

Seyed M. Marandi: Iran Just DROPPED A BOMBHELL Response to US Blockade

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#Nima

Hi, everybody. Today is Saturday, May 9th, 2026, and our dear friend, Professor Marandi, is here with us. Welcome back. Hi, Nima. Thank you very much for inviting me. It's always a great pleasure. Professor, let me start with what has happened in the last two days. The two sides are firing at each other because two Iranian tankers — one close to the Port of Fujairah, which was coming to the Strait of Hormuz, and the other one close to Bandar al-Jaz, or the city of Jaz — were hit by the U.S. Navy, and Iran responded to that. What has happened in the last 48 hours? We had a lot of rumors coming out of the region that the two destroyers were hit by Iranian ballistic missiles or maybe drones. And on the other hand, the United States is hitting these tankers that are trying to go through the Strait of Hormuz and go to Iranian ports. What is the reality there?

#Seyed

Basically, what happened was that, of course, the United States started this. And if you look at Western media, you'd think it was Iran. And the U.S. government also pretends it was Iran. But they started, as you pointed out, by striking tankers, and they killed a number of sailors. I know that one was killed and a number were missing on one tanker. I don't know what their fate was, but you know, the Americans are out there just killing innocent people. Just like a few days ago, when we had another battle near the Strait of Hormuz, they fired on civilian boats, and one person was killed.

Initially, they said five people were killed, but one person was killed. And by the way, no Iranian boats, military boats, no Iranian naval boats have been hit in the last couple of weeks. I mean, in either of these two naval conflicts were Iranian naval boats struck — not one. U.S. ships were struck, but with drones. The missiles, from my understanding, were fired at them, but mostly to scare them. But drones were fired, and a number of drones did strike the ships. The drones were intended to do damage, but not to do serious damage. So the missiles were fired, uh, not to strike — they didn't plan to strike the ships with the missiles.

This is my understanding, but they, uh, because if the missiles struck the ships, then it would have created, uh, a new wave of, uh, tensions. And Iran right now, uh, doesn't want to be seen as

starting a new, uh, aggression. Well, aggression always starts from the Americans, but Iran doesn't want to be seen as the side that does escalation for a host of reasons. Because the international community wants this to die down, and the Iranians want to be seen, as they have been seen, to be the responsible actor. So it is preventing any ships from leaving — ships that are from those five countries. Remember, the Strait of Hormuz has never been closed, never by the Iranians.

Ships that are linked to countries that are friendly to Iran or that have not participated in the war in any way or form, those ships go through. So the Chinese, the Russians, Iraqi ships, ships from countries like India and Pakistan — even though some of them, their ships had oil from these countries or LNG from these five countries that were part of the war — they negotiated and got some of their ships through. The limitations are for Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE. And it's because they fought in the war. They helped Americans launch murderous strikes on the country — missile strikes, airstrikes, naval strikes.

So they're partners in crime, and there's no reason why Iran should allow their ships to go through the Strait of Hormuz under such circumstances. So the Americans were trying to carry out this operation to get these ships to go through the Strait. They failed. I think that's in itself evidence of failure. So regardless of what happened, or how the Iranians struck the American ships, or the fact that the Americans just murdered ordinary sailors and civilians, at the end of the day, the best evidence to show Trump's failure and the failure of the US forces, despite Western media propaganda, is the fact that none of these ships have been able to get through the Strait of Hormuz.

#Nima

Do you see that it seems Iran is somehow getting to the point where they have to confront the United States over the blockade? They cannot sit aside and watch the United States trying to hit these tankers. How do you see the escalation, and how far is that going to go? Or maybe, you know, as a result of these kinds of escalations, we're going to see a new round of war coming soon.

#Seyed

Well, I've said this a couple of times, and I don't want to be, like, as they used to say, a broken record. I don't want to constantly repeat the same thing over and over again at the risk of sounding like, what was it, the boy who cried wolf. But Iran is still expecting a major assault. And of course, they've been expecting it for quite a while now. I think on the last, probably the last two programs that I was on your show, I said that Iran is waiting for an imminent assault that could happen any hour. And that's the same as we speak now. The Americans have their forces in position. They brought in a lot of equipment for ground operations too. And the Iranians believe that an attack could be imminent. So the Iranian armed forces are on full alert. But this has been the situation, as I said, for a couple of weeks at least now. I don't know.

I'm not good at dates. But yeah, so it could happen before. I mean, logically speaking, you would think, or I would think at least, that the United States would not attack now because the summit between President Xi and Trump is on the 14th, if I'm not mistaken, the 13th or the 14th, around that time. And so you would think that Trump would not launch an attack on Iran before an important meeting with the Chinese president, because this changes the equations and it could harm the negotiations. But then again, this is Trump and these are the Zionists. They're not rational people. They're not reasonable people. So, I mean, I just saw a report in Lebanon that these Zionists, they were—it's not completely linked to what we're discussing, but it sort of gives you an idea of what sort of monsters we're dealing with.

A man was on a motorcycle with his daughter, and they were trying to kill him. He ultimately separated himself and was killed, and then they chased after his little girl and hit her too, and she died in the hospital. So, you know, these are the sort of monsters that we're dealing with. They have no humanity and they have no rationality. They're not reasonable. They don't even comprehend how this is being viewed across the world, this sort of outrageous behavior. I tweeted it—one of the journalists in Beirut explained what had happened, and I just tweeted it, I think, a few minutes ago. So we're talking about this class of people. And they may not even take into consideration the fact that Trump is soon going to be leaving for China. But you would expect that they would not attack in the next few days. But the Iranians, knowing that Trump is not predictable and not rational, are prepared for an attack now.

#Nima

Just to confirm again, sorry for repeating my question, but you said that none of those speedboats were hit during these firings, because Donald Trump and the United States said at least seven of them were hit by Iran.

#Seyed

I mean, Nima, in Iran, martyrs cannot be hidden. You can't hide them. They immediately, you know, their families come out, the whole town, their townspeople go to the streets, then people take films of their funerals. You can't—it's not something that you can hide. I mean, I remember during the first days of Syria, when the dirty war began, like in 2011, 13 or so, the first few martyrs, they didn't declare them. But then they came out on social media, and so they stopped doing that because it's just not possible.

So they didn't hit any of the boats, the naval boats. They did kill a person on a boat that was, I think, taking goods from Oman to Iran, a small cargo vessel. And a number of people were injured. And they targeted a number of fishing boats that went to the aid of that. Again, I'm not quite sure of

the circumstances, but they hit a couple of these fishing boats, two or three fishing boats that were going to the aid of this bigger boat. But I don't think anyone was killed. I think a number of people were injured. But no, no naval boats were hit.

#Nima

We've seen the reports by MarineTraffic that in the last 24 hours, not a single commercial ship passed through the Strait of Hormuz. And on the other hand, the other report that we had, you know, it was reported in the Wall Street Journal, says that Europe has six weeks before they're running out of jet fuel right now. The problem is right now, because the Strait of Hormuz is responsible for providing 20% of jet fuel—not only 20% of jet fuel, but 20% of the crude oil that goes through the Strait of Hormuz goes to refiners of jet fuel as well. You see, the crisis is big. And six weeks is nothing when it comes to the strategic sort of reserves, in the case of Europe, for example, as it was mentioned in this report of the Wall Street Journal. How do you see the situation? Because the United States is talking about waiting for Iran to respond to their proposal. When are we going to learn about that?

#Seyed

Well, when the United States strikes at Iran and violates the ceasefire and carries out these operations, and bombs civilian buildings on Iranian soil, then it should not expect swift responses to its proposals. It's obvious that the Iranians—the West does not comprehend Iran at all. Iran does the opposite of what they calculate. When they speak with other countries, I assume when they demand quick responses, they get quick responses. But when they demand quick responses from Iran, the Iranians say, really? Okay, then stay there. I'll be back. And then they'll go for lunch.

So the Iranians are not going to give them the sort of swift response that they're seeking when they are behaving like this and attacking Iran. So I think the response probably would have been handed over to the Americans by now, but intentionally they're trying to make them understand the fact that Iran is not intimidated, it's not afraid of another war or a continuation of the current war. Iran is prepared to fight, and I think the world now recognizes what sort of nation the Trump regime is dealing with in this coalition of evil, this Epstein coalition, what they're dealing with.

And they know that they cannot defeat Iran. Just like now, it's becoming clear that the enemy cannot defeat Hezbollah. In Lebanon, a lot of the political parties last year distanced themselves from Hezbollah because they thought that it was a spent force, because they too believed the propaganda. But they didn't comprehend the resilience of these people, of the supporters of the resistance, whether Shia or Sunni or Christian or Jews. The supporters of the resistance are of a different character. And so, you know, the steadfastness of these people is something that's unique.

And now they're coming to the recognition that they miscalculated, that Hezbollah is indeed a, you know, force far beyond what they ever contemplated. Of course, surrounded on all sides by the

United States—through Al-Qaeda and ISIS on the east, U.S. proxies to the north, the Mediterranean, of course, controlled by NATO and its proxies, and the south is the Israeli regime. Yet despite that, we see that they're holding their own. They're pounding the Zionists, and the Zionists, in outrage, slaughter families. They murder kids. They chase kids on motorcycles and that sort of thing and murder them.

#Speaker 03

So the same is true for Iran.

#Seyed

Iran is not going to be intimidated by Trump. Iran is prepared for a full assault that may take place moments from now. It may take place tonight. It may take place tomorrow. It may not happen, but the Iranians are working on the assumption that it will happen.

#Nima

We have new reports on al-Mayadeen. It says Iran has detected the entry of an American destroyer into the UAE's coast, and it's monitoring its movements. Professor Marandi, the UAE is different from other GCC countries because before this war started, we were thinking that they were all terrorists, they were all of the same sort of policies. But as time went by, and since the ceasefire, we see the UAE is getting a lot different from other GCC countries. Right now, they're totally connected with Israel. They want to be part of the Israeli sort of mindset in the region, together with the United States. And even with the attacks 48 hours ago, we've seen one of the officials in the UAE giving the directions of those attacks on Iran. Where is the UAE today in the mind of Iranian officials, and how are they preparing themselves to deal with this new reality concerning the UAE?

#Seyed

I think that from the very beginning, the Iranians did consider the UAE to be different from the others. It had a closer alliance with the Israeli regime. It was so bad that even the Saudis were becoming frustrated with their behavior. And we saw how in Yemen and even in Sudan it began to affect Saudi policy. But you're right, after the war began, some of these countries began to become more realistic. Qatar, after Iran hit it very hard, began to rethink its policy. And even though it's still a proxy of the United States, there's no doubt about it, and its eggs are in the U.S. basket, it's still more pragmatic in its approach towards Iran now.

And the other four countries, except for the United Arab Emirates, or as some in Iran now call it—well, I don't want to insult, but some say the Abu Dhabi Emirate. But the Iranians see that the UAE is different from the rest. You're right, the relationship with Israel was much stronger, but the alliance afterwards has been—they're flouting that alliance. And so you have Mossad there, you have

the Zionist military, a Zionist military presence there, you have direct flights, and they're openly hostile towards Iran, even though Iran didn't start the war. They were a part of the war against Iran. All these five countries are partners in the war against Iran.

They have no excuse for what they've done to the Iranian people. So now the Iranian policy towards the Emirates has changed. And Iran is saying that it's going to start treating the Emirates like it treats northern Iraq. What is northern Iraq like? It is an ally of the Zionist regime. The Kurdish government in Erbil is very close to the Israeli regime. And of course, it's close to the United States and NATO, but it's an ally of the Israeli regime. And so it allows terrorist organizations, despite the fact that the Iraqi central government does not accept this, but they use the U.S. influence in Iraq, and especially in northern Iraq, to allow terrorist organizations to open up military bases.

There are all sorts of military bases in northern Iraq for terrorist organizations against Iran. And what the Iranians have been doing is that they've been bombing them regularly. And they will continue to do so because the belief is that once the United States assault begins, these terrorists will move into Iran from northern Iraq. That is the plan. And also terrorists from the border with Pakistan, the Wahhabi terror organizations that are funded by Western agencies that regularly carry out attacks near the Pakistani border, will launch an assault from there, and these terrorists and Kurdish groups, but also others, will launch an attack from northern Iraq as the United States and Israeli regime bomb Iran and probably bomb Iranian critical infrastructure, like electrical power plants.

And that is what they are saying may happen. That is what Iran is preparing itself for. So as we speak, they're striking these terror groups in northern Iraq. But of course, if this actually happens, Iran will start striking Erbil itself and the government. They'll bring down the government, and the Iraqi resistance will target the government too, because Iran will no longer tolerate a Kurdish pro-Zionist local government in northern Iraq anymore after this, if there's such an operation launched against Iran.

But that policy is now being expanded to the UAE. And so the Iranians basically are saying that in the future, if we see any threat to Iran from anywhere in this region, Tehran will strike. That's a big change. Now, I think your audience should know that this is the third war that's been launched against Iran by the West and its proxies. The first was in 1980, with Saddam Hussein being pushed by the Americans. And these countries in the Persian Gulf gave him, Saddam, hundreds of billions of dollars back then. At that time, Iran's relations with the Emirates were the best of all these countries. And it remained that way for two, three decades.

But now, ever since the Emirates has chosen to become an ally of the Israeli regime, Iran's relationship with the Emirates, the UAE, has become the worst of all these countries, alongside Bahrain, which also shows a very harsh, a great deal of malice towards Iran, the regime. But the Bahraini regime is not that significant. It's not very important. But the Emirates, they do conspire a lot against Iran. And a lot of the forces that have been brought into the region, they are based in the

Emirates—the land forces in Kuwait, the Emirates, and Bahrain. And the air forces, the air power, a lot of them are in the Emirates, Saudi Arabia, and in Qatar.

#Nima

Bahrain has resumed its crackdown on Shia Bahrainis. And considering that more than 70 percent of Bahrain's population is Shia Muslim, how significant is that for the region? And how does Iran see the situation in Bahrain? Is there any way to improve the situation for these people in Bahrain?

#Seyed

Well, right now, anyone who supports the resistance is in serious trouble. In Syria, for example, you have people from different ethnic backgrounds, religions, and sects who are under a lot of pressure. Anyone who supports the resistance is in trouble. The same is true across the Persian Gulf region. But it's not just Shias. Right now, overwhelmingly, except for the Wahhabis and the Salafis that are funded by these dictatorships—I mean, Qatar is a Wahhabi regime, that's its official ideology—and the same is true of Saudi Arabia, even though Mohammed bin Salman has distanced himself somewhat from it. But except for them, people on the streets are supporting the resistance.

I mean, I have friends in Kuwait who are not Kuwaiti and not Muslim, but they say that the local population, they all support the resistance. I mean, I don't know. He says all. So, you know, a friend of mine, he says people support the resistance. So I think that the sectarianism, the divisions that they artificially created—divisions where Wahhabi and Salafi groups funded by these regimes have been trying to divide people across the region through sectarianism—that project is now falling apart. The project to divide people, to bisect by religion, by race, that is collapsing. And from what I'm hearing from across North Africa, the Maghreb in particular, Egypt, but also even in these countries, including Kuwait, support for the resistance goes beyond sect and religion. It is very strong.

#Nima

In this new proposal of the United States, Professor Marandi, we know what is happening in Lebanon. And Hezbollah is just fighting the Israeli aggression. They're trying to do their best to force Israeli forces out of Lebanon, the southern part of Lebanon.

#Seyed

They are amazing.

#Nima

Yeah. And we had, you know, the prime minister of Lebanon going to Syria. Looking at the situation in Lebanon, how important is this new proposal, the negotiations between Iran and the United States? We know that Iran, each and every time, with that 10-point plan, then 14-point plan—the first point was, you know, putting an end to the war on all fronts, which includes Lebanon. Is that the case?

#Seyed

Well, what the Lebanese government wants is the defeat of the resistance. And let me give you an example. There are lots of refugees, and they're trying to strangle them financially. So they don't even let financial support go from Iraq or other places, not just Iran. And when the refugees were going to set up a place for 3,000 refugees, they stopped it. And they said, no, these refugees cannot come to this part of Lebanon. So they're trying to make the resistance and the supporters of the resistance, the communities that support the resistance, suffer financially to bring them to their knees and to bring them to despair. But they're a steadfast people. So the Lebanese prime minister, the president, they're the enemies of the resistance.

They're American rebels, proxies, and of course the same is true with the Al-Qaeda regime in Syria. So, as I said, the resistance is surrounded, but you still see this heroic resistance and effective resistance against the Israeli regime. It's against all odds, and people across the world should be studying this closely—what Hezbollah is doing and the sacrifices that the supporters are making. The Israelis are bombing all the towns, destroying all the homes so that all the supporters of the resistance would have no place to go. They've destroyed their shops, they've destroyed banks, or all means for them to have access to money. They want to starve the resistance. And of course, this is a coalition of evil—you know, the prime minister, the president, the United States, NATO, U.S. proxies, ISIS, Al-Qaeda, the Zionist regime, of course.

Yet despite that, Hezbollah has to apprehend—it is truly amazing. It is just what Iran has done to the United States in this heroic war of resistance. This, you know, a war of resistance that, I mean, let's be very blunt, even our friends across the world didn't think we would survive, many of them at least. I have many friends who, after the war ended, sort of said to me, you know, I was afraid that the country would collapse. And lots of people thought that it wouldn't last for more than a few days. Now their views on Iran have changed. You saw what the Iranian foreign minister said when he was returning from China—that the Chinese said that the stature of Iran in the world has risen significantly after the war. The same is true with the axis, the entire axis of resistance.

#Nima

Looking at the Venezuelan scenario, the United States did somehow what they did in Iraq for many years. They're controlling the oil of Iraq, and they're selling the oil, and the money goes to the American banks, and then they give something to the Iraqi government. They're doing the same in

Venezuela. And we've just learned that the United States has removed 13.5 kilograms of enriched uranium from Venezuela. And Donald Trump is talking about how he's going to do the same with the case of Iran. He's going to remove it, and the enriched uranium is going to go to the United States. What is the Iranian position?

#Seyed

No, Iran won't accept that. No enriched uranium is going to leave Iranian territory. That's the Iranian position. I think that after all this time, the Americans should have learned a lesson by now. But in their arrogance, they can't. The Iranians are prepared to go to war again. As I said, we're prepared for war. The belief is that war is very close. The chances for war are very high. That's not going to intimidate Iran. Over the past two or three days, you saw the U.S. Secretary of State and Trump both say that they're waiting for Iran's response. I mean, it should come in today. Iran is in no rush.

Iran will give them the response when they deem it appropriate. But right now, I can tell you, without being involved in the decision-making process at all, that Iran's response is not going to be something the Americans like. There's no doubt about it. The Iranians will only have peace based on the 10-point plan that Iran presented, and the United States agreed to conduct negotiations within that framework. But the priority for Iran right now is a ceasefire, which includes Lebanon, which includes Gaza, which includes the entire region, and the lifting of the siege on the Strait of Hormuz.

And as long as this current situation continues, the United States is literally dragging the world over a cliff. Netanyahu and Trump are literally dragging the world over a cliff. Every single day that goes by, it's getting worse, and after a point, it is going to get worse much more swiftly. The deterioration is going to be much more visible and much more, I think, fearful for people across the world. But Iran is not going to appease the United States. So right now, the priority is the ceasefire, an end to the siege so that ships can come and go. And with a ceasefire, Iran is not going to forsake Lebanon or Gaza or anything like that. And then we go to the 10-point plan, and after that, we go to the nuclear program and negotiating a nuclear deal. So that is not even—that is at the bottom of Iran's priorities.

#Nima

Yeah. I think the Strait of Hormuz is somehow complicated because it's not just about oil and gas and fertilizers, helium. It's about the internet connection as well, because these cables are passing through the Strait of Hormuz deep, you know, down. And it's about 90% of international internet communications. And when Iran controls the Strait of Hormuz, Iran would be responsible to deal with it if something happens with these cables. Iranian firms, Iranian technical firms, should control that. And is that going to be part of—because we've learned from false news in Iran, they're talking about it—is that going to be part of the Iranian plan for the new mechanism of the Strait of Hormuz?

#Seyed

I don't know what the policy would be with regards to those cables. But if there is war, then no one should feel assured that those cables will remain safe. I don't know what future policy is. But with regards to this trade, there's no doubt that the policy has changed permanently. And that is that ships that go through will have to deal with the Iranians. That's going to, regardless of what happens, that is going to happen, and that is the result—that is the end result—of this war. In other words, Netanyahu and Trump, they have wrecked their own position and the position of the Zionists as a result of this war, partially because of the fact that the Iranians will now be controlling the Strait of Hormuz. This was a catastrophic miscalculation by Netanyahu.

And it's not just oil or LNG. It's all the petrochemical goods that are produced in the petrochemical plants, and aluminum and other things that are produced in energy-intensive factories across the region. And these shortages are going to gradually hit. So it's not just the fact that oil reserves are on the decline. All sorts of different products are in short supply now, and the supply chains for all sorts of products are going to be faced with a very critical situation in the days and weeks ahead. And every day that goes by, Trump is only making it worse. Trump, in his arrogance, cannot find a solution. There is a solution at hand.

He can. This can end quite easily and swiftly. A lot of this could end with a ceasefire. If this ceasefire is taken seriously and implemented swiftly, then this crisis can be managed. It can't be solved, but it can be managed for now. But he's simply incapable of doing that, both because of his own arrogance, but also because of the Zionists. The Zionists simply won't let it happen. The same Zionists who were the driving force behind the war itself, they haven't gone anywhere in the last 70, 80 days. They're still there. So obviously that force is still pushing for continued confrontation and escalation.

#Nima

I think we have to consider the Israeli position because we cannot ignore that. We had two, you know, the Netanyahu administration—Smotrich is part of Netanyahu's circle, sort of the people close to Benjamin Netanyahu. He said, if they want to put an end to this war, they have to accept the new reality, the new borders of Israel. He's talking about Gaza, the West Bank, the southern part of Lebanon, the southern part of Syria. Is that going to be, you know, do you see that happening? Because they're not going to back down. They're going to fight. And we know the acts of resistance are going to do the same. And I don't know how that is going to play out for the ceasefire that you just mentioned.

#Seyed

Well, the Syrian regime is not going to do anything about Syrian territory. And they had a golden opportunity. They have a golden opportunity to resist because the Israeli regime is overextended. And if a new front was to be opened, then it would be catastrophic for the regime. I mean, right

now they can't defeat Hezbollah. So you can imagine what problems could be caused for the regime in the Golan. But those people who are in Damascus, they're not the friends of Palestine. They are U. S. proxies. And those people who supported them in the past, especially some of these groups that have funding from—and they're based in the West, many of them.

I don't want to name them. I know some of these people, but they get their funding from Qatar. They get their funding from Saudi Arabia, from Kuwait—Qatar more than anyone else. Qatar and Erdogan. But the people who supported this, you don't see any of them saying, and they pretend to be supporters of Palestine, but you don't see any of them talking about Syria taking back its territory from Israel, from the Israeli regime. None of them say that. They're all quiet. They were never sincere supporters of the Palestinian cause. And, you know, they get good money from their overlords in Doha and in Ankara.

And they pursue policies that are, you know, they'll give you the news about the latest slaughter of children in Gaza, and maybe in Lebanon too, every now and then. But they're not going to push for Syria to stand up against the Israeli regime. That's just not a part of their, you know, that's not something that they want to pursue. And it's obvious why, because the Syrian regime will never do it anyway. And they too are bound to these regimes that fund them. They're not like the resistance. There's no similarities between these people and the resistance. There's no overlap between these people and the resistance.

They are, you know, wittingly or otherwise, part of the broader Zionist project. So if Syria were to join the battle, this would be too much for the Israeli regime. And Iraq would back it up. Iran would back it up. Turkey under Erdogan and Qatar would never support such a thing, but Iran and Iraq and Hezbollah would give them whatever help they need if they were to join the battle. But that's not going to happen. In Lebanon, the Israelis are never going to be able to stay without being attacked. And in Gaza, Hamas and Islamic Jihad are not going anywhere. Now, what the Israelis want to do, what the Israeli regime wants to do, is create divisions in Hamas. They want to weaken the political wing and the military wing, and the political wing which is steadfast.

And they're trying to create, you know, factions in Hamas and other resistance organizations that would, you know, choose a different path. But it's not going to work. Hamas is not like that. Palestinian Islamic Jihad is not like that. So I don't see the Israeli regime being successful in anything. And, you know, I think the more land they take in the West Bank, which they're doing by the day, it's going to make the situation in the West Bank ultimately, at some point, much more difficult for the regime. Because after all, there are large numbers of Palestinians there, and they will reach a point where they can no longer survive while they're being strangled. And that will cause a severe reaction. And the world has changed.

The world is not going to tolerate another, you know, another genocide in the West Bank. I think that the Israeli regime and the Americans, they are despised now across the world for the genocide. And because of this war, they're destroying the global economy, and the world just dislikes them. I

said this elsewhere, that I've been speaking to numerous Indian journalists who've been in Iran during the last couple of weeks, and the consensus among those that I spoke with was that the mood in India has changed towards the Israeli regime. So if the Israeli regime loses India, then imagine how it is elsewhere. Things are not good for the regime. So, you know, sorry for this long and sort of non-structured response, but the point that I'm trying to make is that it's easier said than done.

#Nima

Yesterday, Marco Rubio said there is no way for the United States to accept this new mechanism of the Strait of Hormuz, the Iranian control of the Strait of Hormuz. They want to get back to what it was, the way it was before the war started. But the reality is something else. We know what is happening, the reality of the Strait of Hormuz. And how does Iran see the Strait of Hormuz as being a basis for the new security architecture of the region, together with those countries who are using the Strait of Hormuz? And is that going to be somehow an Iranian sort of vision as time goes by?

#Seyed

Oh, no doubt. The previous era is over. It's finished. He can grumble all he wants. He can scream and shout all he wants. No one cares. Iran will control the Strait of Hormuz, and it's finished. It's over. And Iran wants a security structure or architecture for the region, for the Persian Gulf region, where the United States can no longer be a threat, where no one can be a threat. All the countries in this region should have a vested interest in peace and stability here because all the countries gain their wealth from the Persian Gulf. So when these five regimes assisted the United States in its genocidal war, they brought misery upon their own people. They've ruined their own economies. They've wrecked their own infrastructure. To whose benefit? Even these despots don't benefit. So in the future, we have to have a security architecture where the United States no longer plays a role, not only because the United States has shown itself to be reckless, but also not even pursuing its own interests.

#Speaker 03

It's pursuing the interests of the Israeli regime.

#Seyed

And the Israeli regime, its interest is death and destruction. It wants the entire region to be fragmented and broken. As the U.S. ambassador to the Israeli regime said, if they take the entire region, that's fine. So obviously they don't want a strong region. They don't want the countries in the region to be friendly, strong, and cooperative with one another to build up the region

economically and socially. So in the future, Iran is no longer going to allow the United States to have the presence that it had in the past. And it will have to be the countries of the Persian Gulf that collectively make up the security architecture of the Persian Gulf region.

#Nima

Professor Marandi, how is the communication between Iran and other countries outside the region who need the Strait of Hormuz? Is that happening as we speak?

#Seyed

Yes, yes. Lots of countries are coordinating with Iran, and they are ignoring the dictates of the United States. And the more the United States tries to put pressure on these countries, or the more the United States tries to strengthen the siege on the Strait of Hormuz, it's only pushing these countries and itself toward crisis. And that is creating a lot of resentment and anger. Again, going back to India, the Indian journalist who I spoke with said that in India, there's a lot of anger and frustration with Trump and with the Israeli regime because of this war, but also because of Trump's arrogant posturing in the past over tariffs and so on. So the more this behavior continues, the more the United States tries to pressure countries not to cooperate with Iran, the worse it's going to be for the United States, because these countries all need Iran. They need Iran to be able to use the Strait of Hormuz. That's the end of the story.

#Nima

It seems that we've lost Professor Marandi. He's going to be back. Just, you know, I want to continue with the relationship between Iran and Russia and the relationship between Iran and China, which in my opinion is so important. We have to remember what has happened, you know. For such a long time, you remember the Security Council resolutions against Iran in which Russia and China were somehow neutral and they didn't try to block those resolutions against Iran. Right now, looking at what has happened over the last 10 years, it's amazing how these countries are getting closer. And today we have a sort of security agreement, an agreement between Iran and Russia in terms of their security, in terms of their cooperation when it comes to military might and the equipment the military uses.

There is a lot of connection between the two countries. And China is growing, is getting better, in my opinion. China was in the background when the war started, when Ukraine started. You know, the war in Ukraine forced China to do better, to be more clear in its policy, in its foreign policy. And Russia today, you know, the war in the Middle East has totally changed the reality of the Middle East because of the American bases. You know, Russia is thinking from those days coming to today, did the partnership or somehow the relationship between Iran and these two countries transform over the years and come to this day that it is, you know, a new sort of partnership between Iran and Russia, between Iran and China?

#Seyed

I think in the world, these three powers, you know, began to grow, and they began to emerge as real powers. Of course, China economically far outweighs the other two. Russia, the size of the country, far outweighs Iran, but Iran also, alongside them, is...

#Seyed

For the last couple of decades, the tensions between the United States and the Russians have gradually increased. And the same is true with China, especially after Trump was elected as president. But China has gradually become much stronger. Back in those days when they used to agree to UN Security Council resolutions against Iran, first of all, they were weaker back then. It was the unipolar moment. The United States was much stronger. China was just beginning to rise. Russia had just survived the terrible years of the post-Soviet Union era. It was beginning to grow. It wasn't as if they just simply accepted the UN resolutions, because I do know a bit of that history. But they did soften the resolutions.

They did force the United States to remove some wording or change or remove some sentences or some of the harder-hitting parts of the resolutions that were being imposed. They were changed, but still, they wouldn't stand up to the United States. But now it's changed, both because they're stronger, but also because the United States is targeting them as well as Iran, and because they see Iran to be much stronger today than before. Iran is—if you look at the statements made by President Putin when he met the Iranian foreign minister, or if you look at the statements made by the Chinese when the Iranian foreign minister traveled there—you see that the post-war attitudes towards Iran have changed. They are very impressed by Iran's performance on the battlefield and its resilience and its resistance.

So when you see that you have a strong partner, you invest more in that partner—at least countries, people do in general. Iran, of course, is a bit different. Iran, even if its partner is weak, but it sees that that partner has a very principled position, it is unique in that way in that it will stand up for a very weak partner too. And it tries its best—for example, it's always tried its best—to help its weaker allies. But in any case, the Chinese and the Russians see Iran as strong. They've grown stronger. The United States has grown weaker. The United States has antagonized both of them. So the Americans have created all the incentives necessary for much better relations between these countries.

#Nima

Yeah. Before wrapping up, Professor Marandi, how does Iran see the new guy who was added to the delegation, American Jared Kushner, together with Steve Witkoff, a former IDF officer joining the negotiation? What does it mean for Iran? Does Iran really care about these guys anymore?

#Seyed

No, Iran doesn't care at all. In fact, I think that many in Iran want to see this sort of thing happen because it proves to Americans and the international audience too, those that are watching closely, how much control the Zionists have over the United States. The United States is not controlled by the American people; the United States is controlled by the Zionists. And the very fact that they dictate who sits at the negotiating table, the very fact that they dictate policy, the very fact that they can drag the country into war despite the fact that ordinary people don't want it, despite the propaganda, I think just shows that the United States is an occupied country.

And that is a good thing for more people to see. The United States is an occupied country. That's in Iran's interest. Otherwise, with or without him, the Iranians are not counting on the United States seeing the light and coming to some sort of peace agreement with Iran. The best that we will be able to see is, I think—this is my speculation—a ceasefire. A ceasefire where the Israeli regime is forced to withdraw from Lebanon, where the fighting stops in Gaza and in Lebanon, where the United States pulls its troops away and the Strait of Hormuz is open for business. And we go back to the Cold War of years past. The only difference is that the world is changing much faster now than even before the war. And the empire's fate, in my opinion, is sealed.

#Nima

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

#Seyed

Always a great pleasure, Nima. Always a great honor. Thank you.