

Seyed M. Marandi: Why Hormuz Could Trigger Global Economic Collapse

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#Nima

We learned yesterday that suddenly the foreign minister of Iran announced that the Strait is open and commercial vessels can pass through the Strait, from what he mentioned in that tweet. And then Donald Trump came out with a series of, you know, a lot of allegations that Iran is capitulating. The outcome of what he was mentioning in those tweets is a total capitulation of Iran. And today we've learned that the Strait is somehow closed, or Iran is controlling the traffic through the Strait of Hormuz. Somehow it's limited. What is the current situation?

#Guest 1

Well, you're right. We had an agreement yesterday with the Americans, a comprehensive ceasefire. What, 10, 11 days ago? What was it? And then Netanyahu, if you recall, carried out those carpet bombings on cities, slaughtering hundreds of people, even in neighborhoods that are not friendly to the resistance. He just mass slaughtered.

Of course, Western media tried to portray it as targeting Hezbollah strongholds and Hezbollah targets. I actually spoke to two Western journalists in Beirut. They wanted, like, a soundbite from me, or a sentence or two—I don't know if it's called a soundbite, but a sentence or two from me for their reports. And I asked, why do you write "stronghold," you know, or "Hezbollah stronghold" or "Hezbollah targets"? You know, these are all civilian targets. And both of them more or less said the same thing—that we didn't do this, our editors did. I said, it doesn't make a difference; your name is on it, and through your silence and your acceptance of this, you're complicit in these genocidal attacks. So Western media in Beirut and journalists are collaborating with the Israeli regime. But the point is that Netanyahu violated the ceasefire. He wanted to wreck the ceasefire. So it's obvious, and everyone across the world has to keep this in mind, that this war was started by the Israeli regime and the Trump regime, and the economic calamity that is heading our way is because of them. And so finally, 10, 11 days ago, whatever it was, we had an agreement. Lebanon was a part of it so that the slaughter would stop, and then Iran was to open the Strait of Hormuz. Netanyahu violated the agreement, so Iran didn't open the Strait of Hormuz.

#Guest 2

Also, when we went to Islamabad, it was clear that Vance did not have the authority to negotiate because he kept making phone calls. The Iranians had the authority to negotiate, and it was Tinian who said that the U.S. would report to this tiny colony in Palestine.

#Guest 1

And he has said other American leaders report to him every day. So anyway, you'd think that would be a scandal. So he didn't have the authority, and ultimately the United States didn't make any real progress with Iran at the negotiating table because the Israelis again didn't want this. So the continued crisis, the growing energy crisis that has continued over the last 10, 11 days, is again because of Netanyahu. It is again because of the Zionists. We could have had an easing of the economic crisis by opening the Strait of Hormuz, but he violated the deal and he prevented the talks in Islamabad from making progress. Then Iran, after the ceasefire, kept putting pressure on the Americans and kept the Strait of Hormuz closed in order to put pressure on the Americans to end this bloodshed in Lebanon.

And two, three nights ago—it was supposed, three nights ago, I think it was supposed to happen—Netanyahu didn't do it. The next day, Iran made additional threats, including striking Israel or Israeli targets, Israeli regime targets, possibly in Lebanon. I'm not quite sure. But that, I think, tilted the balance along with the closing of the Strait of Hormuz. And the regime accepted the ceasefire. Of course, it's violating it, but it accepted the ceasefire, more or less. So Iran yesterday said that it will open the Strait in accordance with the agreement with the United States—that's, you know, 10, 11 days ago. But then, right after Iran opened the Strait, Trump said the siege on Iranian ports will remain in place.

He imposed the siege because Iran, due to the violation of his ceasefire in Lebanon, kept the Strait closed. And then he imposed a siege. So because of Lebanon, the United States put a siege on Iran. And Vance apparently said, why is Iran so obsessed about Lebanon? I didn't see it myself, but someone else told me, as if killing the Lebanese is not important. But Iran said, no, we'll be steadfast. So the Americans imposed a siege on Iran. And then when Iran opened the Strait, Trump said, we're going to keep the siege on Iranian ports. Immediately, the Iranians went and said, if that's the case, then the Strait of Hormuz remains closed. So Trump and Netanyahu started this global crisis. It is getting worse by the minute, literally by the minute, Nima.

And reports say that within one to two weeks—experts are saying between one and two weeks—the situation is going to get very bad, and within three to four weeks the global economy is going to head towards total collapse. So this is where we are right now, thanks to these monsters. So the Iranians are—if the Americans right now decide to lift the siege on Iranian ports, and that means preventing food from getting in, preventing medicine from getting in—that's basically what it means. If they lift the siege, then the Strait of Hormuz will be open. So it's really up to the Americans

whether there's going to be extra fuel, extra helium, extra oil, extra fertilizer on the global market, because right now there are huge numbers of ships in the Persian Gulf waiting for the green light to move.

#Nima

Yeah. Professor Marandi, here is what Donald Trump said moments ago. He says that we have very good conversations going on with Iran and it's working out very well. But from what we've learned from the latest announcement, which was moments ago from the Supreme National Security Council, they said the basic point is that on the 10th day of the war, the United States started sending messages to the Iranians. What is the process of negotiation or the thoughts or the messages that Donald Trump is somehow feeling are going well?

#Guest 1

I think you know the answer to this, that nothing Trump says you can take too seriously, or seriously at all. Although I have a feeling, and I may be wrong—and I said this later yesterday in a couple of places, and I also tweeted it—that maybe Trump is claiming that Iran has made all these concessions: it won't fund Hamas, it won't fund Hezbollah, it will, I don't know, give up its nuclear program. All those tweets you were talking about earlier yesterday, all the nonsense that he said—maybe he is saying all this so that later on he can say Iran made all these promises, but it did not carry out or fulfill those promises, so I have to attack Iran. That, I think, is it, because usually I ignore Trump. I don't read his stuff. I don't listen to his speeches.

I've given up on that a long time ago because I learned nothing from it. Everything he says can be negated within an hour, after the subsequent paragraph, within a day. He flip-flops, he changes, he lies a lot. So I usually ignore him. But yesterday, these sudden social media posts of his, one after another, I thought to myself that perhaps he's making these fake claims in order to be able to justify another attack later on, to say that, well, Iran agreed to all these things, but they didn't do it. So they were lying. And now I have to bomb them. That's, I think, a plausible interpretation. I'm not saying that's the right interpretation. It could just be a continuation of all the nonsense that he says. Like you were just now saying, he's saying things are going well. I don't know. I can't really comment on Trump, but what I can say is that the whole ...

#Nima

I've lost your voice. Yeah.

#Guest 2

Is it okay now?

#Nima

You're back, yeah. You said the whole world—what was that?

#Guest 1

I said what? Sorry, where was I cut off?

#Nima

The whole world. From the whole world.

#Guest 1

Yes, I think the whole war, not just the Ramadan war or the 40-day war, but also the 12-day war, all were based on miscalculations. The Americans thought—maybe through the lies provided to Trump by Israeli intelligence or by their own foolishness—the Americans thought that Iran would collapse. I'm sure you recall at the beginning of the 12-day war, or near the beginning, Trump said "unconditional surrender." And then at the beginning of this war, too, it was all about unconditional surrender. And then after a couple of days, when they saw that despite the martyrdom of Ayatollah Khamenei and some of the senior commanders, the Iranian forces were functioning very well, and the people were on the streets.

And there was no rush on banks or supermarkets or anything, gas stations or anything like that. So for a few days, they kept saying Iran is running out of missiles, we've destroyed all their missile bases, their drone bases. And then they saw that, no, this propaganda is not working. And after Iran continued to fire missiles and drones, and they gradually increased, the Americans changed their position from unconditional surrender to providing this 15-point plan that Iran rejected. And then Iran gave its own 10-point plan, which Trump accepted. He accepted the 10-point plan to be the framework of the negotiations. That's why Iran accepted the ceasefire. And that was a huge victory.

But, of course, now Trump is, as the statement put out today by the Iranian Supreme National Security Council, Trump is trying not to frame, is trying to impose other conditions that have nothing to do with the 10-point plan. But in any case, what I mean is that, what I'm trying to say is that at the beginning of the war, the Americans said unconditional surrender. But after 10 days, it became clear to them that we were not going to lose this war. And even though they carried out more atrocities and started targeting critical infrastructure, they failed. And so ultimately, they had to stop. And now we are where we are. But I think that we're heading for a war again. Now, I'm not sure.

And some of my Americans say that Trump just wants out, perhaps. But I think that the chances for war are very high. And if there is war, it shouldn't take too long for it to start because the Persian Gulf is going to get very warm. You live in the south of Iran. Your family is from the south. You

know what I'm talking about better than I do. During the Iran-Iraq war, I was in Khuzestan, in the south, during summer. And it was very, very difficult, very difficult. And during the day, almost impossible. So I think it's going to get warm. I think the Americans, if they want to launch an attack, they have to do it sooner rather than later. But the problem is that if the Americans launch an attack, they're going to target Iran's critical infrastructure again, like they did before.

This time around, if Iran starts targeting, let's say, electricity in these regimes in the Persian Gulf, out of town, because they are guilty, in the heat in the summer that will force everyone to leave. Millions of people will leave Qatar and the Emirates and Kuwait and so on—millions, literally overnight. They will not be able to stay because the heat will be intolerable, especially for these wealthy people who've been living off oil and gas for decades. They won't be able to continue living there. So you'll see millions of people leaving literally overnight, and these regimes will collapse. So I think that to restart the war would be a catastrophic mistake for Trump, for the U.S. empire. I think it would probably bring an end to these regimes in the Persian Gulf.

And it would definitely create, it would bring about that global economic collapse that we've been talking about because we're heading in that direction. And the last 10, 11 days since the ceasefire, it's only been getting worse. Every day it's getting worse. And we're reaching closer and closer to the tipping point. As I said, one to two weeks, three to four weeks, this is how they are interpreting how the future of the global economy will move. So we'll have to see. Again, there are different views, but I think that my—not my understanding, I know that the Iranian armed forces have been preparing themselves 24 hours a day, and that just like after the 12-day war they began preparing themselves for a bigger war, and this time they are preparing themselves for the next round.

#Nima

From the announcement of the National Security Council, one of the points that is mentioned in the talks says new proposals have been raised by the Americans, which the Islamic Republic of Iran is considering and has not yet responded to. Professor Marandi, what was the first, you know, in order to talk with the American part, you have to understand, are they really prepared to talk, or do they want to somehow continue with this sort of non... Because you don't see any sort of deep understanding of the root causes of what's going on. They want to put something superficial. They want to solve the problem that is on the surface, not going below the surface, not those deep causes of the conflict. Do you see any sort of understanding on the American part, being willing to go in that direction?

#Guest 1

Well, I'm not privy to what is going on right now. I don't know what the new American proposals are. The Pakistani delegation that left, I think, last night, they were here for two, three days in order to see what can be done. And so right now, I'm not in a position to give a definitive response to your question. But what I can say is that that is the nature of empire. The empire, you know, it's like

Zionists. They consider themselves Zionists or worse, but the empire considers itself to be exceptional. And so it has exceptional rights. It has exceptional privileges. And therefore, for anyone to demand justice, for them, that's all outrageous. The 10-point Iranian plan, which people should take a look at, there's nothing extraordinary in it.

It's a very normal 10-point plan. But the Americans don't want to take it seriously because, for them, dealing as an equal doesn't make sense. You know, when we went to Pakistan, while we were there, the Washington Post put out an opinion piece—and the Washington Post is very close to the CIA—saying that they should kill the negotiators. And so when we were coming back, we thought that there was a good chance that they would shoot down our plane, the Americans or the Israelis. This is the sort of regime, this is the sort of mentality that we're dealing with, where the media competes with the regime in promoting crimes against humanity and war crimes. So to get justice from the United States, you have to be firm and steadfast.

We've seen how the Americans have been bullying countries across the world over tariffs. And the only country that really stood up to the United States was China because of its power and strength. So I'm not very optimistic, but Nima, again, going back to the war, I think the Americans obviously have been preparing themselves for another round of war. I'm not saying it's going to happen, but I think there's a good possibility. The Americans and Israelis have been preparing themselves. The Iranians are preparing themselves. So it could be that this period they've been buying time. But this, I think, is a miscalculation, again, for maybe four reasons. One is that Iran is also preparing itself.

It's not as if the Iranian armed forces and the government are on vacation. So they are swiftly preparing themselves for the next phase. The second issue is that this ceasefire period, because of their own actions—because of refraining from carrying out the ceasefire in Lebanon and now imposing a blockade on Iranian ports—they have caused the Strait of Hormuz to remain more or less closed. So the global economic crisis is intensifying. Now it's even worse because now even Iranian ships are not going through. I've heard different stories about how many Iranian ships are getting through or not. It's not clear to me what exactly is happening, if some ships are getting through or not. I've heard different stories. I don't know what's true.

I'll try to figure that out later on. But in any case, it is getting worse than before. The pace, the movement towards the catastrophe, the global economic catastrophe, is speeding up. So this buying time is pushing the world and the United States, of course, towards a major crisis. And then the other issue, the third issue, is that, as I said earlier, we're heading towards the warmer season. It's going to get very hot in the South in a month, and then it will just become intolerable. So even if the Americans—and I think the Iranians will probably allow them to take some territory—they'll deal with them in the counterattacks.

So they'll let them, let's say, occupy some areas or maybe islands, and then they'll start hitting them with missiles and drones, harassing them day and night and taking casualties, as the weather gets warm and hot and intolerable, which will be terrible for their morale. So I think that these three

reasons—and then a fourth—is that the world is getting sick and tired of the United States and the Israeli regime. Starting another war is going to cause greater anger, especially as we are getting very close to the economic crisis exploding. So I don't think what the United States is doing is smart at all. I think it is an act of desperation. But again, some people believe that the United States is not going to do this.

But in the Supreme National Security Council statement that you alluded to, that just came out right before the show, it also says that Iran is going to take fees from the ships, and that they will remain in control of the Strait of Hormuz. This, I think, is a key turning point. This was the catastrophic mistake of the United States in this war and the Zionist regime, because Iran had no ambition to take the Strait of Hormuz. We know that. And it was business as usual, even during sanctions. But now, under these circumstances, the Iranians have decided to take the Strait, and they're not going to give it back. And this changes the balance of power in this region permanently and in the world.

So regardless of what the Americans do, the Iranians are not going to give up the Strait of Hormuz, ever. And these dictatorships in the Persian Gulf, these family dictatorships, are going to have to deal with a new reality. And so I think that it's fair to say that the forces of empire across the region will be weakened, and the axis of resistance across the board, as a result, will be strengthened. And even if there's another war, I think that will not change anything. It will probably make it worse for the United States because when they are defeated, and I'm sure if and when they start the war, they will say—the Western media, even those who are opposed to Trump—will talk about their victories and how they've taken the islands and how heroic the U.S. soldiers are.

But that propaganda will last a few days, just like the 12-Day War and just like the Ramadan War, or the 40-Day War. After a few days, it becomes clear that this is not going to go well. This is not going to end well for the United States and many in Iran. And we discussed this from the beginning of the war together. Many in Iran want this war to continue, not because they like war—no one likes war—but they're saying that we have to engage in combat with the Americans, with the Trump troops, in order that the United States in the future never again thinks about attacking Iran.