

# Mohammad Marandi: Iran WON the War?

## Ceasefire Signals US Defeat

Did Iran just achieve a strategic victory against the United States? What does the ceasefire really mean for the region—and for the Global South? Support Independent media to remain bold: <https://patreon.com/IndiaGlobalLeft> Link for donation: <https://paypal.me/sankymudiar> In this powerful interview, Mohammad Marandi breaks down the US–Iran ceasefire, calling it a “major achievement for Iranians and the Axis of Resistance.” He explains why this moment could reshape the balance of power in West Asia and beyond. We discuss: Why Iran sees the ceasefire as a victory The mood in Iran and Iraq after the war Reports of tensions between Trump and Netanyahu Whether Iran will take a harder stance in future negotiations The reality of indirect talks with the US The demand to remove US bases from the region Are sanctions becoming irrelevant due to China trade? Control over the Strait of Hormuz and strategic leverage What this moment means for the Global South vs US imperialism Marandi argues that Iran’s resistance marks a historic shift, where a Global South country has successfully pushed back against a global hegemon. Follow us on Substack: <https://substack.com/@indiagloballeft> Twitter: <https://twitter.com/Indiagloballeft> Instagram <https://www.instagram.com/indiagloballeft/> Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61559411353392> Spotify: <https://open.spotify.com/show/69Y9iCWUv8ha3ATsPWtWk0?si=ee1f0de3de094f17> Telegram: <https://t.me/+WNlqoiv1Rhg5NjEx> KEYWORDS Iran ceasefire, US Iran war, Mohammad Marandi interview, Iran victory analysis, Axis of Resistance, US imperialism, Global South politics, Iran sanctions China trade, Strait of Hormuz, Middle East geopolitics, Trump Netanyahu Iran, Iran negotiations US, West Asia war analysis

### #Mudiar

Hello and welcome to another episode of \*India and Global Left\*. If you’re new to the show, please hit that subscribe button. Also, consider becoming a YouTube member, a patron, or donating a small amount using the link in the description box. Without further ado, let me welcome our guest tonight, Professor Mohammad Marandi. Professor Marandi teaches at the University of Tehran in Iran. Professor Marandi, welcome back to \*India and Global Left\*.

### #Mohammad

Thank you very much for inviting me. It’s always a pleasure.

### #Mudiar

I want to start with your first impressions of the two-week ceasefire between Iran and the United States. What’s the significance of this moment, particularly for Iranians?

## **#Mohammad**

It's clearly a major achievement for the Iranians and the axis of resistance. The fact that Trump, who initially spoke of capitulation and unconditional surrender—that was, I think, one of the first things he said after the war, or at least posted, if I'm not mistaken—he said that, I think, for both wars, the 12-day war and this war. And then he had to retreat, and ultimately he gave his 15-point plan, which Iran rejected. The fact that he had to accept Iran's framework, Iran's 10-point plan, as the basis for negotiations—I think that's a huge achievement. And it's a failure of the empire. It's a sign of failure. That doesn't mean the war is over.

The Iranians are prepared for a restart of the war, but it will be very difficult for Trump to do that at this stage. He hasn't been able to carry out an operation to steal Iran's enriched uranium, which Iran has every right to possess under international law. In addition, he hasn't been able to take a single square meter of Iranian territory. Iran is in full control of the Strait of Hormuz, and people across the country have been on the streets rallying in support of the government, the state, the leaders, the armed forces, and the Axis of Resistance across the region, which has been active in hammering its adversaries.

So after 40 days, we've seen that they've failed to stop Iran's missiles and drones. They've also been forced to concede that their operation to seize the uranium has ended in failure. None of their operations have succeeded. Even their so-called air superiority is uncertain. Iran can dictate terms to the ships in the Persian Gulf region, and these Arab family dictatorships have paid a heavy price for their complicity in murdering so many Iranians. So I think it's a major failure. It doesn't mean, again, that this war is over. It doesn't mean that Iran's 10-point plan is going to be accepted by the United States, but this is a major step in the right direction.

## **#Mudiar**

I've been reading about people celebrating in Tehran and Baghdad. This comes after 40 days of tremendous sacrifice on the part of Iranians and other allies in the region. Could you tell us a little about the mood in Iran?

## **#Mohammad**

Well, again, we're cautiously optimistic because all of our allies are part of the ceasefire. That means Lebanon, while the Israeli regime continues to murder Lebanese citizens, and that basically means Netanyahu and the Zionists don't want the normalization of trade in the Persian Gulf. They don't want oil, LNG, and fertilizers to be exported. They're trying to ruin the potential for peace in the region as we speak. So we have to be cautious about the days ahead. Iran will not accept the regime murdering its friends, allies, or citizens in Palestine or in Lebanon. But obviously, there are celebrations because Trump was forced to make a major shift in policy.

And the Iraqis have made enormous sacrifices over the past 40 days in liberating their country from occupation and have achieved significant success. The Iranians, too, have endured constant airstrikes and murderous carpet bombing. The people of Lebanon have achieved a great deal through their resilience and strength, and they've shown that Hezbollah has not been diminished or weakened, as we've discussed on your show more than once. I've said this many times on your program: those who claim Hezbollah has been weakened and is no longer a potent force are wrong. Today, Hezbollah is stronger than it has ever been.

It has shown the Israeli regime its strength, and it has shown the world its principled position in support of the Palestinian people and their attempt to bring about an end to the genocide in Gaza. So there is cause for celebration, but that doesn't mean this is over. We could have a renewal of hostilities tomorrow, or in a week, or two weeks, or even a month from now. We are cautious, but the fact that Trump was forced to make this shift at a time when Iran still controlled everything it did 40 days ago is enormous.

## **#Mudiar**

An Israeli press outlet has reported that Netanyahu was not consulted before the Trump administration made the decision to open this two-week window of talks in Islamabad, Pakistan. What is your sense of that report? And Israel has also said that while it would abide by the ceasefire in general, it would not accept any such conditions regarding Lebanon. What's your response to these two reports?

## **#Mohammad**

Israel, the Israeli regime, will have to abide by the ceasefire in Lebanon. That's part of the ceasefire, and it will not be allowed to do otherwise. Otherwise, Iran will make sure that the regime is punished. So that will not last; that will not be tolerated by any means. But whether Netanyahu was consulted or not, it's not really clear to me. Obviously, many Zionists, I'm sure, were consulted, because Trump has surrounded himself with Israelis. So there's no doubt they were deeply involved in the debates going on in the United States. But I think there are a couple of things we have to keep in mind. One is that the Israeli regime is now loathed across the world, and even in the West, many people loathe the regime.

Also, the United States has brought about a global economic crisis, and it will not remain untouched—it will affect it too. I think that many in the United States, and in the capital, at the end of the day will prioritize their own fate over the demands of the likes of Netanyahu. That doesn't mean the Zionist regime doesn't have huge influence—it does. Washington has been captured by the Zionist lobby and by supporters of the Israeli regime. We've always said that, but we also know it from Joe Kent's resignation letter. He was a very high-ranking intelligence officer appointed by Trump himself, and he made that very clear admission.

So, they have huge influence, but at the end of the day, what Iran has been able to do to U.S. standing in the world is significant, and the Americans recognize that. They needed—the Americans needed—this halt in hostilities. So perhaps one could say that the Zionist lobby in the United States did not have the upper hand in the decision-making process on this occasion, but that doesn't mean it will stay that way. And that's why the Iranians are very cautious, because there's no doubt that the Israeli regime and the Zionists do not want this situation to continue. They will do anything they can to disrupt the halt in hostilities. They will do anything they can to keep the global economy suffering.

## **#Mudiar**

Let me come to the negotiations due to start on Friday. Before I ask you a few questions about some of the clauses being reported now, there's a general point of discussion: after what has happened over the last 40 days, the atmosphere in the room—between the Iranian and U.S. officials—will be completely different. That's what many analysts are saying. Given what Iran has demonstrated, and given the losses it has taken, they're expected to be much tougher. Could you share your sense of what might be on the minds of the Iranian officials going into these negotiations?

## **#Mohammad**

Well, first of all, we have not had direct negotiations with the Americans. There should be no ambiguity about that. These were all messages sent back and forth. Ultimately, we achieved a great victory through the resilience of the Iranian people, the resilience of the Iranian armed forces, and the resilience of the Axis of Resistance. Hezbollah played a very important role, the resistance in Iraq played a very important role, and the resistance in Yemen also played a very important role. But of course, the fact that people on the streets—whether in Iran, Iraq, Yemen, or Lebanon—were constantly being bombed, yet remained resilient, shows that the people themselves were the ultimate force behind this victory: the resilience of the people, the resistance of the people, the principled stance of the people.

And remember, we're all paying this price simply because we oppose genocide. The Palestinian people are suffering—they're being massacred. They've been going through two and a half years of genocide. And our guilt, our punishment, is that we oppose this. But the Iranian armed forces played an enormous role for 40 days. They hammered the Israeli regime day and night. They hammered U. S. forces day and night. They hammered assets affiliated with the United States in the Persian Gulf region day and night. It was unrelenting.

And as I said, the Americans failed to take control of the Strait of Hormuz or to carry out an operation to steal Iran's enriched uranium. They underestimated the Iranian people. They underestimated the Iranian armed forces. They underestimated the Axis of Resistance. And now I think they're just beginning to appreciate that the world has changed. I think the entire global majority, and even people in the West, should be celebrating this victory. Iran was fighting, and the

Axis of Resistance has been fighting, for humanity. They've been fighting for everyone. And the fight to prevent the extermination of the Palestinian people is a global fight.

## **#Mudiar**

On the clauses of the talks, I wanted to ask you about a couple in particular. But let's begin with the clause about ending all bases in the region. How likely, how practical does that sound to you? And do you think Iran would be willing to compromise on that particular clause?

## **#Mohammad**

I think no one in Tehran is naive about what the United States plans to do or is willing to do. But Iran will not accept a peace agreement, ultimately, unless these conditions are met. Our relationship with the United States has been what it is for the last 47 years, and we've been punished and attacked. When it was the Soviet Union, we opposed the occupation of Afghanistan, but we also opposed the U.S. supporting terrorism and extremism there. We supported the people of Cuba and continue to do so—the people of Venezuela, the people of South Africa during apartheid, and of course the people of Palestine, and so on. So that is our sin. We don't expect the United States to suddenly support people across the Global South. But this is a turning point.

The United States messed around with the wrong country, and it failed. So whether we come to an agreement with the United States and they accept our terms or not, the important point right now is that the United States has been forced to put aside its proposals and accept our proposal as the framework. Again, we're not pretending that tomorrow Trump is going to say, "Yes, we accept everything the Iranians said, and we accept their demands." But this shift is huge, and the fact that the world has seen the extraordinary resilience of the Iranian people, and the remarkable performance of the Iraqi government, has changed how the world views the status quo. So yes, all ten points are, of course, points that will not make the United States happy. And some of them, you might argue, they will never accept under the current circumstances.

But neither will Iran accept any of them being put aside. So we'll have to see how things play out. I think what has happened is that there's been a sea change. Iran will no longer allow the United States to play the role it once did in the Persian Gulf. It will no longer allow Qatar, the Emirates, the Saudis, Kuwait, and Bahrain to behave as proxies for empire or to be platforms for bombing Yemen, as they were, or for invading Iraq in 2003 and slaughtering Iranians. These countries have to behave like normal countries, like countries across the world. They can no longer have imperial ambitions given their tiny size. That's not going to be accepted anymore. And now they're going to be forced to accept this, because Iran controls the Strait of Hormuz, and their overlord failed to defeat Iran.

## **#Mudiar**

What do you make of the clause about sanctions? Some analysts are saying that sanctions are becoming less relevant for Iran. One of the points they raise is about its trade and other kinds of exchanges with China. There are reports that trade between the two countries hasn't gone down—in fact, it's gone up over the last 40 days. There's been a reasonable balance of payments, with Iran exporting energy in exchange for industrial equipment, plants, and other important components from China. That's ironic, isn't it? So, how important is the lifting of sanctions for Iran? And do you think they will actually lift them?

## **#Mohammad**

Well, again, this goes back to my previous answer. I'm not saying, and Iranians are not naive about the United States. The expectation isn't that Trump will accept these demands, but that these are all reasonable demands. All ten of them—they're not outrageous. They're reasonable. The problem is that the world is so used to the United States dominating and bullying other countries that, for them, seeing Iran make reasonable demands looks unreasonable. Because all other countries are forced to make unreasonable concessions to the United States. And Iran is the only country—literally, except for Russia and China—that refuses to do so. But Iran is a smaller country, so it's shocking to everyone. These are not unreasonable demands.

But regardless of where the negotiations go, the sanctions regime is collapsing. And this war is a big step in that further collapse. This also enhances India's trading position—or India's position at the negotiating table—with the United States over tariffs. The United States can no longer bully any country the way it could before, after what has happened during these 40 days. So people in India should rejoice. The Israelis and the Americans have created a crisis for the Indian economy, no doubt, with their reckless, brutal, and ruthless behavior. They've shown that they don't care about the Indian people or anyone else. But now ordinary Indians, the government of India, and governments across the world can assert themselves more easily at the negotiating table and defend their rights more effectively, because they've seen what Iran has done.

## **#Mudiar**

There was a period when India started importing a lot of energy resources from Iran, before the secondary sanctions were tightened and that flow became just a trickle. That might restart, and it would be a huge boost for the Indian economy as much as for Iran. I wanted to ask you my two final questions. First, I think one of the demands at the negotiating table that the Iranians would—and should—be absolutely hell-bent on is maintaining their grip on the Strait of Hormuz. Chas Freeman spoke on the show about the importance of Iran reestablishing its presence in the Indian Ocean after centuries, and that was a critical point that gave Iran a lot of leverage during the war. My own sense is that Iranian officials would be absolutely firm about collecting tolls as a form of reparation or for postwar reconstruction. What do you think would be on the minds of the Iranian negotiators?

## **#Mohammad**

Without a doubt, the Iranians are not going to return to the old status quo. That's finished. We're already seeing that in the Strait of Hormuz, and we'll continue to see it there. The Pakistani government's good offices have provided an opportunity to reduce tensions, and hopefully oil will flow despite the Israeli regime's attempts to disrupt the negotiations and the ceasefire. If they keep doing that, obviously oil won't flow. The world should put pressure on the Israeli regime to end the slaughter of Palestinians and Lebanese citizens.

But Iran will continue to use its authority and power to maintain control over the Strait of Hormuz. Iran wants it to be a strait where people can use it for business and trade, but not as a place to conspire against the people of the region by despots tied to Washington. That's no longer acceptable. So Iran's control over the Strait of Hormuz isn't going to limit trade—it's going to limit the empire from creating further disruption in the future. And that, I think, is clearly beneficial to the international community.

## **#Mudiar**

My final question, Professor Marandi. We discussed with Professor Prabhat Patnaik on one of our shows the significance of the Iranian resistance against the U.S.-led imperial war. Professor Patnaik said that Iran's struggle is the struggle of the entire Global South. I'm kind of paraphrasing, but that was the crux of the conversation. Given the United States' self-defined objectives—I mean, they didn't lay them out in a single day, but they did talk about ending the Iranian ballistic missile program, ending Iranian allies in the region, and, of course, "regime change." We can keep adding clauses to that list as objectives of the United States, but all of them failed. And this is probably a rare moment in the history of imperialism when a hegemonic power has been pushed back by Global South countries within such a short period of time. Given the long history of imperialism in our region, I wanted to ask you this broad question: what does this moment represent for the Global South as a collective?

## **#Mohammad**

Well, you put it better than I could. Your explanation was much more eloquent than anything I could say. I think this is a turning point for the Global South—a defining moment, maybe the most important shift in relation to Western hegemony since the Second World War, even more important than the war in Vietnam. The United States, being the global hegemon—the hyper-power that was brutally destroying country after country—finally hit a brick wall. And why did this war happen? Because Iran was independent and opposed genocide. And that's something people across the Global South can feel; they can feel sympathy for it.

They can understand that to be reasonable. You oppose genocide. You oppose the strangulation of the people of Cuba. You oppose imposing misery on people in Venezuela—and you're punished for

it. I think people all feel that Iran's position was a just one and continues to be a just one. The United States tried to destroy Iran for taking that position. And Iran's victory—and I think you made a very important point here—was in a short war. It's not necessarily over; we may go back to war, but this one was short. The Americans failed to occupy the country. This is no Iraq, no Afghanistan, where they occupied the country for decades.

They failed to take a single square meter of the country. And that, I think, is a huge achievement for Iran and for the Global South. Iran did it on its own. It had friends, but it was on its own—against this huge coalition, both regional and international. So I think it strengthens the hand of Pakistan. It strengthens the hand of India. It strengthens the hand of Bangladesh. It strengthens the hand of everyone who's under pressure from the United States to give concessions to the emperor. Now all of these countries can say, "We have rights. Our relationship must be balanced. You must treat us with respect." And the Iranians—and the axis of resistance—have paved the way for them.

## **#Mudiar**

And I must add that, along with this growing consciousness in the Global South, there's also been a growing awareness of the insidious nature of the U.S. empire within the heartland of the imperial core. And that's probably one reason. I mean, in some ways, it resembles what was happening during the period of the First World War, when there was tremendous resistance to the traditional type of colonialism. Of course, that gave way to a new kind of imperialism under U.S. leadership. But this is a moment where a significant number of people within the imperial core have been able to see through the nakedness of Western empire. And that's probably why we're seeing so much madness in the mainstream media. And I expect people like you to face even more madness and...

## **#Mohammad**

Pushbacks, etc., from mainstream media—your closing comment? Yes, and I agree. I think a couple of things come to mind. It's not just Trump, and what you're saying implies that it's much bigger than Trump—and you're absolutely correct. When Trump was talking about obliterating Iran, taking Iran back to the Stone Age, and destroying a civilization—he's been saying that for weeks now. He began with "obliteration." They're all the same. Did you see Trump's opponents in Western media oppose him? Did you see any outrage in \*The Guardian\*? Did you see any outrage in \*The New York Times\* or MSNBC? They hate Trump, they oppose his policies—but did they say these are outrageous comments?

Do we see the fake human rights activists in the West pulling their hair out in rage over such threats—to carry out what would be the greatest Holocaust in human history? No. So this shows that the entire Western political establishment is utterly corrupt. And that establishment includes the mainstream media. This is the Epstein class that's in control. And it didn't have to be this way. You know, there were two very high-ranking American officials who wrote a book on Iran. They both worked in the White House—Flint and Hillary Leverett. Flint Leverett was head of Middle East affairs

at the National Security Council under Condoleezza Rice, of all people. And then he resigned over the Iraq War. So he was a principled person.

His wife, Hillary, was head of Persian Gulf affairs. They met, I think, in the White House. And when they left, they wrote a book on Iran called \*Going to Tehran\*. It's a very good book—I think everyone should read it. If American analysts had read this book, instead of attacking these two people—because the Democrats, the Republicans, the pundits, and the think-tankers all hammered them for saying we should understand Iran—they would've seen that the book deals with many of the myths about Iran and explains what should be done. If the Americans, instead of listening to the Zionists who do nothing but damage, had listened to these two people, we wouldn't be in the situation we're in today. It's a good book; I think people should read it.

## **#Mudiar**

Part of the reason for the lack of response to these comments—like ending civilization overnight—is, of course, complicity and corruption, as you said. But I also feel part of it comes from ignorance about the notion of civilization in our part of the world. For a lot of people in the West, civilization means real estate, buildings, or at best railroads and roads, maybe. But for us, civilization is much deeper. It's ingrained in our food, our culture, our rituals, maybe even our religion. And I'm emphasizing this as a leftist. The stories that live in our folk songs—I mean, I could go on about it for an hour. But the very idea of what represents a civilization, and why it cannot just be bombed and wiped out, is something that's been built through the powerful force of time over thousands of years. I don't think a lot of people in the West can understand the depth of what civilization really means.

## **#Mohammad**

I agree—especially about the United States, which has a very short past and came about by destroying the people who owned the land. But I think people are beginning to learn more about Iran. They're more interested in Iran, in figuring out what it is about Iran that has made it so resilient—and about Hezbollah, the axis of resistance. There's a lot of interest now, and I'm sure the Zionists are very unhappy about that. They're busy writing more books and producing more propaganda, but the eyes of people are opening.

## **#Mudiar**

We'll leave it there, Professor Marandi. Thank you for your time, as always, and stay safe.

## **#Mohammad**

Thank you very much for having me.

## **#Ayushman**

Hi, my name is Ayushman. I, along with Mudiari Jyotishman, have started this platform. Over the last two years, we've tried to build content for the left and progressive forces. So far, we've interviewed economists, historians, political commentators, and activists. If you've liked our content and want us to build an archive for the left, I have two requests for you. Please consider donating to the cause—the link is in the description below. And if you're not able to, don't feel bad. You can always like and share our videos with your comrades. Finally, don't forget to hit the subscribe button.