

US independent journo reports from the Strait of Hormuz

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, Ahmad and Dimitri recall what they witnessed in the Strait of Hormuz, the chokepoint of the global economy, and explain how Iran is controlling access and gathering political power thanks to the war imposed on it by the US and Israel. ||| 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

Let's go to the Strait of Hormuz and get your impressions there. I mean, this is a clip from the only American—Dimitri, you're Canadian, sorry—from the only American in the Strait of Hormuz.

#Max

This is what Trump said he wants to do.

#Ahmad Saadaldin

Journalists Dimitri Lascaris, Tim Anderson, and I had a unique opportunity to sail through the Strait of Hormuz off the coast of Bandar Abbas in Iran, to witness what can only be described as a historical inversion of the economic world order, as oil tanker after oil tanker is forced to pay transit fees in Chinese yuan to obtain permission to pass the strait—or move on toward their death.

#Max

Amazing. I mean, just amazing.

#Dimitri Lascaris

I've got to give you some color commentary on this. Yeah, yeah. So, it's difficult to overstate how courageous Ahmad was in that clip, okay? He is, like, totally cool in the gang. He's obviously having

fun with the moment. They had been targeted for the prior two days—just about every site that we went to. You know, that was an extremely... I don't know, I think you'd probably agree, that was probably the most dangerous moment of the trip. We were out on the water.

We were at a point where it was relatively easy for the Americans—or the American military, or the Israeli military—to strike us, because they didn't have to come inland and were less threatened by air defense systems. They told us, "You know, there are drones in the sky." So we went out there, and after they struck the Minab school ten minutes after we left it the day before—after they did a drone strike on a demolished antenna facility we were looking at on the way to the Minab school—they did another drone strike while we were there. They struck outside our hotel room in Bushehr a couple of hours after we had left.

#Max

What do you mean, outside your hotel room?

#Dimitri Lascaris

Across the street. Not our hotel room—across the street from our hotel. I misspoke. I just mean, how close? We don't know. I think it was like 100, 200 feet, something like that. It was definitely close enough to make people say, "Were they trying to send us a message?" We weren't there at the time; we had left. We had left Bushehr. We got this report from, I think, Red Crescent personnel in the city. They also struck—well, we did this piece at a meteorological station in Bushehr, a civilian meteorological facility. They completely leveled the place. There was nothing there to hit, absolutely nothing of any value. Why would you waste a missile? And they hit that too, after we visited it. So by the time we got to the Strait of Hormuz, everybody in our entourage was pretty much convinced that the Israelis and/or Americans were trying to send us a message.

And to deter us from continuing to report on the ground. So when you see Ahmad out there, you know, joking around, he's doing it at a moment when his life is at risk. I just have to say, before I go, Max, this was one of the greatest privileges of my life—to travel with these people. And not just Ahmad and Tim Anderson. We also had, for a while, Adam Metan from Turkey. But above all, our gracious Iranian hosts. These people did everything they could to protect us. It was clear they were willing to risk their own lives to make sure we saw what was being done to their country. I feel nothing but love and respect for them all, and I feel honored to have been on this trip.

#Max

Well, what you did was such a service to humanity and to journalism. It informed all of us, and your voices are ones we can trust because we know what you believe in. You're totally transparent about your agenda. What we saw through your eyes felt authentic, and it made an impact, because so many other journalists with far more resources—when they go into conflict zones, they have

bodyguards, fixers, press vests, credentials—but they didn't take the risks that you all took. So thank you for your service, Dimitri. And if there's anything else you want to add before you go, the floor is yours.

#Dimitri Lascaris

All I'll say is thank you very much, Max. You're very kind. The only thing I'll add is, when this war is over, go to Iran if you can. If you have the means and the opportunity, go to Iran—see the country for yourself, meet the people there. They deserve our admiration and respect. Whether you like the government or don't like the government, this is a war on the people of Iran. It has absolutely nothing to do with democracy or human rights. We can assure you of that.

#Max

Well, I'll definitely be following that advice. Thanks so much. Yeah.

#Ahmad Saadaldin

Sorry, go ahead. I just want to say, before Dimitri goes—he was kind of hyping me up as being courageous—but actually, what he didn't tell you is that the day before, I was the one freaking out big time about potentially being targeted. It was him and Tim Anderson who gave me the courage to feel comfortable and understand that this is what I'd signed up for. This is what I came to Iran for, knowing it was a war zone. And both Dimitri and Tim—not to self-deprecate or anything—I'm more of a content creator, I'm passionate about these subjects. The real professionals are Dimitri and Tim Anderson. They were cool as cucumbers throughout the entire process, while I was kind of freaking out. So it was a pleasure, a privilege, and an honor for me as well to work with Dimitri and share those experiences with him.