

Nima R. Alkhorshid: Ceasefire Shock: Why Iran & U.S. Just Stopped Fighting

A sudden two-week ceasefire between Iran and the U.S. is announced, with talks set to begin in Pakistan. The discussion argues the shift was driven by battlefield realities—depleted defenses, limited missiles, and failed operations—rather than diplomacy. It claims Iran gained leverage through sustained strikes and strategic positioning, forcing negotiations on its terms. Key points include control over the Strait of Hormuz, sanctions relief, and no limits on missile programs. The war is portrayed as costly for all sides, with heavy destruction and uncertain outcomes, while upcoming negotiations may reshape regional power dynamics.

#Nima

Moments ago—well, maybe just 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 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, and I also spoke with my Iranian friends in Iran.

There was no sign of negotiations 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 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 is going on, what has happened. Why did the United States decide to behave like this? I think the main answer, or the main point, is what's going on on the battlefield.

On the battlefield, what's happening is that Israel is mostly running out of interceptors. 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, they literally have no major radars to defend the country. This is one of the major issues for Israel at the moment. And we have to understand that this war, the concept of it, comes from the Israeli government—from the Netanyahu administration. They've wanted this war for a long time. So the United States decided to—well, 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.

So that's why the United States decided to attack Iran. And as Marco Rubio put it, a preemptive attack. 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, gauge all these escalations from the Israelis and the United States. So they decided—you remember, in the early days of the war—they launched missiles and drones. They hit everything in the region. Basically, there's nothing left to be used at the American bases in the GCC countries. The only radars that were still working somehow, until recently, were those in Israel and 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 destroyed—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 the 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, it's not only the interceptors and radars that were destroyed—the United States is running out of cruise missiles, JASSMs—and that's why their offensive power is decreasing as well. So, defensively and offensively, they're not capable of continuing the conflict, of continuing the war. So what would be the solution for that?

Putting an ultimatum there, threatening Iranians—as Donald Trump tried to put it—saying, “We're going to destroy the civilization, we're going to destroy everything in Iran.” So the other problem was the intelligence. They couldn't, you know, they couldn't manage to find the critical points—when it comes to missile production, drone production, those critical sites in Iran—to hit them. So what else could they do? You know, attacking universities, bridges. Even today we learned a synagogue was attacked. They attack everything—hospitals, all these mostly civilian facilities were destroyed, even pharmaceutical plants, all of it.

So the question is, why did they do that? Because they didn't have intelligence coming out of Iran. It's all, you know, looking at the intelligence, looking at the offensive power, looking at the defensive capability—they were all depleted on the part of the United States. So what could be done 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 enriched 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 these forces were killed, but it seems there were many casualties—many wounded—during this operation. This is the second problem the United States faced. It was the last option, because they were running out of interceptors and cruise missiles. So what can you do? 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—an F-15E was intercepted by the Iranian air defense system. They couldn't locate the air defenses; these are mobile air defense systems.

They go into these underground cities, come out, go back inside, and nobody knows where they are—where they're located. Then, the other point, when it comes to the ceasefire—you remember Donald Trump mentioned 15 points. What were those 15 points that the United States suggested to the Iranians? It wasn't 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 when it comes to the nuclear program.

And they 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 idea in those 15 points was 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 United States. So the final move on Iran's part 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 talking about what has happened, what was going on, there were no talks. I talked with Professor Morandi today—no talk, no negotiations. Because Iran said these 10 points should be satisfied, or we're not going to talk with you. 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, you know, nuclear weapons and destroy everything."

He didn't 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—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—well, they were not trying to negotiate with the United States. They just sent 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. You don't just send a plan and say, "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 10-point plan Iran sent to the United States. So the question is, what's in this 10-point plan? Basically, it says that Iran

and the United States would never attack each other again. It basically means that the United States, together with Israel, would never attack Iran again. That's the first point. The second point is the Strait of Hormuz.

The Strait of Hormuz—I think that was one of the main points. I would say it was like a nuclear bomb. They attacked Iran to destroy its capabilities, to push for regime change, 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" here is the Strait of Hormuz. What's happening there is going to remain under the control of the Iranian government—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'll have to pay two million dollars per tanker, or per vessel.

So this is huge, because when it comes to reparation and devastation, we know this war is totally about devastation, death, and destruction—not only in Iran but also in Israel. We don't have much coverage from Israel. Nobody's reporting what's going on there. We see missiles going in, 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 know what's going on strategically when it comes to these, you know, strategic facilities in Israel. But Israel was hugely affected by this war—the whole society was deeply influenced.

The destruction in Israel is unbelievable. Look at Haifa, Tel Aviv—you see some of the scenes. It's like Gaza when you look at what's happening there. Coming back to the point about the Strait of Hormuz, I think right now it's the most important gain for Iran, the main winning point for them. And the other point mentioned in the ten-point plan is Iran's right to enrich uranium on its own soil. It's going to stay that way. Iran is going to enrich uranium on its soil; it's not going to change. That's why I think it's important. As for ballistic missiles—there's no talk about them. They're not even discussing any limitation on ballistic missiles. It's not part of this ten-point plan.

All sanctions—primary and secondary—will be lifted from Iran. It goes back to George Bush, these devastating sanctions. For many years, Iran's economy was under sanctions from the United States. And I think it's going to be huge if they do something in that direction. The United States forces, you know, they have to withdraw from the region. Another point in this ten-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, and that Iran would gain from the way they're charging the tankers—all these countries that are passing through, using the Strait.

Not only the Associated Press—they reported just 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 Iranians together with the Omanis. The Omanis and Iranians are going to be working together. 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; it's also going to end between Israel and Hezbollah, and it's going to end in Gaza. So the tricky part is this, I think, because 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 can't produce them fast enough. 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.