

In Iran, at the site of the worst US war crime since My Lai massacre

On the first day of the unprovoked US-Israeli War on Iran, the Pentagon launched a double-tap Tomahawk missile strike on the Shajareh Tayyebah Elementary School in Minab, obliterating the building and slaughtering 155 people — 120 of whom were small children. With the Trump administration still refusing to acknowledge its role in the worst US military massacre since My Lai, The Grayzone's Wyatt Reed went to Minab to investigate the scene of the crime firsthand. ||| 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

#Wyatt Reed

For the children of Manab, the morning of February 28th began like any other. They had come to the school to learn and to play. And just like our children in America, they had names and faces and hopes and dreams. But all of that was shattered when, at 10:30 a.m., the U.S. military launched a Tomahawk missile directly at them. The U.S. Department of War struck directly in the center of the building, killing dozens of children instantly. The teachers who survived tried desperately to usher the children to safety. With many still trapped inside, adults and kids alike ran back in to rescue their friends and siblings. Outside, parents began to arrive and started searching frantically for their children. That's when the U.S. military hit the school with a second Tomahawk missile. In all, 155 people were killed, 120 of them children.

#Wyatt Reed

Around me, you can see the results of American foreign policy firsthand. This is what our leaders and the Israeli leaders have decided to do to the children of Iran in order to teach them a lesson. It is an unconscionable act, and one which every thinking and caring person should endeavor to spend the rest of their life trying to prevent from ever happening again.

#Speaker 1

And a classmate of my daughter said that when the first missile hit the school, Ray Hunter was still alive.

#Speaker 2

She was in the school, and the school kids told her, "Let's go out." But she said, "No, I have to look after my brother." Then Reyhane came downstairs, looking after her brother. The second missile hit the school, and both of them were killed.

#Speaker 3

They have nothing to do with the war.

#Speaker 2

They were not connected to the government, to any side, to any political side, to any military side—nothing. They were just simple children.

#Wyatt Reed

Within hours, the U.S. government began spreading false narratives meant to absolve the military of responsibility.

#Interviewer 1

A new report says the military investigation has found it was the United States that struck the school.

#Wyatt Reed

I don't know, though. Israeli and Iranian monarchist opposition took to social media to spread the baseless claim that the carnage here was the result of Iranian air defense. A week later, Trump lied that Iran possessed Tomahawk missiles, implying that it was the Iranians, not the Americans, who massacred these little children.

#Interviewer 2

A Tomahawk missile likely destroyed that Iranian girls' school. So will the Americans, will the U.S., accept any responsibility? Well, I haven't seen it.

#Donald Trump

And I will say that the Tomahawk, which is one of the most powerful weapons around, is sold and used by other countries. You know that. And whether it's Iran, which also has some Tomahawks—I wish they had more—but whether it's Iran or somebody else, the fact is a Tomahawk is very generic. It's sold to other countries.

#Speaker 4

These entities commit massacres. They do it on purpose to make people surrender, lose hope, and just submit to them.

#Speaker 1

What can you say about this? This crime committed by the U.S. and Israeli regimes destroyed their reputation, their fame worldwide. And they showed that they are violent and do not understand anything about humanity.

#Wyatt Reed

Media coverage in the West has fixated on an abandoned naval base next door, but local sources say that this location has had no military affiliation for 20 years. When I heard the sound of the explosion, I came here.

#Speaker 5

They told me that they hit an IRGC center, but that IRGC center they told me about was not here. It was here many years ago, but not now.

#Speaker 4

I came and saw three bodies under that tree. I said, maybe one of them was my daughter.

#Speaker 5

When I reached there, I saw three bodies under that tree, and I told myself, maybe one of them was my daughter.

#Speaker 4

I looked at them and they weren't there. I shouted, Nila, my daughter, my daughter! She was small. Hami, she is my daughter. Neda, she is my bride. She was my daughter. I shouted. I searched through those bodies, but none of them was my... one of them was my grandchild. And I called them, Hami, Neda.

#Wyatt Reed

And none of them answered me. To this day, they refuse to accept responsibility or apologize. But if the day ever comes that they do, few here are likely to accept it. For the hundreds of families destroyed that day, this cruel lesson in American foreign policy can never be forgotten and never be forgiven.

#Speaker 5

If you have something to tell this guy, you can tell him.

#Wyatt Reed

Just tell him that I'm so horribly sorry that this happened here and that this was done to them, and that nothing we say can bring the children back—three children from one family.

#Speaker 5

One family lost three children here.

#Wyatt Reed

I saw it with my own eyes.

#Speaker 6

I witnessed everything there.

#Speaker 5

Everything I tell you, it's not true.

#Wyatt Reed

Nothing I tell him can ever...

#Speaker 6

He says, thank you for coming here. A warm welcome to you. Say hello to your people for me.

#Speaker 5

And tell the story to them.

#Speaker 6

I promise I will. I promise I will. I promise I will, brother.