

Nima R. Alkhorshid: Iran-US Double Ceasefire: What Just Happened?

#Nima

Hi, everybody. Just moments ago—well, maybe a few hours ago—we learned that Donald Trump has decided to announce a ceasefire between Iran and the United States. We've heard the same thing from Iranian sources, from state media, and from Iranian officials like the Foreign Minister of Iran, Abbas Araghchi. What we've learned so far is that both sides have agreed to a two-week ceasefire, and negotiations are set to start on Friday in Islamabad, Pakistan. So I think the main question is: what happened? Because earlier today we were talking about this, and there was no sign of any negotiations. I talked with Professor Mirandi, I talked with my Iranian friends in Iran—there was no indication of talks going on behind the scenes.

And today we've learned that Iran canceled all sorts of messages to the United States. So the main question is, what happened? How did it happen? I think it goes beyond just what happened today, because you remember when Donald Trump started putting out these kinds of ultimatums—talking about 48 hours. He started with 48 hours, then five days, then 10 days, and then we went back again to 48 hours. Then he said Tuesday at 8 p.m. So you may wonder, what's going on? What happened? Why did the United States decide to behave like this? I think the main answer, or the main point, is what's happening on the battlefield. On the battlefield, mostly Israel is running out of interceptors, and the United States isn't able to help Israel defend itself.

All those radars during this war were destroyed. The latest ones were in Israel. Right now, Israel literally has no major radars left to defend itself. This is one of the major issues for Israel at the moment. We have to understand that this war—the concept of it—comes from the Israeli government, from the Netanyahu administration. They wanted this war for a long time. The United States decided to go along with it. As you remember, Marco Rubio said they wanted to attack Iran so that the Iranian response would be an attack on American bases in the region. That's why the United States decided to attack Iran. And as Marco Rubio put it, a "preemptive attack." But it wasn't preemptive—it was an act of aggression by the United States and Israel.

But after all, during the war, Iran has managed to, you know, measure all these escalations from the Israelis and the United States. So they decided—remember, in the early days of the war—they went up with missiles and drones. They hit everything in the region. Basically, there's nothing left to be used in the American bases in the GCC countries. The only radars that were still working somehow, at least in the last week, were those in Israel and in Jordan. Iran has managed to destroy all of them. It seems to me that most of the radars were destroyed. In Israel, those critical radars were hit—at least that's what we've heard so far. So here—look at this image that came out today—it

shows that one of these interceptors in Israel, a David's Sling interceptor missile, is from the 2026 stockpile.

It shows how critical the situation is with the interceptors. On the other hand, not only were the interceptors and radars destroyed, but the United States is also running out of cruise missiles and JASMs. That's why their offensive power is decreasing as well. So, offensively and defensively, they're not capable of continuing the conflict—of continuing the war. So what would be the solution for that? Putting an ultimatum out there, threatening the Iranians, as Donald Trump tried to do—saying, "We're going to destroy the civilization, we're going to destroy everything in Iran." The other problem was the intelligence.

They couldn't reach or manage to find the critical elements—when it comes to missile production, drone production, the key points in Iran to hit. So what else could they do? Attacking universities, bridges... even today we learned a synagogue was attacked. They attacked everything—hospitals, civilian facilities, even pharmaceutical plants—all of it. So the question is, why did they do that? Because they didn't have the intelligence coming out of Iran. It's all about looking at the intelligence, the offensive power, the defensive capability.

They were all depleted on the part of the United States. So what could be done now to change the game? I think the last thing the Trump administration tried to do was reach into the Natanz power plant in Isfahan, because they thought they could go there and find the 460 and reach uranium. They carried out some sort of raid in the southern part of Isfahan, which totally failed, with many casualties in this operation. They didn't mention any of this. I don't know if some of those forces were killed, but it seems there were many wounded during the operation. This is the second problem the United States has faced.

It was the last option, because they were running out of interceptors and cruise missiles. So what can you do? B-2 bombers—they still had B-2 bombers going into Iran and hitting targets—but they'd have to go deep inside Iran to reach them. That's not possible, because they tried it before. We had an F-15E intercepted by the Iranian air defense system. They couldn't locate the air defenses; these are mobile systems. They move into underground cities, come out, go back in, and nobody knows where they're located. Then, the other point when it comes to the ceasefire is—you remember Donald Trump mentioned 15 points.

What was in those 15 points that the United States suggested to the Iranians? It wasn't really a suggestion—it wasn't a communication from the Iranians. The United States tried to reach out to them through the Pakistani government, sending a 15-point plan on behalf of the U.S. Basically, it was total capitulation for the Iranians. What was in it? Limitations on the ballistic missile program, no enrichment in the nuclear program, and they'd have to give up the Strait of Hormuz—open it up, you know, let it be the way it was before the war started. The basic points in those 15 points were just total capitulation for Iran.

Iran said, "No, we're not going to do that." So what did Iran do? They sent a counterplan to what the United States had suggested. Iran sent it two days ago to the United States, and since then there's been no communication—no talks, no negotiations, nothing. The Pakistani government was just relaying messages, taking the message from the United States to Iran and then sending Iran's message back to the U.S. So the final move from Iran was sending this 10-point plan to the United States, and since then there's been no negotiation, no talk. That's why today, as we were discussing what's been happening, there were still no talks. I talked with Professor Morandi today—no talk, no negotiations—because Iran said these 10 points must be met, or they're not going to talk.

There has to be some sort of permanent solution to what's going on—to this war. And Donald Trump said on Tuesday at 8 p.m., "I'm going to announce, I'm going to attack you, I'm going to destroy you." But what was happening in his mind was that he tried to do his best. He thought the Iranians would somehow, you know, capitulate—say, "Oh, we're going to back down, he's going to destroy us, he's going to use nuclear weapons and destroy everything." He didn't actually mention nuclear weapons, but when you talk about destroying a civilization, a conventional war isn't capable of doing that. You have to go beyond that—you have to use nuclear weapons. Even J.D. Vance today, in Hungary, said that we have tools in our arsenal that haven't been used so far, so we may use them. They did everything.

They did everything to put this sort of psychological pressure on the Iranian government to force them into some kind of capitulation. That didn't work. So if it doesn't work, what do you do? Iran didn't do it. Iran wasn't—Iran, they were not trying to negotiate with the United States. They just sent a plan, a 10-point plan, to the United States. There were no negotiations. Then Donald Trump himself negotiated—he was negotiating with himself. Nobody was there to negotiate with him. Iran simply sent the plan, saying, "You may understand this plan, you may agree with it, or we're not going to make any sort of deal. We're not going to talk with you." Donald Trump himself today decided to capitulate by accepting that he's going to negotiate based on the plan that Iran presented—the plan Iran sent to the United States.

So, the question is: what's in this ten-point plan? Basically, it says that Iran and the United States would never attack each other again. It means the United States, together with its allies, would never attack Iran again. The first point. The second point is about the Strait of Hormuz. The Strait of Hormuz, I think, was one of the main issues. The idea was that they attacked Iran to destroy its capabilities—to carry out regime change—and then to destroy Iran's ability to produce nuclear weapons. But Iran, so far, based on what it has shown on the battlefield, doesn't need nuclear bombs to defeat the United States and Israel in the region.

They don't need that. The nuclear bomb, in this case, is the Strait of Hormuz. What's happening in the Strait of Hormuz is going to be under the control of the Iranian government forever—forever. And they're going to manage it; they're going to, you know, charge all these tankers that are trying to pass through the Strait of Hormuz. They're going to pay \$2 million per tanker or per vessel. So this is huge, because when it comes to reparation and when it comes to devastation, we know that

this war is totally about devastation, death, and destruction—not only in Iran but also in Israel as well. We don't have much coverage from Israel. Nobody's reporting what's going on there.

We see the missiles going there mostly from outside—footage from countries around Israel that are taking some photos or videos. We had a little bit of leaked material from some media outlets showing the destruction of buildings, apartment buildings. But overall, we don't really know what's going on strategically, especially with the key facilities in Israel. Israel was hugely affected by this war—the whole society was. The destruction is unbelievable. Look at Haifa, Tel Aviv—you see some scenes that look like Gaza when you look at what's happening in Israel. And coming back to the point about the Strait of Hormuz, I think the Strait of Hormuz right now is the most important gain for Iran—it's the winning point for the Iranians.

And the other point that was mentioned in the 10-point plan is the Iranian right to enrich uranium on their own soil. It's going to stay that way. Iran is going to enrich uranium on its soil; it's not going to be any different. That's why I think it's important. As for ballistic missiles, there's no talk about them—no discussion of any limitation on ballistic missiles. It's not in this 10-point plan. All sanctions, primary and secondary, will be lifted from Iran. This goes back to George Bush and those devastating sanctions that, for many years, kept Iran's economy under pressure from the United States. I think it's going to be huge if they move in that direction.

The United States forces, you know, they have to withdraw from the region. The other point in this 10-point plan is compensation paid to Iran. I think finally we're going to learn that the compensation would come through the Strait of Hormuz—what Iran would gain from it, the revenue the Iranians would have through the Strait and the way they're charging the tankers, all those countries that are passing through. Not only that—Associated Press just reported moments ago that it's going to be managed by Iran and Oman. Basically, Oman is some sort of partner for Iran in that region because they're part of that area as well. But it's going to be run by the Iranians together with the Omanis. The Omanis and Iranians are going to manage it jointly.

And the other point is that the war ends on all fronts. It means the war is going to end not only between the United States and Iran, but also between Israel and Hezbollah, and in Gaza. The tricky part, I think, is that it's so difficult to control Israel when it comes to the southern part of Lebanon and Gaza. I don't know how capable the United States is of controlling the Netanyahu administration. But after all, looking at what's going on, I think many people are arguing that these two weeks of ceasefire would give some sort of leverage to the United States. They want to build up, to get back, you know, hit Iran harder, maybe with new missiles—but that's not going to happen, because the capability of the United States to produce these interceptors is limited.

They cannot produce them. They could fight and produce these missiles, but it's not going to happen in two weeks. I think nothing of that sort is going to help the United States in two weeks. It's going to take a lot of time to reproduce all these missiles—cruise missiles, JASSMs—along with interceptors to be replaced or sent again to Israel to get back into the fight. But the other point is, the situation

is not only related to Iran; it's also related to what's going on in the southern part of Lebanon, because Israel's tanks and forces are getting destroyed by Hezbollah. Hezbollah has been able to destroy tanks. They don't have tanks, they don't have heavy weapons, they don't have an air defense system, but they know how to fight the Israelis on the ground.

And even they know how to hit the Israeli drones. This is the problem. What the Israeli media was reporting today is that they have underestimated Hezbollah—you know, Hezbollah's forces or Hezbollah's sort of dominance in the southern part of Lebanon. But right now, reality is hitting them, and hitting them hard. They're learning. You know, the son of the minister of economy, Smotrich—his son was killed in the southern part of Lebanon. It shows how critical the situation is. And Lebanon knows how to defend itself. Considering all of that, again, coming back to Yemen and Ansar Allah—they're not part of the game. They're not in the game. They're using two or three missiles every other day, but that's all. They're not part of the game.

Bab al-Mandab is not closed. So Iran didn't use all of its tricks or all of its capabilities to go against the United States. It's the United States that's running out of interceptors, running out of cruise missiles. I think the negotiations—and some people are arguing that these negotiations are going to come back—the United States is going to attack Iran again and again. I think that's huge. I doubt that, because if that happens, what else do they have to go against Iran? Even with the negotiations right now, you know, before this was happening, the United States had some sort of leverage to put pressure—psychologically, economically, militarily—on Iran: "If you don't reach an agreement with us, we're going to attack you."

"We're going to destroy you." Sending, you know, these beautiful aircraft carriers, airplanes—150 fighter jets—going to the Middle East, sending them to Jordan. These are huge, you know... Just imagine what was happening before this war started. They were putting a lot of pressure on the people of Iran, on the government, on the military—psychologically. So right now, that's not there. They don't have any sort of leverage. They can't do anything. They can't intimidate Iran with war, because Iran is in the war as we speak. The United States and Israel know what the war would be, and what the war is—the reality of the war, the tragedy of what has happened so far. I think Donald Trump, strategically, has gained nothing.

He has achieved nothing, but he's losing strategically. What he has achieved so far could be the death and destruction in Iran and in Israel. That's the total—he's achieved that. He has destroyed many civilian buildings in Iran. He's killed many people in Iran. This is the achievement of the Trump administration. This is what he has achieved—nothing more than that. He has been defeated, defeated strategically. Iran is going to control this radar almost forever. No limitation on Iranian ballistic missiles, uranium enrichment on Iranian soil—that's going to happen. Iran would negotiate with the United States, I think, about nuclear weapons. Iran is not interested in, you know, going after nuclear weapons.

They don't need it because they've defeated the United States strategically in the region, together with Israel, without using nuclear weapons. This is the reality of what's going on today. And I think Iran has the upper hand in this negotiation. That's why the United States—we've seen Donald Trump, you know, post that the negotiations are based on a ten-point Iranian plan. Then we had the foreign minister of Iran posting the same thing, and Donald Trump retweeting what the Iranian foreign minister tweeted. So just imagine what Mark Levin was talking about last night—he was talking about nuking Iran, destroying Iran using nuclear weapons. And look at what he said just moments ago.

#Guest

What, are we just going to leave them there? There's nothing we can do, and we're just going to wash our hands of it? That, to me, is morally very difficult—very difficult to accept. And then what about the problem?

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Yeah, let's stop here. When he's talking about the people of Iran—remember, just with this American raid on Iranian soil—they tried to do something, to grab something in Iran and enrich uranium, 460 enriched uranium, highly enriched uranium. And what happened was that we had General Keane in that briefing yesterday, together with Donald Trump and Pete Hegseth. When General Keane came to the podium, he mentioned the details of this operation. They called it the "rescue plan of the pilot," which was a totally false name for the operation. It was a raid. Then he said, when we got there, everybody in Iran, with small arms, rifles, anything they had, they shot at us.

They fired at us. This is the reality of what they're facing. Donald Trump was told he was going to go there, free Iran, and liberate the Iranian people. But that's not the reality of what they faced this week with the raid on Iranian soil. This is the reality. I think the other point Mark Levin was mentioning is, are you going to leave the Iranian people in the hands of this regime? What is your responsibility there? Is he afraid of the Iranian people? Yesterday he was talking about bombing them, using nuclear bombs against them. And now he's just mentioning it—he's afraid of Iran, yet he says he wants to do something for the Iranian people.

This guy has an agenda—and it's not an American agenda, it's an Israeli agenda. I think it's obvious to all of us how these people are manipulating things. They're part of the mainstream media, manipulating and using the United States as a proxy against Iran in the Middle East. That's enough for the United States. I don't know how long the U.S. wants to sacrifice everything for Israel and what Israel is seeking—for the so-called "greater Israel." What is that? Who's going to accept that? Is Israel capable of achieving it? No, they're not. It doesn't matter how many nuclear bombs they have. It doesn't matter. And here's what he said.

#Guest

I was reading these statements. Hezbollah has killed more Americans than Iran directly. Hezbollah is Iran. Hezbollah is firing missiles into Israel by the hundreds, still. And here we have a ceasefire that they've already broken. So yes, the argument will be, "Well, they don't have control of this or control of that." But if they don't have control of this or that, how do we even enter into an agreement? There are a lot of complicated issues.

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You know, you remember there was a ceasefire between Hezbollah and Israel. Israel kept attacking Lebanon over and over, destroying everything and killing people. This guy is arguing that Hezbollah is going to break the ceasefire, but that was actually the case with Israel. Israel was doing this before the war even started—they were attacking, killing civilians, destroying everything in the southern part of Lebanon, in Beirut, in Dahiyat, in those parts of Lebanon. So, somehow, by mentioning that, it's like saying if this war ends and you find some sort of solution, we're going to let Hezbollah be. Hezbollah is not going to be defeated. Hezbollah is a resistance movement in Lebanon.

As long as you're occupying the southern part of Lebanon, Hezbollah is going to fight back. They're going to get their territory back. They're going to fight, and they're not going to stop. I think it's a total win for the acts of resistance. I think the acts of resistance are learning something that wasn't there before this war started. The Iraqi resistance wasn't there—nobody knew about the Iraqi resistance, the Iraqi Hezbollah. But since day one, they've been part of this operation. They were fighting the United States. Look at what happened to the American embassy in Iraq—one of the biggest embassies. It's a huge, huge embassy in Iraq that was destroyed. Everything was destroyed in Iraq.

There's nothing there for the United States to gain. Look at what's happened in Iraq. You know, all these NATO countries had their forces there for such a long time, and they all withdrew. So, no NATO forces, no American forces—Iraq is free after all. There's a new life coming to the Iraqi people, a kind of fresh air coming to Iraq, I think. This is the difference. That's why they were fighting, because they want to align with the Iranians. The acts of resistance are going to get stronger, going to get bigger. I think what's going on in the GCC countries is a huge defeat for them. For such a long time, they've paid for everything with American bases in the region.

They've lost all of those. The United States has failed. Donald Trump failed to defend them during this war because his main concern was Israel. His main concern was regime change in Iran. He never meant to defend any of these Arab states in the Persian Gulf. So this is the reality. Are these countries going to learn from what's happened so far? Nobody knows. But Iran is not going to let American forces get back to the bases—no American forces going back, no bases in the Persian Gulf. The United States has been removed from the GCC countries. They're not going to come back. Of course, they can still have CIA agents and all that; it happens everywhere.

But militarily, they've been removed from the region. If they go to Israel, if they build a new base there, that's not going to help Israel, I think. Because this war of attrition that Iran has engaged in is something different. The United States doesn't know how to fight a war of attrition. It happened in Ukraine as well—Russia defeated the whole of NATO in Ukraine just by fighting a war of attrition, nothing more than that. They're not in a rush. They don't need to destroy Ukraine. That's why they didn't assassinate Zelensky, they didn't assassinate any of Zelensky's commanders. That's why, looking at the western part of Ukraine, it's mostly intact. Russia didn't destroy anything.

The war was basically fought in the eastern part of Ukraine. But look at what's happening in Iran. The United States, when they were running out of targets—what did they do? They destroyed everything. Everything: hospitals, schools, all kinds of buildings and facilities. I think they're going to prepare a list so we can see what the United States has done so far. This is not a war. If you want to fight a war, you fight it on the battlefield with the military of Iran—hitting military targets, not civilians. Civilians you claim to be liberating, helping the Iranian people, while at the same time you're hitting civilians and destroying pharmaceutical plants.

This is just so ugly. I think the United States hasn't gained anything. It was a strategic defeat for the United States. Iran is not afraid anymore of a new war. If the war—let's assume after two weeks of negotiations and a ceasefire—they decide to go back to war, Iran is prepared for that. They have the time to build up. Iran has the time to strengthen its military, to repair, to do whatever they need to do in the country. So it's not going to be a winning point for the United States; it's going to be something in the middle. They have to understand that. They have to reach a deal. What we're going to see on Friday—we've learned that J.D. Vance is going to negotiate in Islamabad, in Pakistan, together with Israeli agents, I would say, Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner.

They're going to be with J.D. Vance. But in my opinion, the main negotiator would be J.D. Vance, because the Iranians—they don't trust. They don't want to talk with J.D. Vance, with Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner. These people are not, you know, nobody would believe that these people are seeking some sort of sanity, some sort of ceasefire, some sort of permanent ceasefire or permanent solution to what's going on. Every time they were negotiating with the Iranians, they were going to Israel. They were reporting to the Israelis before reporting to the United States, to the president of the United States. This is the problem with the United States. This is a huge problem. These are not diplomats. They don't know how to negotiate. At least J.D. Vance has some sort of dignity.

Let's assume that J.D. Vance wants to be the next president of the United States. This is the golden moment for him to make something happen. If he fails, that's going to be devastating—not only for him, but for 2028. I think that would be the end for J.D. Vance. But he has this golden moment, this golden opportunity to change the game, to bring something new to those people who voted for Donald Trump, who had some sort of hope in Donald Trump and the MAGA movement—that it would change foreign policy and domestic policy in the United States. J.D. Vance can change things, not only by negotiating with the Iranians and finding some sort of solution in Iran, but then by going

to Ukraine as well. You have to put an end to these endless wars. That's not going to help the United States.

And this is, I think, the end. Let's see what happens with these negotiations. We have two weeks of talks—are they going to extend that? It seems possible. Let's see what happens. Thank you so much. I tried to give my understanding of what's going on and what is happening in Iran. Iran didn't negotiate; Iran just sent a simple plan to the United States to see if they were willing to negotiate. That's why Donald Trump decided—he put an ultimatum out there. He basically negotiated with himself, with the paper that Iran sent to him. And after all that, he decided, "I have some sort of solution. A ceasefire is coming." That's all. That's all. Thank you so much, and see you soon. See you tomorrow.