

'Disgraceful actions will face consequences'

In a May 2, 2026 interview in Tehran with The Grayzone's Wyatt Reed, the chair of Iran's parliamentary National Security Committee, Ebrahim Azizi, discussed his country's plans to implement a new regulatory framework over the Strait of Hormuz in the face of renewed aggression by the US military and threats by President Donald Trump. Azizi also offers his thoughts on the viability of the US military presence in the region, Israeli influence over the Trump administration, and the rift between Europe and the US. ||| 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

This is Wyatt Reed reporting for The Grayzone from Tehran. Tonight we're going to be speaking with Ebrahim Azizi. He is the chairman of the Iranian Parliament's National Security Commission. We're going to speak about some of the recent comments by U.S. President Donald Trump and German Chancellor Friedrich Merz, and then we're going to get into the new regulatory framework that Iran is establishing over the Strait of Hormuz. We'll also discuss the viability of the U.S. military presence in the Middle East. Stay tuned. Tonight I'm speaking with the chairman of the Iranian Parliament's National Security Commission, Ebrahim Azizi.

Mr. Azizi, thank you so much for taking the time. Mr. Azizi, technically, the United States and Iran have agreed to a ceasefire. Even so, the Trump administration is continuously threatening Iran, and the root causes of the conflict have not been addressed. Both sides are blockading each other's vessels, continue to voice maximalist demands, and in many ways, the two countries are farther apart than at any time since the revolution in 1979. How would you characterize the current state of affairs between Iran and the U.S.? Is Iran at war with the U.S.? Or perhaps a better question: is the U.S. at war with Iran?

#Ebrahim Azizi

Bismillah ar-Rahman ar-Rahim. In the name of God, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful. Well, first of all, I must sincerely thank them for their presence in Iran, and I hope that during these few days of their visit, they will be able to accurately convey the truths they have observed. As I took the time to emphasize quite clearly upon my very first arrival here, the entire world is currently feeling a deep and desperate thirst for, and is in dire need of hearing, the absolute truth and the cold, hard facts.

Although, unfortunately, censorship in America and the Zionist regime today, especially regarding the war between Iran, America, and the regime, has reached such a high level that it has regrettably prevented the truth from being told.

Oh, the story of your journey and the wisdom you've gathered throughout this transformative period, shared with such an honest and truthful approach, can truly quench the desperate thirst of so many in need and satisfy the deep desires of a society so hungry for this. During the entire course of the year 2025, as we approached the very end of that year and continued into the early months of 2026, we found ourselves embroiled in nearly three separate wars against the United States, the Zionist regime, and a number of their various domestic proxies. There were two separate military conflicts, one in Kurdat in 2025, another in Isfahan in 2026. In reality, these were imposed upon us with the cooperation and support of the United States, and in the war of 2025, the direct and overt involvement of the Americans themselves.

They committed atrocities in both wars, even violating the rules of war and carrying out crimes against humanity. Despite claiming to be champions of human rights, especially the Americans, they have trampled on those very rights. They didn't even spare innocent women and girls. That rabid dog from Israel had the audacity to declare, "We will not even spare your pregnant women." With all due respect to them, they proceeded to carry out this operation with nothing short of absolute, unmitigated savagery. Furthermore, in the period between those two wars, they also conducted various street-level operations against us.

They deployed their various intelligence services into Iran, which carried out many violent acts against our people. Regardless of the circumstances, this war, despite all the damage it caused, failed to achieve any of the Americans' primary objectives. And after 40 long days of intense warfare, due to a lack of any tangible achievements and the mounting heavy pressure placed upon the Americans and the Zionist regime, they ultimately went ahead and declared a unilateral ceasefire once again. At this point, I would like to address your question with absolute precision. The ceasefire was something the Americans demanded, and we chose to accept it because we strictly adhere to the established ethical principles of warfare.

At this very moment, we are currently maintaining a state of ceasefire. However, it is truly unfortunate that throughout this ceasefire, the American side has consistently acted in direct contradiction to the agreement's core principles. Furthermore, they have repeatedly committed clear and blatant violations of these terms. For instance, what they refer to as a naval blockade. The situation we are currently facing is this specific stage that is known as a ceasefire—a ceasefire which America is currently violating. We maintain that the robust response to this blatant ceasefire violation is fully legal and justified. Moreover, continued U.S. pressure will yield no results at this stage.

#Wyatt Reed

I wanted to read you a few quotes from Western leaders this week. Earlier this week, Iran's foreign ministry condemned the U.S. for what they called, quote, "the outright legalization of piracy." On Friday, Trump effectively confirmed that description regarding the U.S. seizure of Iranian vessels. He said, quote, "It's a very profitable business. We're like pirates."

#Donald Trump

And we took over the ship. We took over the cargo, took over the oil. It's a very profitable business. Who would have thought we were doing that? We're like pirates. We're sort of like pirates.

#Wyatt Reed

What is your response to those comments?

#Ebrahim Azizi

Naturally, the fact that your president has openly admitted to committing acts of piracy, in my view, demonstrates the depth of a mindset and behavior that is fundamentally contrary to legal and international norms. A president of this caliber isn't worthy of a people as great as you. He's delusional, narcissistic, and a habitual liar living in a fantasy world detached from reality. But one thing is certain: his reckless, disgraceful actions will face their inevitable consequences.

#Wyatt Reed

Another comment that I'd like you to respond to, if you would. Last week, the German Chancellor, Friedrich Merz, said that Iranian officials were, quote, "obviously negotiating very skillfully," and that they appeared, quote, "clearly stronger than one thought." He used another sentence that was fairly powerful. He said, "An entire nation is being humiliated by the Iranian leadership." What do you make of these words? Do you take that statement at face value? And if so, are there other European countries that, behind the scenes, may be jumping ship?

#Ebrahim Azizi

We welcome that the Europeans are finally facing the harsh reality of their situation. They were severely humiliated by President Trump's actions. And during this war they've collectively launched against us, they finally adopted a more logical, reasonable stance. If the positions held by the Europeans, including French President Macron and the German Chancellor, are indicative of them coming to realize certain facts that we have long emphasized, naturally, other nations have also implemented highly effective and sensible measures during this period, which were firmly based on sound logic and clear rationality.

For instance, Spain and several other countries have approached this entire issue with a sense of realism and pragmatism throughout this war. If they continue moving forward along this same path, it really goes to show that they are reaching—it is, in fact, a perfectly logical and sound approach. Those are some very good points in any case. However, we have not tied the duties and mission we have defined for ourselves and our nation in this era to the statements or viewpoints of others. In other words, we rely on our own strength to stand on our own two feet. Nevertheless, we welcome the realism shown by other countries, often the...

#Wyatt Reed

I'd like to switch gears just a little bit to what you've described as a new maritime regulatory framework for the Strait of Hormuz. Can you tell us any details about this proposed toll-sharing agreement, Iran's proposed Persian Gulf framework? And then can you tell us what the response has been from countries like Oman, which ostensibly would be sharing in the tolls, and countries like China, where the toll, as has been reported, is denominated in yuan? Is China, generally speaking, supportive of this new framework?

#Ebrahim Azizi

From the very early days of the war, we had warned that if the Americans made a serious miscalculation, this war would become a regional one. One of the direct consequences of this regional war was the total destruction of more than 14 American military bases throughout the Western Zard. Of course, let's say the Daplos-Tedis on the Strait of Hormuz, for example, which before the war... For 40 days the passage remained open and maritime traffic was free. Yet, as promised, it was closed and placed under the Iranian government's absolute control. If we define one achievement from this war, it is our sovereignty over the Strait of Hormuz.

Whatever the dozens of achievements this war brought us, one of them is that the Americans fled the Persian Gulf and stationed themselves leagues away in the Indian Ocean. It is a fact that today we have imposed all our desired regulations on the Strait of Hormuz. Starting today, the Strait of Hormuz is under the total, intelligent control of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Per orders given to the IRGC Navy commander, passage through this vital strait is banned for all hostile nations. Nations that enforce sanctions against Iran are strictly banned. The Zionist regime is also strictly prohibited.

Even countries with transit rights must pay the required entry tolls. The Islamic Assembly's bill regarding the security and development of the Persian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz is now fully prepared. The four fundamental pillars of this initiative are security, safety, maritime services, and the protection of the environment. Regardless of the circumstances, this also stands as a notable achievement for the current American presidency. He shut down a vital strait that was wide open. And what was his grand achievement? Six-dollar gas prices all across America. What a choice the American people have made.

#Wyatt Reed

You mentioned the departure of the U.S. military from bases in the Middle East. Are there any circumstances in which Iran would permit the U.S. to return to those bases and rebuild?

#Ebrahim Azizi

It is highly unlikely that such conditions will ever arise again. The hostile military vessels are strictly banned from the Strait of Hormuz, and U.S. bases, troops, and ships are currently outside the Persian Gulf. Moreover, America's behavior suggests they won't be granted permission to enter. It really seems as though America needs to finally abandon its presence in the Persian Gulf for good and start focusing much more heavily on its own domestic affairs. Interfering in the internal affairs of other sovereign nations and fostering instability in distant regions of the globe no longer yields any meaningful results for the United States. The Iranian people will never be able to forget these hostile actions which violate all fundamental human norms and basic human rights, and they continue to voice their strong protests. Undoubtedly, future generations will always remember these heinous, unforgivable crimes.

#Wyatt Reed

How does Iran differentiate between the U.S. and Israel, given, for example, the proximity between people like Jared Kushner and Steve Witkoff? When you deal with these negotiators, are you negotiating with the United States or Israel? And what do you see as the U.S. objective here? Is it different from Israel, which fairly openly seeks regime change?

#Ebrahim Azizi

No, we do not see any difference between America and the Zionist regime. Witkoff and Kushner are just two profiteers. As it happens, they have now become the U.S. president's envoys for Middle East affairs. In all the negotiations they've been involved in lately, they were only looking out for their own business interests. Reports from our foreign ministry officials also largely indicated that they came here for these very same brokerage and family economic goals. To be honest, as someone who has worked in political defense and similar fields for years, the day I saw that the U.S. president had chosen Berkowitz and Kushner for negotiations, I felt that they weren't looking for negotiations at all.

They were looking for deal-making and family interests, the very negotiations that they were actively pursuing at the time, by offering up investment proposals of \$100 billion, \$180 billion, and \$200 billion. This clearly demonstrated that their true intention was to install their own intermediary companies right here in our country. Yes, billions of dollars. We still have yet another significant score that we must settle with the Zionist regime. It is absolutely imperative that we teach them a very harsh and lasting lesson. We have given our solemn promise that they will be punished in a

manner that is entirely appropriate. These were the 12- and 40-day wars. The Americans provided them with assistance.

Without that support, they simply lacked the necessary strength to stand up and face Iran. The Zionist regime is far lower and much more contemptible than this. And please rest assured, one day you will certainly witness its total destruction. Once again, I would like to wish you every success in your endeavors. I am truly grateful for your presence here in Iran. I also apologize for the things I said and the remarks I made, which were perhaps in some ways entirely unavoidable. I would ask that you please do not interpret these words as a personal attack, and heaven forbid that I should ever intend to cause any offense to you or your people. Nevertheless, you are truly fortunate to have such a remarkably profound president.

#Wyatt Reed

Mr. Zizi, thank you very much for taking the time to speak with the great men.

#Ebrahim Azizi

Thank you.