

Seyed M. Marandi: Hezbollah's FPV Drones Just ROCKED Israel

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#Nima

Hi, everybody. Today's Saturday, May 2nd, 2026, and our dear friend and brother, Professor Seyed M. Marandi, is here with us. Welcome back, Professor.

#Guest

Hi, Nima. Thank you very much for having me on your show. As you know, it's always a great pleasure.

#Nima

Yeah. Professor Marandi, let me start with what has happened in the United States. Donald Trump yesterday announced that the war is over. Right now, there is no war. And he has, you know.

#Guest

OK, then let's just go on vacation. I think that says it. That's enough for today, then. I'll see you next week.

#Nima

And what we've learned from the deputy for inspection at Khatam al-Anbiya in Iran, he said that General Mohammad Jafar al-Assadi said that Iran is predicting that the second round of the war, the third round of the war, is coming, and Iran is prepared for that. We had the proposals, the talks, or some sort of messages being sent to Washington, Washington to Iran, and we've even learned that Iran has sent the final proposal. What is the situation with the case of the war? And is Iran expecting a new round of war coming?

#Guest

Yes, I think that the belief here is that war is close and that the negotiations will not lead to a solution. The Iranians continue to send messages and receive messages basically for the same reasons that they've been doing so in the past—to make sure that the international community sees exactly what is happening. And they recognize that even today, the situation is as it was two months ago, ten months ago. And that is that the United States is behaving aggressively, that the United States makes demands that are unreasonable, and that negotiations don't work.

As I said on previous occasions, part of the reason why Iran negotiates is so that global public opinion and Iranian public opinion are satisfied that the Iranians have done what they could. And the Americans—no one believes a word they say. Iranians have been preparing for war. The axis of resistance has been preparing for war. Yemen, Iraq—they are all preparing for war and escalation. So there is a possibility that there will be, at some point, negotiations. There is a possibility that Trump may choose an off-ramp, but that's not the calculation here in Tehran.

And the very fact that the Americans have brought in all these troops and are preparing for, and they have prepared troops for a ground assault, indicates that they know the siege is not going to work and that the siege is going to backfire, in that the damage they're doing to the global economy and to people across the world and to Americans is going to be greater than the damage they do to the Iranian people. And the damage they're doing to their proxies in the Persian Gulf is quite enormous too. We have to keep that in mind. So it's highly unlikely that Trump will be waiting long for his siege to work because time is not on his side. The globe is moving closer and closer to a catastrophic economic situation where the supply chains will soon be affected. Factories will begin to shut down.

Production will decrease wherever factories are not shut down, and inflation will kick in more than before. It's going to be bad, very bad, and increasingly bad over the months. And so I think that because of all that, Trump is going to gamble. He is going to make the biggest gamble in American contemporary history by far, in the hope that somehow he is going to defeat Iran, and he's not going to succeed in doing so. He will cause great harm. He will murder more children, more citizens. And of course, the political elite in the West doesn't care about Iranian women and children. But in the process, he will destroy what's left of the despotic regimes in the Persian Gulf.

He will destroy the now-destroyed image of the Israeli regime as some invincible military compound or some castle that cannot be broken and entered. I think that this gamble is going to be ultimately the end of the US presence in West Asia, and it will be the beginning of the end of the Israeli regime—not that the regime will be toppled tomorrow, but when the empire crumbles, when the West crumbles, the power and authority of the Israeli regime to murder with impunity and to sustain itself in the way it could before diminishes, because it is a totally dependent regime.

It depends on the United States for everything. It depends on the Europeans for everything. Now the world despises the Israeli regime, and now its backers are going to suffer immensely, and people in the West are blaming the Israeli regime, Netanyahu, and Trump for the miseries that are growing.

People across the world think that way. So I think, yes, the war is most—I'm not saying it's inevitable—but the assumption here in Iran, they're working on the assumption that it will happen, and I don't think it will be very far off. In fact, it could happen at any moment.

#Nima

Looking at the battlefield today, we have three aircraft carriers in the region, and it seems that the Gerald Ford is leaving the region and heading back to the United States because of the difficulties, the problems they've been facing so far. And Professor Marandi, we've learned from Iranian commanders that Iran has surprises for the United States if they start a new round of war. Is that going to be in terms of the Iranian capabilities—in the case of offensive capabilities of Iran or defensive capabilities of Iran? What is that?

#Guest

I think it's both, although I'm not privy to this sort of thing. But someone once told me—someone with some knowledge, usually someone who doesn't speak nonsense—told me during the Ramadan War, the 39-day war, early on, and I keep trying to remember who it was, but I just know it was someone credible. He told me that Iran has the ability to strike U.S. naval ships, but that it doesn't do so because they're leaving that for higher, or let's say, higher up on the escalation of the matter. Because, as you know, Iran didn't start the war, and Iran does not escalate, has not initiated escalation.

Although right now, Iran would have the legitimate right to strike the Americans because the siege is an act of war. It's not just a violation of the ceasefire, but it is an act of war. But in any case, he told me back then that the Iranians have capabilities that are hidden and that ultimately, when the time comes, when they reach a certain place on the escalation ladder, they will use those. I, of course, don't know about many things, but I do know that the Iranians have been preparing themselves during the last few weeks. And also, the weather is working to Iran's advantage. We are in the month of May, and May is a transitional month in the Persian Gulf region and in the Arabian Peninsula.

It becomes very hot and very humid by the end of May. And each day that goes by, it becomes more difficult for the Americans. And if they engage in war and start targeting Iranian critical infrastructure, then Iran's retaliation would be much more devastating, because if there's no electricity, let's say in the Arabian Peninsula, American forces and ordinary people would not be able to stay there. They'd have to leave immediately. The weather will be, in two or three weeks, very different from what it was during the previous, the 39-day battle. So it's sort of like winter in Russia during the world wars, and how winter worked in the Napoleonic War, how it worked to Russia's advantage.

In this case, summer works to Iran's advantage, and we are approaching summer rapidly as the catastrophic consequences of Trump's siege on the Persian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz begin to become increasingly visible to countries across the world. It's not a good situation at all for the United States. The Iranian population is united, and Trump and his team are in trouble. We see how elites among the Democrats are attacking Trump. We see how society is deeply upset about the current situation. I don't see a way in which Trump, through his great gamble, can escape a catastrophe. The Pharaoh, he will fall.

#Nima

This is the second time, I would say, militarily, the United States is trying to diminish or somehow destroy Iran as a country. The first time they did it was right after the revolution with the Iraq war. This is the second time they're attacking directly, they're attacking Iran. We know what is happening.

#Guest

Well, the third time, the 12-day war too. I mean, in all categories, when they supported Saddam Hussein in 1980, it was to destroy Iran. The 12-day war was to destroy Iran. And now this ongoing war, because the Ramadan war continues — right now the ceasefire is just a continuation of the war. The siege against Iran is an act of war. The boarding of ships are acts of war. It's piracy. And Trump, of course, we saw him effectively admit that his troops are pirates. So they're Epstein soldiers too, but they're also pirates. But in any case, yeah, this has been ongoing for 47 years. But I think the empire has gone too far. Iran has outmaneuvered Trump in many ways, but it began much earlier.

When the United States, when 9/11 happened, whoever was behind it — and I don't believe that it was just al-Qaeda — I believe that Mossad and the CIA were involved. I didn't believe that before, but in recent years, I've come to that conclusion. And the evidence is out there. I mean, if you've seen Tucker Carlson's documentary and other documentaries, it's clear what happened. And when you look at Wesley Clark, the former general and head of NATO, when he spoke about seven countries in five years, this was what was supposed to happen after 9/11. But Iran — and of course, the whole thing was about the resistance in the broader sense — but Iran outmaneuvered the United States. And when they invaded Afghanistan and Iraq, Iranians began to help the resistance.

Even it began to support those groups that it didn't like in particular, but it felt that the United States was the greater evil of all, or the greatest evil of all. So they supported the resistance — both its supporters and others — and it caused many of its opponents to gradually gravitate towards Iran, which is for another day, I suppose. So, trillions of dollars were wasted in Iraq, trillions of dollars wasted in Afghanistan, and the United States, of course, it's a dirty war in Syria, which sadly many

people became useful idiots in — this warfare against the Syrian people, in the United States and Israeli warfare against the Syrian people. But still, the Iranians were able to, across the board, wear down the empire and Iran in the axis of resistance.

And we have seen the rise of the resistance in Yemen, and of course, in Lebanon, the heroism of Hezbollah is beyond imagination. Hezbollah strikes at Israeli military targets, and the Israeli regime becomes outraged and slaughters little kids and families in their daily rage. And of course, the resistance is rising across the region, and the United States is becoming weaker and weaker. And then comes the war in Ukraine, which I think further depletes U.S. capabilities. And now the United States is coming after the prize, you know, because the Zionists want the Axis of Resistance defeated, so they've come after Iran. But they've been so weakened and depleted by their own economic policies at home, but also their endless wars and then Ukraine as well, that Iran is now in a position where it can outlast them and defeat them.

So this war began with the occupation of Afghanistan, the war with Iran, this phase of the war. Of course, you're right, in 1980, that was a part of it. But the war that we're in today, I think, began literally with the occupation of Afghanistan, and it continued until where we are today. But the balance has gradually shifted away from the empire. And the empire is also engaged in other wars, like in Ukraine. And it's just not possible for it to defeat Iran. I'm not saying that Iran will not suffer pain — it will. It is facing difficulty, of course. And when the hot war begins, they will start bombing our women and children and our citizens and workers and factories, as they did daily. They will carry out double-tap attacks. They may bomb this building.

They will do all sorts of things, but they will not win. And the Iranian people are determined to see this through. We see it every night on the streets. They are determined to see this through. And the resilience, you know, I've spoken on your show and on other shows about a very good book, **Going to Tehran** by Flint and Hillary Leverett, which I advise people to read. But there's also another good book by Alastair Crooke, who you've had on your show, called **Resistance**. And it talks about—it's an old book, but I think it's also worth reading—the culture of resistance that exists in this axis of resistance and why it is that people are so resilient and uniquely resilient and capable of standing up to the oppressor.

And we discussed this a bit on your show before, on a couple of occasions. But it is, I think, a good book to read. So despite the pain and the difficulty and the hardship, I have no doubt that the United States will fail. But, you know, the Americans and the regime, in its arrogance, the sense of exceptionalism, and, of course, the Zionist belief that they're a master race, or they're the masters, they're superior to the rest of us — they underestimate. They underestimate humanity. They underestimate normal human beings. And they underestimate the axis of resistance more than anyone else. And that is going to lead to their undoing.

#Nima

There was a phone call between the Iranian foreign minister and the governments in the region— Saudi Arabia, Turkey, and Qatar. What is Iran trying to say to these countries or communicate? Because it seems that Iran is telling them what is happening between Iran and the United States, but what is the point of these sorts of communications on the part of Iran?

#Guest

Well, Iran has always been pursuing good relations with its neighbors. If we go back to the war that you spoke about in 1980, when the West and the Soviet Union supported Saddam Hussein, the West encouraged the war, the invasion of Iran. And they gave Saddam chemical weapons, and the Germans in particular bear the burden of that crime more than anyone else. These Arab regimes gave Saddam Hussein hundreds of billions of dollars — the same regimes that are helping the United States now against Iran. So their aggression against Iran didn't begin a few months ago. It began forty-some years ago. It began almost half a century ago.

But after their ally Saddam Hussein turned against them and invaded Kuwait, they suddenly sought better relations with Iran, and Iran forgave them and relations normalized. And of course, then they went and supported ISIS and Al-Qaeda alongside Erdogan and Abdullah in Jordan. And anyone who thinks that, you know, this was anything but a Zionist project carried out by the CIA and the Mossad — if anyone still believes that today, they're just blind to reality. They won't open their eyes to any truth. They're hopeless. But they again supported the U.S. project, Operation Timber Sycamore, in Syria and the rise of ISIS and Al-Qaeda. And in Libya. We shouldn't forget Libya.

But Syria is closer to home. So they've been colluding with their overlords against Iran for decades. But the Iranians are always trying to persuade them to change course. Even today, if they decide — if the Kuwaitis and the Saudis and the Bahraini regime and the Emirati regime and the Qatari regime — if they sat together and issued a statement saying, "We will not allow the United States to use our land, sea, or air against the Iranians," the war would be over. There's nothing that the Americans can do. Logistically speaking, it would be impossible for the Americans to wage war against Iran. But they won't do that. They won't do that. And they again will be complicit in the next phase of the war.

But Iran will attempt to draw them away, you know, in any way possible from the American camp. And also, I'm sure that the Iranians are seeking to convince Erdogan that his interests do not lie in the path that he has chosen over the last couple of decades. What happened in Turkey under his leadership is a tragedy, you know. And Necmettin Erbakan, when he rose to power, there were such high hopes for liberation, for Turkey and Iran to work together to bring about liberation in West Asia. But of course, Western intelligence agencies and the Turkish deep state were very successful in sidelining the real anti-colonial leaders and then installing something quite different instead.

But in any case, Iran works as hard as possible to see where it can bring about change with these regional countries. At the end of the day, the threat of Zionism, the threat of Zionism, endangers them more than it endangers Iran. If anyone looks at the map, it is Syria, it is Lebanon, it is Jordan,

Saudi Arabia, Iraq, and Turkey and Egypt that are directly threatened by the Israeli regime. Even if the Israeli regime is able to create Greater Israel from the Euphrates to the Nile — and it won't, but even if it did, we won't allow it to happen — but even if it did, that would still be... it wouldn't make it Iran's neighbor. So these regimes are much more threatened than Iran is, and they've all heard the U.S. ambassador say that if the Israeli regime takes the whole region, that's fine. That is Western policy.

That is U.S. policy. But for these countries to close their eyes, for Erdogan to seek his selfish personal ambitions, and for other leaders to think that, well, if they finally take my country, I have my billions stashed somewhere in the West and I have my palaces there, so I'll just take a plane and leave — that's basically their mentality. But Iran will continue to try to make these countries change course. That's just like negotiating with Americans. Do I think that it will lead to a deal? No. But is it possible? Yes, it's possible. So is it worth pursuing? Of course, it is worth pursuing. But at the same time, Iran is preparing itself for war. And Iran is telling the world that, look, we're talking to these criminals, but don't count on them being reasonable. And I think it's had a huge effect.

Sometimes people tell me, why are we negotiating? Why is Iran giving new proposals? It's a sign of weakness. I think we've gone past that era where we're showing weakness. I mean, I would agree that in the past we have shown goodwill and it was a sign of weakness. I was against a lot of what we did — well, a lot of the things that we did in the past, including during the JCPOA negotiations and so on, the nuclear deal in 2015. I've always been against showing goodwill to the United States in a way in which it would be interpreted as weakness, because that's how they see goodwill. I mean, if Iran shows goodwill to your home country, to the country that you live in, Brazil, I mean, they may give a discount on something or give a Brazilian company some concession. And then the Brazilians will say, well, Iran is our friend. Let's do something.

That's what goodwill is. Right. But in the United States, when you show goodwill to the United States, when you show them goodwill, they say, ah, look, they're weak. They're in trouble. They're kneeling. I've seen that happen to Iran many times, and I've been against it. And, you know, one of the interesting things is that, and you know this pretty well, in Iran, people on both sides of the political spectrum—of course, now there's much more unity than before—but in the past, when the fighting between the political factions was greater, both sides would often—I mean, I'm not in government—but both sides would accuse me of being on the other side.

So some people would say I'm liberal, and some would say he's a hardliner. And so I would be accused by some of being a hardliner by making these critiques. I don't believe that right now Iran is at all showing any weakness. Iran is steadfast. Iran is preparing for war. Its allies are prepared for war. People are on the streets. But at the end of the day, we don't want the world to think that we're the ones who are going to start a war. We don't want people to start thinking Iran is the problem, because the Western media and Western elites are very good at flipping things around. They turned the Palestinian people into the guilty side for a whole year in the Gaza genocide — for a whole year.

And it was only after a year that the tide began to turn and public opinion began to shift. And then gradually the Israeli regime was, you know, its image was demolished. But for a long time, it was as if we were a small, you know, small in number, those who were defending the Gazans and the Palestinians in Gaza and attacking the genocidal regime. Not small in number, but I'm speaking in relative terms. So right now, I don't see Iran as showing any sign of weakness. Iran is ready for war. It has prepared itself. And I think Iran has the international community on its side, not governments.

I mean, these governments — Trump can put his boot on the face of the German chancellor and he'll lick it. And the same is true with the British prime minister and the French president. You know, they're hopeless cases. And the same is true with many others. But public opinion across the world — all you have to do is look at, you know, the impact that the Lego videos are having across the world and across the English-speaking world in particular. It shows that the mood across the world has changed. Iran wants to preserve that. Iran wants to preserve that. It wants to keep people awake, and it wants to awaken them further. And that will be important in the months ahead.

#Nima

Here is what the U.S. Treasury Secretary put out. He's using some sort of words that I'm not so much, you know, but I have to read it.

#Guest

I actually did a tweet just a few minutes, like five minutes before ours. I saw that tweet and I said, you're the snake, but you're running out of venom.

#Nima

The argument, by the way, that he's making is that the Iranian leadership literally sits in the dark. And he said the United States has complete control over the Strait of Hormuz. And there is a hard currency issue. For example, he's talking about the U.S. dollar shortage in Iran. Food and gasoline rationing are in place. The entire international community has turned against you, Professor Marandi. And the blockade will continue until there is, you know, pre-February 28th freedom of navigation. Whoa. How many of these sorts of arguments on his part do you think are valid? Let's start with the Strait of Hormuz. What are the conditions as we talk today with the Strait of Hormuz? And how is that under the full control of the United States?

#Guest

Well, remember, this is the same genius, or this snake, because he compared Iranians to snakes. So this snake who's running out of venom, this brilliant snake, he was saying that we are allowing Iran to sell its oil, and through that, we are harming Iran and undermining Iran. Now he's saying we're not going to let Iran sell its oil, and through that, we're undermining Iran. So that's one part of his

whole argument. The second is, of course, that he's also preventing the Strait of Hormuz from being open to the entire world. So the entire world is going to go through economic upheaval. And we have to make a distinction between Iran and the rest of the world in the sense of how the economy in Iran functions.

First of all, there's no doubt that Iran has been harmed by war and that Iran is harmed by siege. Siege is a form of warfare. It's obvious that when they bombed our pharmaceutical companies, when they bomb our steel industry, when they bomb private shops and civilian infrastructure and homes, it does damage to the broader economy. When they bomb silos full of food and grain, they do damage to the economy, which they did. But the fact is that the Iranian economy has been under siege and sanctions for decades. And under Trump's first presidency, when he reimposed maximum pressure sanctions, Iran was exporting almost zero oil.

The oil that Iran was, for a period of time, for a year and a half to two years or so—I don't remember how long it was—but for a period of time, we were actually exporting no oil. The only oil that we were exporting, because for a brief period of time, the only time I was working with the government was when the Speaker of Parliament, Dr. Larijani, Speaker of Parliament at that time—I met him once, and then I said to him that I think Iran's relationship with China is not good and that you should go to China. Because the Rouhani government had done a poor job with regards to China, and the relationship had suffered. So, long story short, he decided to go to China, and then he asked me to accompany the delegation.

And when he returned, he asked me to take care of the China file on his behalf. So for a while, I was at university, but I was dealing with the China file for him. And that's my only, the only time I ever accepted any government position. But actually, I can even say I wasn't in government back then because I said, I'll do it voluntarily. I don't want any, um, like official position. So I just did it for him. Very, very smart person, very decent person, very polite person, very well-educated. And what he did during the transition period after the martyrdom of Ayatollah Khomeini for the country will be remembered in history books.

More importantly, God will deal with that, but history books will remember his heroism and the role that he played during those sensitive days. But in any case, we were not—so the only oil that we were exporting was to China. And we weren't being paid for it because it was our debt. For projects that they had done in Iran, Iran had promised to give them oil. And so it was nothing. And almost no Iranian oil was being exported where they received cash and so on for a very significant period of time. And also, Iran's industries have been built based on the assumption that the country will be under sanctions. So we're not connected to all these global supply chains. The industries are local.

Iran is largely dependent on its own products, not in every aspect, but in any case, it is a sort of resistance economy that we have. Iran's agriculture meets, I think, more or less 90% of the country's demands. And this year we've had a significantly—well, we had five years of drought, but this year we've had pretty good rain. So it should be much better this year. That will be very useful

during these difficult times. So the point I'm making is that it will be difficult. It is difficult. It will continue to be difficult. It will become more difficult. But Iran has the ability to absorb much more than other countries which do not know anything about sanctions, which will, when they're now going to be dealing with shortages, all sorts of shortages.

It's not just gasoline. It's not just other fuels. It's not just LNG or natural gas. It's not just helium. It's all the petrochemical products and anything that comes from a refinery or petrochemical plant and so on. All of these are going to be an enormous problem, and countries have no experience as to how to deal with them. So what the Americans are doing is that they're not just creating inflation across the world, they're going to disrupt supply lines. And this is not something that we see overnight, because this is just going to begin. This is just beginning. The final ships from the Strait of Hormuz have just reached their destinations a week or two ago, because it takes weeks for them to get to their destinations.

And with a global economy so interlinked as it is, the disruptions are going to begin shortly. And they're just going to start to begin now. So this is something that I think the West just does not calculate. And at the same time, the same argument that we had during the 12-day war, and more importantly, during the Ramadan war, the 39-day war that continues, is true today. Iranians are resistant. They're resilient. As I said earlier, they're steadfast. This is a war of survival. But for the Americans, this is a war of choice. And the world is looking in astonishment at how the Israeli regime and the Americans are destroying their economies for the sake of Netanyahu. So again, I see this as a catastrophic situation for the entire world that Zionism is bringing upon it. But Zionism is not going to win.

#Nima

When you look at the situation with the blockade, Professor Marandi, you mentioned the difficulties.

#Guest

Before you continue, keep that question. I just want to add something. This is very similar to the argument about, is Iran in disarray? Is the leadership—you know, they always say the divisions. And, you know, obviously there are 90 million Iranians. And so I always say that there are no divisions. And there aren't, in the sense that they are just talking about. But are there divisions among politicians in Iran, or foreign policy experts, or military and security experts? Of course there are. Definitely. But at the end of the day, in Iran, there is a process. There's a constitution. If they're able to take that Orientalism and that racism and that Zionist exceptionalism and American exceptionalism, they can free themselves from it just for a couple of seconds and pretend they're not the master race.

Just for a second, they would understand that there's a sophisticated political process in Iran. We have a constitution. There's a leader, Ayatollah Khamenei. There's a Supreme National Security

Council. The president, the speaker of parliament, the head of the judiciary are members, along with the armed forces, people in the president's cabinet, and the president is the head of it. And there's a chair, and the leader has two representatives. They make the decisions on strategic issues. And they've made the decision that Dr. Qalibaf, with the approval of the leader, is the head of negotiations. So there are no divisions. It's clear who's the boss.

And if they murder Dr. Qalibaf, if he becomes a martyr like Dr. Larijani or like Ayatollah Khamenei, is that going to change anything? No. They'll put someone else in charge, and he'll lead the negotiation. Dr. Qalibaf courageously went to Islamabad knowing that his life was being threatened. The Washington Post was calling for his murder. But he went, came back. He's not afraid. You know, General Soleimani was his very close friend, actually. They were very close. General Soleimani said, you know, we're the nation of martyrdom. We're the nation of Imam Hussein. They can't get this through their thick skulls. It's just not doable. It's not possible.

They don't get it. So, Dr. Qalibaf is in charge. So where's the disarray? When he went to Islamabad, he didn't make any phone calls. It was Vance who was, you know, surrounded by two Mossad assets, Israeli assets, and had to make 10, 11, 12 phone calls throughout the day. He had no mandate. And of course, American generals are being removed, and the Secretary of the Navy was removed. So where's the disarray? So when it comes to the economy, and is Iran's economy going to collapse? Of course, the economy is facing great difficulty. Of course, it's painful. Of course, you know, when they bomb, as I said, when they bomb pharmaceutical factories, then you're going to have a shortage of medicine. That was the objective.

That was the plan. That's what this Epstein coalition was up to. When they bomb little girls, of course that was part of the plan—to bomb the little girls. I mean, that's what they do to little girls, as we know from the Epstein files. That's who they are. That's who we're dealing with. But does that mean Iran is going to collapse? Of course not. Iran is going to persevere. And Iran will win this war. And the United States will—the empire will—fail. And it will be to the benefit of ordinary Americans because they will be free of this Zionist, this sinister Zionist, you know, Epstein class that rules over them, hopefully. So I was saying, basically, I'm saying that when they say that, you know, in Iran, there are divisions.

Of course, people have differing views, but that doesn't mean that there are divisions in the decision-making process. The decision-making process is clear. Whatever debates they have, when a decision is made by Dr. Qalibaf with the support of the Supreme National Security Council and the leader, that's it. Is there a bit of difficulty with the economy? Of course, there's great difficulty. There's huge difficulty with the economy. But is that going to cause Iran to collapse? Of course not. They'll make decisions, they'll hold the fort, they'll defend the country, they'll defeat the aggressor, and subsequently they'll move on. Sorry, I'm interrupting you.

#Nima

Since you mentioned the way that Donald Trump is talking about the leadership, yesterday, literally, he said that there are two, three different groups in Iran. They're fighting each other. We don't know who's responsible for the decision, you know, the main strategy of Iran. But here is what the Jerusalem Post reported. They said Peseshkian and Qalibaf want to fire the foreign minister of Iran because he's working for the IRGC, you know, instead of listening to... And who's the source of this article in the Jerusalem Post? It's Iran International. And, you know, this is just amazing, the cycle that they have created with this sort of propaganda they're living in.

#Guest

You know, they have, you know, in Iran, they say in Persian—you know the Persian—but they say, they ask the fox, "Who is your witness?" And the fox says, "My tail." So the fox says, "My tail is my witness." That's Iran International and the Jerusalem Post. They're the same. So the Jerusalem Post says, "Iran International says this." It's like Netanyahu saying Trump said this, or Trump saying Netanyahu said that. There's no difference between the Jerusalem Post and Iran International. They're one and the same.

#Nima

Yeah. You think, Professor Marandi, we know that the Iranian proposal is basically three steps: one of them, the first step, the second step, and the third step. In the latest version that the United States is talking about, is there any sort of change in that plan as far as you know?

#Guest

The only thing that has changed is that Iran has to trust the Americans that we're not going to begin our talks with the nuclear program. We're talking about war, and the nuclear program comes later. Because remember—and I mean, you do remember, we all remember—but we have to remember that the United States, when it began this war, this is the third war against Iran, Trump said "unconditional surrender," as in the previous 12-day war. And after 10 days, when that didn't happen and things began to go downhill for the United States and the Zionist regime, he began sending messages. And Iran ignored all the messages for about 25 days or so, something like that. And then the U.S. gave that 15-point plan. Iran rejected it, said it's against our constitution.

And then Iran gave its own 10-point plan that Trump accepted in his desperation for a ceasefire. He accepted it as a framework for negotiations. Now, some would say Iran shouldn't have accepted the ceasefire because he was desperate. We also have our own calculations. We also have to prepare for the next phase. But in addition to that, this was a humiliating defeat for Trump, accepting the Iranian 10-point plan. And Iran is going to make sure that remains the center of the negotiations. So when the Americans and the Iranians began their sending messages for the ceasefire, that was top priority. And of course, the Americans violated it. Netanyahu bombed—carpet bombed—Beirut to make sure the ceasefire wouldn't work.

Iran then said, well, we're not letting those extra ships leave the Strait of Hormuz because the Strait of Hormuz was never closed to Chinese or Russian or Iraqi or Iranian ships, or ships that were not involved in the war with countries involved in the war. So, for example, those ships that were limited had to do with the countries that were helping the United States against Iran. So in the ceasefire, Iran was supposed to allow many of those ships to go through the Strait of Hormuz if there was a ceasefire in Lebanon, in Gaza, and across the axis of resistance. But Lebanon was named specifically because there was heavy fighting going on, and Netanyahu refrained from having that happen. So the point is that right now that ceasefire is not working because the United States is imposing a siege and there's fighting going on.

#Nima

Yeah, it seems I've lost Professor Marandi, and he's going to get back in just a minute. And the question that I'm going to bring up for you, because I want to talk about the situation in Lebanon as well. Right now, just the breaking news here that we've learned from GasBuddy, they're saying that the U.S. gas prices have reached a national average of \$4.45. And this is the new reality. And that's why Iran, I think, is not feeling any sort of, you know, rush to put an end to the conflict. Because Iran knows how these sanctions are working or have been working so far. And the economy has been suffering for such a long time. The Iranian economy, Iranian people are familiar with these sorts of pressures. And here is Professor Marandi back with us.

#Guest

Yeah, sorry, Nima. So where did I get cut off?

#Nima

You were basically talking about the difference between the new proposal and the updated one.

#Guest

Yeah, so basically, we don't have a ceasefire. That has to be dealt with because of the siege. But after that, it is the 10-point plan. Okay, the nuclear issue. And Iran said, we're not negotiating the nuclear issue. You can say what you want. So those reports in Western media that Iran agreed to, I don't know, three years or five years or whatever it was, of halting nuclear enrichment, that's all nonsense. The Iranian side said nothing in Islamabad. The Americans did, the Iranians didn't. Now the Iranians are saying, look, future negotiations — we're talking about the 10-point plan first. First is the ceasefire, then the 10-point plan, then afterwards we can talk about the nuclear issue. So that's basically a reaction to the American behavior in Islamabad. No significant shift has been made, and these talks, the things that we're hearing in the media about Iran sending new proposals — more or less, the situation is the same.

Iran is not going to change anything of substance. Nothing important is going to be removed or put on the table. It is the ceasefire. It has to include Lebanon and, of course, the entire Axis. And then nuclear negotiations. But at the end of the day, Nima, it's most probably going to end in war. But we discussed this earlier on, that negotiations and being seen as negotiating to sharpen the contrast between the barbarism of Trump and Netanyahu and the Iranians and the Axis of Resistance is important.

#Nima

The other point, Professor, I mean, what's going on in the southern part of Lebanon? We know that Hezbollah is responding to this Israeli aggression with FPV drones. They're capable of hitting Israeli soldiers and their tanks. And basically, they have, you know, withdrawn three brigades from the southern part of Lebanon so far, because they're seeing how Hezbollah is able to hit the targets. And the question is, how far do you think we are? We don't have a ceasefire, but is it something like what we had in 2024, something of that sort? Israel is attacking.

Do you see any time soon we—because Hezbollah, considering it's not just about the southern part of Lebanon, the northern part of Israel, it's not anything he's getting, because they want to normalize the situation in the northern part of Israel. But do you feel that as time goes by, and we have this sort of blockade and this sort of conflict between Iran and the United States, we're going to see something like an escalation, or maybe Israel going deeper into Lebanon, hitting targets in Beirut, as Iran and the United States are in this sort of struggle in the Middle East, in the Persian Gulf?

#Guest

Well, the Israeli regime is in a bind. And despite the fact that Syria is assisting the Israeli regime and trying to prevent Hezbollah from getting supplies, Hezbollah is getting what it needs. And it's producing what it needs, more importantly. But it is getting what it needs. So the betrayal of the Syrian regime to the Palestinian cause and to the cause of liberation in general is clear for everyone—again, except for those who want to keep their eyes closed and insist on remaining blind. That's, you know, except for them, everyone else sees what's happening. So Hezbollah is being surrounded, in a sense, because the United States installed puppets in Beirut and installed ISIS and Al-Qaeda puppets in Damascus.

They thought that Hezbollah was finished, but Hezbollah isn't. Hezbollah is taking this regime to its rage. Every day it harms women and children. Those pilots, their bloodlust—we can see it, the images of it, of their actions every day in Lebanon. So Hezbollah strikes military, they strike women and children. But they're failing. The Israeli regime is failing. It will not be able to defeat Hezbollah. The further they go, the worse it's going to get. And of course, we are on the verge of war in the region anyway. And when that comes, the Israeli regime will be facing much graver difficulty.

Many things are on the verge of happening. The U.S. proxies in the Persian Gulf, they will not last if the United States keeps pushing down, keeps pushing for war. They won't last, and ultimately the U. S. presence in our region will come to an end. The Israeli regime is, you know, this war, these wars are to the benefit of Netanyahu, or at least until now they've been to the benefit of Netanyahu. He wants perpetual warfare. And his fanatical political allies, in their madness, they think that it's to their benefit. These wars are to the benefit of the Israeli regime. Through genocide, they've exposed themselves. The world now knows their supremacism, knows everything about their supremacism and the nature of their ideology. And the world now knows that they are bringing down the global economy.

It is they who are bringing down the global economy. And the world now sees that the United States, the Israeli regime, and their proxies and allies are incapable of bringing down the axis of resistance. The axis of resistance is becoming more popular by the day, Nima, across the region and across the world. The Islamic Republic of Iran, Hezbollah, these are becoming household names. Songs are being written in their praise outside of West Asia. The world is changing. People are learning about the resistance and the ideology that lies behind the resistance. None of this is good for empire. So I'm, you know, it pains me to watch these Zionists murder kids. It pains me to watch these American and Israeli pilots slaughter children and destroy the lives of so many people. But I'm optimistic that this evil chapter in human history will ultimately come to an end.

#Nima

Here is what we've learned from Reuters moments ago: the United States has warned shipping companies of possible sanctions if they pay Iran for passage through the Strait of Hormuz. And Iran is receiving, because they're talking about, it's all about if they do it through charity or indirect payments — even that sort of payment is not acceptable.

#Guest

All ships, all ships that pass through the Strait of Hormuz, pay a fee. Some that belong to friendly countries pay less. Those that do not belong, those that have not been friendly and have assisted the genocidal American regime, pay more. Every single one pays a fee. If a ship refuses to pay a fee, they can stay in the Persian Gulf.

#Nima

But the payment system, does it consider those countries that were participating in or facilitating the attacks on Iran, or somehow helping the United States and Israel?

#Guest

That's a bit complicated. Because, for example, it may be that a country that purchased those goods from one of these five regimes, that that country is distancing itself, or it's willing to pursue different policies. So they're negotiating. There are those countries that are not a part of this genocide, this obscene coalition. So the Saudis, the Emiratis, and the others, they're all a part of this obscene coalition. They're just junior partners. And some countries that pretend to be neutral are also junior partners. But Iran closes its eyes to those. But in any case, the point is that if there's a refusal to pay the fee, and it's not international waters — and Iran is — these are not international waters, and Iran has not signed up to any agreement that denies it the right to take fees.

So no one should believe this nonsense. What is a violation of international law is the siege and the war of aggression. That's the only thing that violates international law. But there is a complicated process. If any ship refuses, due to fear of the United States, to pay the fee, that's fine. They can just leave their ship in the Persian Gulf, or they can leave their ship somewhere outside in the Gulf of Oman or in the Indian Ocean. But the United States is only going to intensify the global economic crisis further. They're desperate and they're fools, but that's how fools deal with reality.

#Nima

Thank you so much, Professor Marandi, for being with us today. A great pleasure, as always.

#Guest

Thank you very much for having me, Nima. It's always a great pleasure and honor to be on your show.