iran.

## #Nima

What has happened so far? We've learned today, after this sort of chaos with the fighter jets and then the rescue operation—what has happened so far? But I want to talk about the rescue operation, which was costly for the United States. After all, in your opinion—because we were talking about the ground invasion of Iran—for a single pilot, they sacrificed a lot of weapons, a lot of machinery, and I would say many people were wounded in this operation. So, what do you make of what has happened in terms of the rescue operation?

## #Stanislav

Well, I haven't seen a clear picture of anyone saying exactly what happened. I mean, first of all, let's start with two things we know. The planes were operating on the edges of Iran. It doesn't matter what Donald Trump says about the anti-aircraft systems being destroyed—they obviously aren't. And you don't see American or Israeli planes going down. Probably you just see American planes; I don't think there are even that many Israeli planes anywhere near. You don't see them going down in the middle of Iran. Everything that's being hit is happening toward the edges of Iran, or over Iraq, or over Kuwait. You do see unmanned systems getting taken down in the middle of Iran—but those are unmanned systems.

So that tells you, first, the Zionist alliance understands that Iran's anti-aircraft systems are not down. They're being conserved, used selectively. They don't just go all out and start shooting everything they have, only to get blown up. They keep them in reserve. The S-400 systems are somewhere out there, more than likely waiting for the B-52s to show up—and this just goes further to prove it. They got taken out on the edge of Iran. So, yeah, you could do a rescue operation, or attempt one, inside Iran without going very deep. But even then, we saw what happens when they start doing it. They got the first guy out pretty quickly; the second guy was somewhere out there in survival mode.

And it's very lucky that the Iranian government said they offered money for his capture. Because what normally happens is, when pilots are downed—especially when the enemy is indiscriminately bombing everything in sight—they don't tend to live long enough to get into the hands of the actual military. If the locals find them, they usually kill them. That's the biggest threat to the pilots: locals finding them. They're pissed off, and they'll usually torture them and finish them off. Whereas the military will usually just take a prisoner. So by putting a bounty on his head alive, the Iranian government basically made sure he wouldn't be killed by very angry locals. Then, yes, they brought in a C-130 with two Black Hawk helicopters to look for him.

They got one guy out. One of the helicopters was smoking, and there were lots of videos showing locals shooting whatever they had at it. That helicopter was obviously the—okay, am I reloading?—okay, the helicopter obviously wasn't hit by anti-aircraft systems, because otherwise it would've just come down. It wouldn't have been flying and smoking; it would've just crashed. Helicopters don't glide—they just fall out of the sky really, really badly when the blades stop spinning. So, since it was flying and smoking, it had probably been hit by small-arms fire—hunting rifles, shotguns, assault rifles—people shooting at it. There were videos of that happening.

## **#Nima**

There were Baloch nomads in that region. They know how to shoot. They know how to work with a rifle. I think that would be the case, yeah.

## **#Stanislav**

The helicopters were flying relatively low—you could tell because they were looking for the guy. And, yes, the locals were taking a lot of potshots at them. No, no, obviously they got hit. So that was the first guy. Then, with the second guy, yeah, apparently—while all this was happening—there were two A-10s in Kuwait that were hit. One was destroyed and another was damaged. I don't know if they were hit by Iranians or by Iraqis at that point, because the U.S. wasn't just fighting Iraqi militias; the U.S. had also delivered missile strikes on Iraqi military bases.

So the Iraqi military is involved in this too. So they might have been Iraqis. They were shooting at those two A-10s that had flown in over the river. There were only ten A-10s brought in, so that's 20% either destroyed or damaged already. And no ground operations have started yet, so that's not looking good. And then, getting this other guy out—right—so they had two damaged C-130s. As far as the story goes, they landed them and then set them on fire to deny them to Iraqi forces. They also apparently lost a Little Bird. Little Birds are these small helicopters used by special forces to insert teams.

## **#Nima**

They lost four of them—these Little Birds. ABC, NBC, and the New York Times are all reporting that four were hit by Iranians.

## **#Stanislav**

Were they lost?

## **#Nima**

Yeah, they were destroyed—four of them. Four Little Birds, MH-6 Little Birds, were destroyed.

## **#Stanislav**

Wow. That makes it even worse if they lost four Little Birds. I mean, obviously, they're not saying much about casualties. At least the last time I looked at the report, they weren't saying much on that. But, you know, even if nobody was killed, there were people wounded. And the equipment loss is pretty big. This is to get one guy out. Now, if this was a one-off mission, that's expensive—but okay, it's only one time. But as this conflict rolls on, you can expect more American planes to go down, more pilots. And if the U.S. is taking that kind of casualty rate just to get one guy out, they can't keep that up for too long. That's... mission accomplished, but man, at what cost? I mean, it's a huge cost—not just material, but people too.

## **#Nima**

Yeah, and then we had the new reports on Fox News. Literally, Donald Trump is saying that in the next 24 to 48 hours, we're going to have some sort of agreement with Iran. Here's what Fox News reported.

## **#Speaker 03**

I spoke with President Trump for about 15 minutes. He gave me some new details on the negotiations behind the scenes with the Iranians and what's going to happen if Iran doesn't make a good-faith deal. The president told me, "If they don't make a deal—and fast—I'm considering blowing everything up and taking over the oil." I asked him about the possibility of an agreement with the Iranians. He said those who are negotiating on behalf of Iran have been granted amnesty for now so they can continue the talks. And the president told me he thinks he'll be able to get a deal by tomorrow. He said, "I think there's a good chance—tomorrow—they're negotiating now."

## **#Nima**

Yeah. You know what we've learned from the Wall Street Journal—the reporting says Iran will not open the Strait of Hormuz and has refused to respond to yet another American ceasefire proposal.

The other part of the article mentions that Turkey, Egypt, and Pakistan are trying to convince Iran to engage in peace talks, but Iran has declined to meet with U.S. officials. And, you know, the tone is—Donald Trump was talking about it—and after, you remember, 48 hours, then five days, then 10 days, he came back to 48 hours again.

And today he issued a new ultimatum—on Tuesday at 8 p.m.—that’s supposed to be the final one on his part. I don’t know what he’s trying to achieve with this; it seems like he’s trying to manipulate the market. But the market doesn’t care anymore about Donald Trump or what he’s saying. Do you think that has anything to do with the reality of the talks? From what I’ve learned from the Iranians, there are no talks, no connections, no negotiations happening. And yet Donald Trump is arguing that they’re reaching some sort of agreement. Go ahead.

## **#Stanislav**

I’d say it’s not just Donald Trump manipulating the market—Iran’s doing a good job of that too. Trump needs to manipulate the market down; Iran needs to manipulate it up. And then Trump comes out saying, “Oh, it’s a peace deal.” By the way, somebody placed a short about half an hour before he came out for the first time and said, “You know, I’m talking to the Iranians—that’s big news.” That was a week ago. Somebody made a big short, about a billion and a half dollars, just half an hour before that. So it was either someone from Trump’s family, his very inner circle, or some combination of them who knew he was going to say that.

And then the Iranians—and the market goes down—and the Iranians come back, “No, no, we’re not.” The market shoots right back up. The cost of oil goes back up. So they’re both playing the market. And the market is Trump’s weak point, because while he can ignore the pain of the people, he can’t ignore any pain coming from his donors. On the one hand, they’re hurting; on the other hand, they’re making money off this market. So, to those Christian Zionists, and those who consider Trump a Christian—if you can call him that—I don’t particularly consider him a Christian. Maybe I’m wrong.

But this is his actual message on Catholic and Protestant Easter. And pardon the French—I’m going to read it verbatim: “Tuesday will be the power plant day and bridge day, all wrapped up in one in Iran. There’ll be nothing like it. Open the fucking straits, you crazy bastards, or you’ll be living in hell. Just watch. Praise be to Allah. President Donald J. Trump.” This man sounds like he’s Christian—on the holiest day of the Christian calendar, you know? Then, pardon me, but you have a really warped sense of what Christianity is. I mean, this man is—well, that’s one. Two, I don’t know how much he’s in charge of his faculties anymore.

I’m sorry. He’s all over the place, obviously. He’s trying to bluff. Bluffing doesn’t work. The problem is, if you bluff and they call your bluff, either everybody figures out that you’re just full of it and you’ve got nothing behind you, or you have to back up the bluff with actual force. The problem for Trump is, if he bombs Iran, Iran has been responding not just tit for tat, but tit for tic-tac-tac, tic-tac-

toe. You know, they hit one Iranian plant, Iran hits three or four of theirs—whether it's Israeli or the Gulf Arabs. So Iran escalates the payback on that. If they go after the Iranian electric grid, you can say goodbye to the lights in the Middle East. And by the way, those desalination plants kind of need electricity.

And you can run them off generators for some time. And by the way, food spoilage too. Most of these Gulf states—they don't grow food. They might grow some very expensive produce in greenhouses, which, by the way, need electricity or at least diesel, but they can't do it on scale. They can't hold regular food. Everything will spoil. You have to bring food in by ship, which isn't coming in. I mean, you could go through Amman and bring some amount of food in by truck, but you've got to figure five, six, seven million people have to be fed just across the border. That's a lot of food to bring in just by truck. I mean, you need a lot of trucks. So this is a very big problem.

And on top of that, I'll tell you, with aluminum, there's another one that's interesting. I was reading about it—because aluminum processing is big in the Gulf. Right now, about 6.8 million tons of aluminum production have gone off the market. Either it's fully shut down or partially shut down. That's a huge amount of aluminum. I mean, Russia is one of the biggest producers of aluminum in the world, and so is China. But they can't make up that kind of hole. So aluminum prices are skyrocketing. That affects automobiles and everything else. And of course, where's it going to skyrocket? First and foremost, not so much for China or Russia, but for everybody else. So, you know, everybody's production gets that much more expensive.

## **#Nima**

You know, one of the other points mentioned in this Wall Street Journal article says that Iran has told mediators the United States is not in a position to make any demands. And Donald Trump, by the way, he's making these kinds of demands as time goes by. He's talking about the Strait of Hormuz, saying they have to come to some sort of agreement or deal with the United States. But is it possible, do you think, that even with this kind of attitude—within 48 hours, two days, five days—right now, Tuesday, 9 p.m.?

## **#Nima**

What sort of pressure is he able to put on the Iranians with these attacks—along with the attacks on civilian infrastructure, like the bridge? We had the attack on the bridge, and we've had attacks on the PASA Institute, which produces vaccines and medicine, all of that. On the other hand, they've also attacked, as you mentioned, things related to food security or energy security in the region. There have been four attacks on the Bushehr nuclear power plant, which is in the southern part, close to the Persian Gulf. Any contamination there could seriously affect the Gulf and, consequently, the water that the GCC countries rely on.

## **#Stanislav**

Well, it won't contaminate most of those countries. The trade winds are blowing northwest. It will contaminate—well, it already did. By the second attack, there was a small cloud of contaminated condensate or water vapor that escaped, and it blew into Kuwait. That's where the wind is going. So it goes into Kuwait, and from Kuwait it's going to spread further if it's a big enough leak—like, for example, a meltdown. That's what they're aiming for. They're committing nuclear terrorism. Big surprise that the proxies—the Ukrainians—are trying to commit nuclear terrorism, just like when they tried to hit the Kursk nuclear power plant, and they're still trying to hit Zaporizhzhia, which has basically been shut down.

It's been put in conservation mode because of that. I mean, that's nuclear terrorism—there's no other way to look at it. That's an attempt to mass murder a large number of people through destroying nuclear infrastructure. And America is absolutely guilty of it. It's a war crime, a terrorist war crime. So you know what kind of regimes you're dealing with. The thing is, if there's a big enough meltdown, we know which way the trade winds are blowing. That'll blow into Kuwait, then from Kuwait it'll hit western Iraq, northern Saudi Arabia, and continue its way into Syria and Turkey.

So, okay, the Syrian government is an illegal Islamic jihadist government that America put into power. Yeah, surprise there, as usual. But the Turks, who have a legitimate government, have to be thinking, you know, hmm, how is this going to affect southern Anatolia? Probably pretty friggin' badly when you have nuclear fallout coming from that. Just so people understand—most people either don't remember or never really learned much about it, especially if they're Americans. Most of them don't know the extent of what Chernobyl was. First of all, Chernobyl was only one reactor melting down.

There are two blocks that are still generating electricity at Chernobyl and always have been. That was a full meltdown, but there wasn't a major steam explosion—only a preliminary one from the water in the cooling tanks. The main aquifer of water underneath the nuclear power plant was radioactive, and three guys went down there and pumped it out. One of them later died in a car crash. So, radiation, sure—but I guess it wasn't that radioactive, because they all survived. Like I said, one died in a car wreck not even that long ago, maybe five or six years back.

The other two guys are still alive. They pumped the water out, and if they hadn't, what would've happened is that the core would've melted down through the base of the nuclear power plant. If it had actually hit that water, there would've been a massive explosion. Considering the explosion that did happen, that cloud reached all the way to Scotland. For ten years, Scottish herders were told not to take their sheep or cattle up into the mountains, because the moss especially absorbs radiation from the environment. Moss is a big absorber of radiation.

Because the wet climate eventually washes everything out to sea, and then it gets distilled in that giant body of water. In a desert environment, it's obviously much worse, because it's in sand, and every time the wind blows, that sand kicks back up. There's no constant wet climate to wash it all

out, so that makes it much worse. But yeah, that'll reach into southern Anatolia. I mean, that's quite simply the direction it'll go. So if I were Turkey, I'd definitely be looking at the Americans and the Israelis trying to come in—nuclear terrorism—and having a few choice words about it.

## **#Nima**

You know, the blame game is going on as well, because the IDF—here's the report—shows that the IDF has repeatedly said Iran only has a few hundred ballistic missiles remaining out of an original stockpile. They're talking about 2,500 ballistic missiles. They said that to the Americans. You know, it's unbelievable. How can somebody in the Trump administration believe what the IDF and Mossad are telling them?

## **#Stanislav**

Well, you know...

## **#Nima**

It's funny—it's tragic, what's happening. Unbelievable.

## **#Stanislav**

It is now. Yeah, the puppy's by himself going to bed, and he's barking really hard right now. I don't know if you can hear that or not. It's his first night in. But the problem here is that they convinced themselves—or maybe their intelligence really was that poor at the beginning—or maybe they believed that no matter what, they could take out Iran fast enough that they wouldn't have to worry about it. No matter how many missiles they have, the government would collapse, so it wouldn't be a bad thing.

Either way, they convinced themselves—and they convinced Trump and the people around him. They all bought into the same thing, you know, they all drank the Kool-Aid. And that's where we're standing right now, in this big cluster. It turns out they actually have quite a few missiles, and the government didn't fall. We're now on day 37 of the four-day war, and nobody knows how the hell to get out. The Iranians want revenge, and that becomes a very, very big problem. That's the problem we're dealing with right now—and they don't have a way out.

## **#Nima**

You know, when I was in Iran, I saw what happened during the protests—how the protests turned into riots. And many people were asking, because they were using some sort of weapons, killing

both civilians and security forces. And here's what we learned just today: the United States has been sending weapons to the Kurdish people, and then those weapons were given to the protesters in Iran. Here's what was said on Fox News today.

### **#Speaker 03**

He also provided new details on what happened earlier this year, as the Iranian regime took to the streets and slaughtered what the president tells me were 45,000 civilians in their own country. After that took place, President Trump told me the United States sent guns to the Iranian protesters. He said we sent them a lot of guns, that we sent them through the president. He went on to repeat that we sent guns to the protesters—a lot of them. So, a number of headlines came out of my conversation with President Trump.

### **#Nima**

Yeah, he said that.

### **#Stanislav**

Yeah, I think they got their timing—their chronology—just a little bit off. First, they sent guns, and then they had the protests. The first protest, as usually happens when Americans try to do color revolutions, was over something realistic. In this case, it was about the economy, and the protests weren't violent. Uh, that's usually how it starts. Of course, the economic issues were, in large part, American-made. Uh, that's what Bassett's specialty is—crashing currencies, not running an economy. That's why, if you ever listen to him on any economic issues in the U.S., the man's absolutely clueless. He has no idea how economies run. But he was very much Soros's right-hand man.

He crashed the, uh, the Bank of England. And for Soros, that's what he does—he's a currency hitman, a currency assassin. But as an economist, he's an absolute dunce. He needs to go back to, you know, first-year university economics—macro, micro. I mean, the man—listen to him—it's embarrassing. Let's just say he's such an idiot. But they did do a good job of crashing the Iranian currency, which got people into the streets. And that's usually step one. Then step two—behind those people—come the radicals, whether they're Islamic radicals, Nazis, or whatever, even football fanatics.

They don't care. They just need to get people out in the streets to start making trouble. The next step is usually to start killing people—to have sacrifices, you know—to try to get the government to overreact. And that didn't happen. So they go, "Well, the government didn't react." Two things didn't happen: the government didn't overreact initially, and government officials didn't switch sides. They need the military and police to switch sides. What happened in Georgia is they got to that point, and their little Maidan, their revolution, couldn't go any further because none of the police and none of the military switched sides.

A bunch of bureaucrats came out and switched sides—just self-identified—and they've since been fired. But since the military and the police didn't switch sides, the power elites here, in any society, that revolution petered out. Well, in Iran, when that didn't happen, that's when they went into mass killing and just tried to force it. And the moment the Internet was switched off, the moment Russia brought in the blockers for the Starlink systems, that was it. That was pretty much game over, because they didn't have popular support and they didn't have any factions in the government going over to their side. But sure, yeah, the Americans sent them guns—they just sent them before the demonstrations started. And they killed a lot of people. I mean, there are lots of videos. You know, they burned ambulances, they burned fire trucks in a lot of places so that emergency services couldn't respond.

They burned clinics, killed people left and right. They went into a mode of, "If we don't get parts of the government power organs on our side—the military, the police, the state security—then we'll try to make the government look weak by just creating mass chaos." And again, that didn't work. So at least he's admitting what they were doing, but he's got his chronology really screwed up. And the Americans have been doing the same thing. I mean, they did it in the Warsaw Pact—they did it first to the Hungarians and then to the Czechs. They set them up, the CIA set them up to rebel, knowing they weren't going to get help from the West. They were just set up to be taken down by the rest of the Warsaw Pact at that point. This is nothing new. This is absolutely nothing new for the U.S. It's been doing it since the '50s.