

Independent journos expose shocking US war crime in Iran

Independent American journalist Ahmad Saadaldin of Prop&Co and Canada's Dimitri Lascaris of Reason2Resist join The Grayzone's Max Blumenthal to discuss their reporting from the ground in Iran. In this segment, they explain how they documented the deployment by US aircraft of tiny mines which looked like small tins of food in a town outside Shiraz, and the damage they did to the local civilian population. ||| The Grayzone ||| Find more reporting at <https://thegrayzone.com> Support our original journalism at Patreon: <https://patreon.com/grayzone> Facebook: <https://facebook.com/thegrayzone> Twitter: <https://twitter.com/thegrayzonenews> Instagram: <https://instagram.com/thegrayzonenews> Minds: <https://minds.com/thegrayzone> Mastodon: <https://mastodon.social/@thegrayzone> #TheGrayzone

#Max

But let's turn to another war crime that you both exposed. I think this really speaks to the value of your reporting and the trip you took, because not only did you expose this on your independent channels, it kind of forced mainstream Western media to acknowledge that this was taking place. The Washington Post picked it up and cited you directly, Dimitri, in its reporting. Correct me if I'm wrong, but essentially small landmines were dropped all over civilian sites in Shiraz. Here's a video from Ahmed's propaganda company.

#Ahmad Saadaldin

Pause it real quick, Max, because it might show the fingers. I don't want to get your stream—yeah, because this is for X, so I was just thinking about that. You can skip about 20 seconds and it should be okay.

#Dimitri Lascaris

The fingers are in that bag Ali's holding there.

#Ahmad Saadaldin

Yeah, the severed fingers of a man who picked it up without knowing what it was. You can play from here; it should be okay.

#Max

Okay, well, yeah, I mean, just even describing this... I don't know. "Zionist Chainsaw Massacre" might actually get us demonetized, but here we go.

#Ahmad Saadaldin

It exploded on impact. A recently married 30-year-old man with a four-month-old child found a landmine next to his vehicle and didn't know what it was. When he picked it up, it exploded in his hands, killing him. These are his severed hands. Oh my God. I'm sorry.

#Max

Wrong timestamp. Apologies, everyone. Yeah.

#Ahmad Saadaldin

Forgive me for laughing. Obviously, I'm not laughing at the man who unfortunately lost his life. This is his family you're seeing here, grieving. I promise there are no more fingers. You can play it from here.

#Max

Okay, okay.

#Ahmad Saadaldin

Death.

#Ahmad Saadaldin

Oil prices are through the roof. Innocent civilians are suffering all across the region. And in Iran, people are being killed, leaving behind widows, orphans, and devastated families. Why? Because of Israel, Zionism, and Jewish supremacy. If you're against this war, share this video and let everyone know it needs to end now.

#Max

So, what's going on? I saw the photos that you all shared—why do these small landmines look like tins of tuna or food? They don't look like traditional landmines. Why were they there? Just a couple of clarifications.

#Dimitri Lascaris

It wasn't Shiraz; it was a village just outside Shiraz.

#Max

Okay.

#Dimitri Lascaris

The mines were apparently spread by the U.S. military. I was actually—well, the video was used in my report, which was referred to not only by The Washington Post but also by The New York Times and ABC, and I think MSNBC or whatever. So these things were electromagnetic mines. Apparently, they can be timed to go off. When we were filming them, we were told, “You’ve got to do a quick shoot and get the hell out of there,” because that thing could go off at any minute. They also told us that since it was raining and muddy, they were concerned the accumulation of water and soil on top of the mines embedded in the mud could potentially cause them to detonate. They were extremely dangerous.

Ahmad heard this. I'm not sure I heard it directly, but I remember Ahmad telling me that the theory they had—no one knows for sure why the American military dropped these things on that village—was that the military thought somewhere not too far away there was an entry point, maybe a tunnel, from which missile launchers were emerging. They were hoping those launchers might blow up on top of one of the mines. But there was absolutely no evidence of any military presence in or near that village that we saw. Nothing. And we walked around for a good two or three hours.

#Max

And Ahmad, you went to a gathering of the family members of the man who had been killed. How did you come across that, and can you describe that experience?

#Ahmad Saadaldin

Well, we were touring through the village, and they were showing us different homes that had mines in them. On some of the homes, when they finished clearing them, or if they discovered a mine inside, they would mark it. They'd label the house so people knew not to enter. They brought us to the home of this man who had found a landmine next to his truck. He picked it up, not knowing what it was, and it detonated. Unfortunately, it killed him—it tore him to pieces. While we were there, we were told that his family was inside and that we could go in and speak to them. So we went in and paid our respects to his father—or maybe his father-in-law. Then his mother came in, and I believe his sister came in. His wife wasn't present, but it was just... it was so fresh after it happened.

It literally happened the night before, and we were there first thing in the morning. Their family was traveling from wherever they were, getting the news and making their way to the house, and all of that happened while we were there. You could just see it on their faces—they were completely

shocked, devastated. He was a young man; he had just gotten married maybe a year ago, if that. You could see the grief and the shock on their faces. It's hard to witness, because we want to tell their stories and capture it, but at the same time we don't want to impose. We're there as strangers, and what do you even say? It's difficult to witness. But we do what we can, I guess—tell their stories, with the hope of bringing an end to this war by exposing it.

#Dimitri Lascaris

That scene you saw in the house was, I think, less than ten hours after the man had been blown to bits in his own home. The grief was very fresh. Yeah, that's devastating. One other thing that happened in that village—again, this is so indicative, so typical of what we experienced when we were there. I'd had a lot of coffee that morning, and I needed to go, I needed a washroom. There wasn't a public facility available, so one of our Iranian colleagues found a villager who allowed me to use his. When I came out, the villager—an elderly gentleman—insisted, along with his wife, that we stay and have tea. He said, "You know, this is a custom in our country. You have to stay and have tea."

And it was raining, so we were outside in his backyard, having tea. And he just spontaneously broke out—none of this could possibly have been scripted, Max, the way it played out. It was utterly spontaneous. He just started talking. He said, "Man, I'm here, and I'm going to stand on this land, and I will die on this land, and ain't anybody going to take it away from me. Bring it on. Bring it on. I'll fight to the death." And his wife was sitting there, nodding her head. This was the overwhelming sentiment of the people we spoke to. Ahmad talked about martyrdom. The very first family we met, who had lost a family member to one of these criminal bombings, was in the first city we went to—or just outside it—in a village near Tabriz.

The man was a postal worker, and he'd been killed when they bombed the post office. We met his mother and father, and the first thing out of the father's mouth was, "It's a great honor to have lost my son in this criminal war against our country." Then they invited the other son to speak—a ten-year-old boy who calmly sat there and, in a measured voice, said, "I will not allow anyone to dishonor the name of my father, and I will avenge his blood. One day I'm going to become a missile maker, and the Israelis and the Americans will pay for what they did to my father." That was the sentiment we heard all over the country.

#Max

Something I heard a lot in Gaza, when I was able to be there, was from young people saying that it's the only way to reclaim your dignity after you've been stripped of everything you care about—your entire foundation.