

# **Seyed M. Marandi: Iran Warned: Next Attack Will Be MET WITH TOTAL OBLITERATION**

Follow me: Substack: [https://substack.com/@dialogueworks?](https://substack.com/@dialogueworks?utm_campaign=profile&utm_medium=profile-page)

utm\_campaign=profile&utm\_medium=profile-page X (Twitter): [https://x.com/Dialogue\\_NRA](https://x.com/Dialogue_NRA)

Patreon: [https://patreon.com/Dialogueworks?](https://patreon.com/Dialogueworks?utm_medium=unknown&utm_source=join_link&utm_campaign=creatorshare_creator&utm_content=)

utm\_medium=unknown&utm\_source=join\_link&utm\_campaign=creatorshare\_creator&utm\_content=

## **#Nima**

Hi, everybody. Today's Saturday, May 16, 2026, and our dear friend, our brother, Professor Seyed M. Marandi, is here with us. Welcome back, Professor Marandi.

## **#Seyed**

Hi, Nima. One of the very good things about you, Nima, is that you are very patient and tolerant. And I really apologize for being so late. It's my fault. Anyway, here I am.

## **#Nima**

Yeah, I do apologize to our audience because we didn't know, but it happens — it's live. I apologize to everyone.

## **#Seyed**

Yes, I apologize to you and everyone. I'm very sorry. It's all my fault. I've wasted 15, 20 minutes of everyone's time. I really apologize.

## **#Nima**

Let me start with the meeting between Donald Trump and Xi Jinping. We had the Iranian foreign minister going to China, talking with China. I'm sure that he spoke about the Iranian position, and in the case of the Strait of Hormuz and the ongoing war between Iran and the United States, it was coordinated beforehand between the two foreign ministers — the Iranian foreign minister and Wang Yi, the Chinese foreign minister. And then we have Donald Trump going to China.

From what we've heard so far, in the announcement they were talking about basically two points in that White House statement about the Strait of Hormuz. One of them was that we have to open up the Strait of Hormuz. The second one was the demilitarization of the Strait of Hormuz. I don't know if you—because they were talking about the toll system that Iran is trying to define in the Strait of Hormuz or has defined in the Strait of Hormuz. What is your understanding of the achievements of Donald Trump in China, considering the ongoing conflict and war between Iran and the United States?

## **#Seyed**

Well, if your guess was Pepe, he would be more emphatic about the failure, but it was a complete failure. And I think it was clear from the Iranian foreign minister's trip — anyone who followed that trip closely, the body language, and the social media accounts of the meeting in China, and how the Iranian presence was viewed. The Iranians were presented as heroic in their resistance against the United States, and the Chinese officials said that Iran's global status has been enhanced significantly and that it will have implications for future economic progress in Iran, and so on. It was clear that the two countries, when the foreign ministers met and compared notes, were coordinating.

And also the 30 ships that left the Strait of Hormuz on the same day as the negotiations — that was something these two countries had negotiated over days. And it was not by coincidence that it happened on the day of the negotiations. And of course, there was no joint statement by the two sides. Nothing really came out of it. Even the Boeing planes — it's not clear if that's really a real deal or just some general comments made at the negotiating table. And we saw later on that in one of his interviews, Trump basically admitted that the Chinese said nothing about the Iranian nuclear program.

Trump said that Iranians are crazy and that they shouldn't have a nuclear weapon. And President Xi didn't respond. He just went quiet, and the conversation continued. So I think it's fair to say that the American spin on the entire trip is detached from reality. And the part on Iran is even more detached from reality. But then that does mean we've reached a new phase of the crisis, because now it's more than two and a half months since the war began. We are at war. This is siege warfare. The United States has blocked the Strait of Hormuz, and the global economy is heading toward crisis. Iran is heading toward greater difficulty at home too.

But I personally think the world is going to be more damaged than Iran in the long run, because Iran has been under siege for decades and it will cope. And it will be difficult, especially since damage has been done. But I think the United States knows that this siege warfare is not going to succeed. And that's why we had that pretty pathetic military attack on the Strait, the naval attack on the Strait of Hormuz a couple of weeks ago, which failed, and they couldn't get a single ship out of

the Strait. And so I think that there's a very good chance that we will have a military assault, a major military assault, because at the end of the day, if the Israeli regime wants it, if the Zionist lobby wants it, then they'll probably get it.

I don't see any dramatic shift in the United States away from Zionism, at least not yet. And so I think there will be a military offensive. I think that's the assessment here, that there will probably be another assault against Iran. It could be somewhat different than before. The Israeli and U.S. regimes may begin targeting Iranian critical infrastructure. That would mean that Iran will target critical infrastructure, whether in Palestine or in the Persian Gulf region. But in the Persian Gulf region, because of the extreme heat of summer, it will bring an end to those regimes. I mean, imagine the United Arab Emirates without electricity in the summer, with the humidity and the heat.

I mean, no one will be able to stay in Kuwait or in... even in Saudi. The former head of Saudi intelligence, Turki al-Faisal, when he wrote that article in an outlet close to the Saudi regime, he was saying that Saudi Arabia was distancing itself from the war. But in that article, he basically said that Saudi Arabia could be destroyed if its vital infrastructure, which is all along the Persian Gulf, were destroyed. So if they go after Iran's critical infrastructure, it will be a defeat for the United States because its proxies will be crushed. And it's not a war that we want. We didn't start this war. We don't want war. And remember, even though Iran was able to destroy so much in the Persian Gulf region, less than 20 people died in all these five countries.

Iran was careful not to kill innocent people. Yet 3,400, 3,450, I don't know the exact number, Iranians were massacred, slaughtered. So we are in a dangerous place right now, and I think that every day that goes by—you've heard this from others, you know this better than I do, and I've been saying it—that we're heading towards a major global recession. If this continues, it will be a global depression. But if there is war, and that war does become vicious, and they start striking Iranian critical infrastructure, then I think a great economic depression, a global economic depression, is inevitable. And that will change everyone's lives. That is something that the world should really fear. What is your understanding of this new concept that they're talking about in GCC countries—a non-aggression pact?

## **#Nima**

And how is that related? Was that communicated with the Iranians? But what is that? What is the basis, the foundation of that sort of concept? Is that related to the security architecture of the region? How does Iran find that?

## **#Seyed**

Well, it's vague. It's very vague. And it's... these countries... if they had said no to the Americans from the beginning, we wouldn't have had this war. Logistically speaking, the Americans cannot wage a war without the support of Jordan, the full support of Jordan, Saudi Arabia, the Emirates,

Qatar, Bahrain, Kuwait. There would have been no war. And now to say this is a positive step, but it's by no means enough. The Americans have to leave. Iran will no longer accept the U.S. threat on the Arabian Peninsula. And we've suffered enough as it is. We've suffered far too much. So it is a good, I would assume, a good step in the right direction.

But I think there's a long way to go. I mean, non-aggression—Iran didn't launch this war. Just like when they supported Saddam Hussein, when the United States pushed Saddam Hussein to invade Iran, these countries also funded that war too. They helped kill, I think if you include the Kurdish areas where Saddam funded the terrorists and the West funded the terrorists, up to almost 200,000 people died in that war on the Iranian side. So then they began funding ISIS and Al-Qaeda, and they, you know, in the last couple of decades in Syria and Iraq and elsewhere, and of course, they've been a destructive force elsewhere.

In the Arab Spring, they destroyed Libya and Syria. They destroyed so much of Yemen. They carried out a genocidal war there. Of course, all under the U.S. and Israeli umbrella, under the umbrella within the framework of U.S. and Israeli interests. They helped destroy Iraq. And it's interesting, they supported Saddam Hussein, gave him hundreds of billions of dollars. Then when Saddam Hussein invaded Kuwait, after that they turned against Saddam. And when the United States invaded, I mean, Iran never allowed U.S. troops into Iran, even when they wanted to take Baghdad away.

And then later on, after 9/11, when the United States lied about chemical weapons—the same chemical weapons that they and the Germans and the Europeans gave to him—when they lied about chemical weapons, which Saddam no longer possessed, these countries assisted the United States in invading Iraq. And Iran was opposed to the war. Iran did not assist the United States. It was utterly opposed to the war. So these regimes have no principles. They have nothing. They are proxies of the United States. And they've destroyed country after country after country. Their destructive policies have helped create misery in Palestine, in Lebanon, in Syria, in Iraq, in Iran, in Yemen, in Sudan, in Somalia, in Libya. I mean, it's just unbelievable how destructive these five regimes are.

And yet the arrogance of their leaders knows no bounds. So in the future, they're going to have to behave differently. The Iranians are not going to allow them to be proxies for the United States against Iran or Iran's allies anymore. But still, this is a good step in the right direction. But I think there's a long way to go before we can get to where we need to get. Iran has no imperial ambitions, and anyone who says so is talking nonsense. Iran does not have a military base anywhere in the region. There's no Iranian flag, and never has been, in Iraq except for at the embassy; in Syria, except for before an embassy; in Lebanon, in Yemen, in Afghanistan. Nowhere, nowhere did Iran have bases. Look at Turkey.

Look at the Americans. Look at, you know, all of these regimes that have bases across the board. Iran has none. Iran has allies that it supports, and they have popular support. Because without popular support, how would Yemen survive? How would Hezbollah survive? How would Iran's friends

in Palestine and allies in Palestine survive? They're supporting liberation movements against the empire. But Iran doesn't have that. When Iraq collapsed, did Iran take control over any Iraqi territory as compensation for the war? Did Iran—in the chaos, Iran could have taken parts of Iraq and said, this is the new Iran. The same is true with Afghanistan. What could, let's say, the Taliban do about it? Nothing. But Iran has no imperial ambitions.

You know, right now, people don't know this, but Iraq owes Iran many billions of dollars because Iran provides it with natural gas and electricity. And the Iraqis don't pay for it because the United States will not allow them to. But Iran won't cut off the gas right now, even though, because of the war and the strikes on Iranian gas facilities, Iran has a shortage of resources. But Iran continues to provide them with energy so that they can have electricity for their cities. So Iran is spending money in Iraq and providing Iraq with energy resources and not being paid for it because they don't want the Iraqi people to go without electricity. And Iran is sanctioned and under war. So, you know, Iran doesn't have imperial ambitions, but these countries have done infinite harm to our country.

## **#Nima**

When it comes to war, a new round of war, two days ago I was listening to one of the commanders in Iran. He said that they expect the United States is going to attack. But the way they're going to attack is a question for them. Is it going to be assassination? Is it going to be invasion? Is it going to be attacks on, you know, power grids or oil facilities? This is the question on their part. They're assessing or reassessing the new attacks. But how prepared is Iran when it comes to the Iranian arsenal, when it comes to the ballistic missiles and drones? We have two assessments in the West. One of them was CBS News, if I'm not mistaken, together with the New York Times, predicting that 70% of the Iranian arsenal is still there, and they have it compared to what they had before the war started. And the new assessment on CNN says that it's 90%. What is that number? And what do we know about how prepared Iran is for the new round of war?

## **#Seyed**

Iran is, militarily speaking, not economically speaking. Economically speaking, Iran is in a tough place. But militarily speaking, Iran is stronger today than before—significantly stronger. Iran's missile arsenal is stronger than it was before the war. Iran's drone capabilities are stronger. And Iran is prepared for a ground war. The belief is that Iran is preparing for a maximum assault, and that is using thousands of Kurdish terrorists from Kurdish Iraq. But if that happens, by the way, that will be the end of Kurdish Iraq. Iran will make sure that it is, after the war, dismantled and fully controlled by the central government in Iraq.

So, you know, Arabia had better be very careful about its future, because if it cooperates, if it allows these terrorists into Iran, when the war is over, Iran will make sure that there is no local, no autonomous government in the north of Iraq. It will be controlled by Baghdad. So it's for them to decide their future. Then there are the terrorists, the Wahhabi Salafi terrorists that have always been

tools of the West throughout the region and throughout the world, alongside the Pakistani border, inside Pakistan, that are also going to carry out an assault. They're being prepared for an assault inside Iran. Also, the remnants of those militias that carried out the armed uprising a few months ago, on January the 8th and 9th, if I'm not mistaken.

Our calendar is different, so I know the Persian dates better than the English dates. The so-called peaceful protesters, remember, and all that nonsense that we hear from the Western media—they too are being prepared, from what we're hearing here in Iran, for assaults and terrorist attacks in major cities like Tehran, and then a joint Zionist-Israeli-American assault on Iranian critical infrastructure, and perhaps U.S. assaults on islands, the mainland, and inside Iran, deep inside, like the failed operation near Isfahan where they tried to locate and extract Iran's enriched uranium. So this is the maximum, and this is what the Iranians are preparing for—an all-out assault to see if they can turn the tide and win the war.

They will fail, but the Iranian response, Nima, will be devastating to the Israeli regime—devastating, far worse than the 39-day war. And for the regimes in the Persian Gulf, I think it will be an end to their regimes. It will bring them to an end, most probably. Because in this weather, in the summer, with the humidity and heat that we see in the Persian Gulf, if Iran's critical infrastructure is targeted, Iran will target their critical infrastructure in retaliation. And that will mean the end of these regimes. No one can live in the Emirates without electricity and water. They'll all have to get in their cars and cross the desert and go to Oman, to Iraq, and stay there. That will be the end of these regimes. You can't live there.

And the American troops will also have to leave these regimes too. The heat will be unbearable. So the Americans are really, in their obedience to the Zionist lobby and the Zionist regime, they're going to wreck these countries, but also they're going to wreck the global economy. Because if this happens, then we should all rest assured, a great global economic depression is 100%. It will happen 100%, and it will change the lives of everyone. And the world will be a very different place. And we're already heading for dark times because of what's already happened. But if that happens, then I think what we can see ahead will be far worse than the trajectory that we're now taking.

## **#Nima**

In the statement of the White House, they're basically talking about opening up the Strait of Hormuz and demilitarization. I see no problem with the Iranian position on these two points. They want to open up the Strait of Hormuz, and actually, the main problem that Iran has today is the militarization of the Strait of Hormuz and what the United States is doing with the case of the blockade. Is there any sort of disagreement with those two points in the statement of the White House, you know, somehow summing up the meeting between Donald Trump and Xi?

## **#Seyed**

Well, again, there's no joint statement. So I think opening the Strait of Hormuz is what Iran and China want. And that's how we make money, that's how business is done. Demilitarization — Iran didn't start the war, and destroying those U.S. bases is a step toward demilitarization of the Persian Gulf. And the reason why Iran is going to control the Strait of Hormuz is not just for compensation for what these Arab regimes helped do to Iran, but also to make sure that the United States does not make the Persian Gulf once again a military foothold for assaulting Iran. So I think the way in which the United States sees demilitarization, what they mean is that Iran must raise its hand, raise the white flag, and submit to the United States and the Israeli regime.

And opening the Strait of Hormuz for the United States means preserving a siege on Iranian ports and allowing U.S. proxies to export oil. That's not going to happen. And an assault on Iran is not going to change that. An assault on Iran is going to lead to the destruction of the remaining oil and gas infrastructure and critical infrastructure in the Arab regimes and probably bring an end to those regimes. And it will lead to the destruction of many of the ships, not all of the ships, in the Persian Gulf. It will lead to an economic crisis far worse than what we're experiencing now, as I said, and what we will probably be experiencing.

This is not a situation where the Americans can win, but this is a war that the Israeli regime wants. It's a war that the Israeli regime demands. It is a war that Zionists demand. And so Zionists want to destroy the global economy, destroy the American economy for the sake of the Israeli regime. In my opinion, this is suicidal for Zionism, because Zionism has already discredited itself and exposed itself to the world for being genocidal. But now it is telling the world that we will destroy your lifestyle, the lifestyle of everyone across the world too. And that is something that I think will have an even greater impact on perceptions of Zionism across the world and in the United States.

## **#Nima**

Donald Trump yesterday said in his interview that he's doing this war because he wants to help Israel, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Kuwait, the UAE, all these GCC countries together with Israel. But as time goes by, we have to accept that they may have been deceived in the initial days of the war, that this was going to be a short sort of period of time — four days, five days, a week. They were going to put an end to this, you know, to the so-called regime in Iran. Everything was going to be so big and beautiful, the way Donald Trump wants to see everything. But today, the assessment, in my opinion, on the part of the GCC countries, basically Saudi Arabia and Qatar, is totally different from what it was before this war started.

They see the reality of Iran today and how Iran is powerful. They're not selling oil, they're not selling gas, they're not selling anything. That's a huge burden on their economy. This is the reality, the new reality of the Middle East. And how do you see these countries, the GCC countries, with this policy of the continuation of the war? Because Donald Trump is selling his oil and gas. But these countries in

the Persian Gulf, not only the GCC countries, Iran, they're putting a lot of pressure on the region. The whole region is under pressure — the United States, the blockade of the United States. How do you see the situation with the GCC countries and the way they see the conflict?

## **#Seyed**

Well, I think that Trump, when he said he did this, he said Israel. And then he added Saudi Arabia and Qatar and the Emirates, which I think was sort of like, oh, I have to add them too. It wasn't for them. And then as an afterthought, he said Kuwait and Bahrain. And those are the two countries that I think he and his family make no money from. The countries that he makes money from — his kids, his partners, and the Kushners, his son-in-law — they are the Emirates, Saudi Arabia, and Qatar. Qatar and these two others, they are very close to these Zionists and provide them with lots of money. But it was for Israel. I mean, it's all for the Israeli regime, of course. But I think he, as soon as he said Israel, then he said, oh, this doesn't look good. So he said, you know, for all these others. But I think you're right.

I think these regimes, they miscalculated in a very big way. They thought that the war would be over in a few days, as you rightly pointed out. They would be able to have the best of both worlds. They could pretend that they had nothing to do with it, as they still do. And, you know, I once had a student who plagiarized extensively. And when I showed the student — I won't say if it's a male or female, I just want to make sure no one has any idea who I'm talking about. I've had many students, of course, over the last 23 years, MA and PhD students who have theses, and students who've done papers with me too — so it'll be difficult to guess. But that student, male or female, when I told the person that, look, this is where you took this from...

And I worked hard to find them out back then. They didn't have these new apps which, you know, find them — and you're an academic, you know what I'm talking about. So I had to search and take out, search sentences and so on because I was suspicious. And then I found all these from different sources, and I put it to that person and I said, what is this? And that person said, I don't know. I said, well, how about this? Where did this — I don't understand. And it made me more upset because if the person had just said, I'm terribly sorry, my father was ill, or my mother was this, or my sister was that, or my wife was this, or my husband was that, it would have been more acceptable to me than for the person to express shock that they had no idea what had happened.

So the person kept saying to me, I don't know. And I kept showing bits and pieces and paragraphs. And so these countries are sort of like that student: we didn't have anything to do with it. I mean, the bases are on your territory. You're paying for those bases. They're not even paying for the bases. You're paying for all the activities on the bases. You are giving them logistical support. When they flee the bases, you're allowing them to target Iran from outside of the bases. You're allowing them to use your airspace. And they say, no, no, we're just, you know, we're neutral.

It's like that student who's saying, you know, don't ask me. I don't know where the plagiarism came from. So it's an insult to our intelligence when these dictatorships in the Persian Gulf, these proxies of the United States and allies of the Israeli regime — all of them are allies, and Qatar, all of them are allies. I mean, the Emirates has taken it above and beyond everyone else, but they all have their secret dealings with the Israeli regime, and intelligence officers go back and forth. Iran is not stupid.

Iran knows that every single country in this region, whether it's the Republic of Azerbaijan or increasingly now Armenia, or Turkey, or Jordan, Egypt, or Saudi Arabia — all of them are in bed with the Israeli regime, or the Kurdish autonomous region in northern Iraq, or the Syrian regime — all of them in one form or another. But in any case, for them to sort of, you know, say that, "No, we're neutral," is an insult to one's intelligence. If they just said, "We were forced to do this," that would have been a more sane thing to say and do. But in any case, they miscalculated big time, and now they have to pay the price. And Iran is not going to let them go. Iran is not going to destroy them. Iran wants compensation. But if this war continues, there is no doubt that Iran will retaliate.

Because if you do not retaliate, you're inviting the destruction of your country. Iran never—Iran did not start the war. It never, never initiated escalation. Never. But remember, when they began striking Iran's critical infrastructure, Iran hit Qatar very hard and the Emirates hard. And then Trump put that Truth Social out that, you know, "I had no idea, Netanyahu will not do it again." That's what Iran does in order to prevent further destruction. And Nima, I've been speaking to people. My understanding is that if this time around, escalation will go up very fast. Iran will hit back very hard, but so will Yemen and so will Iraq. Iraq has not shown—the resistance in Iraq has been very controlled. And the resistance in Yemen has more or less been quiet so far because this side did not want to make this a regional war of complete destruction.

Iran allowed Saudi Arabia, and allows Saudi Arabia, to do its exports through the Red Sea. It doesn't allow the Emirates, right? It's hurting the Emirates more because the Emirates is a totally sinister regime. But Iran wants to give them a way out. But if war reignites, the Red Sea is gone. That oil is finished. And all exports from that area are finished too. That will be another three, three and a half, four million barrels a day, plus whatever else they export from the Red Sea. That will be finished. And the destruction of the assets in the Persian Gulf will be permanent. So if there's a deal ultimately to open the Strait of Hormuz, then there'll be nothing to trade. There'll be nothing to leave for the markets. There'll be nothing to sell.

So if the choice is theirs, they have to say no. I mean, talking about some non-aggression pact is not enough. They have to tell the Americans to get out, to end the war, and that way they'll be able to cut their losses. But if they don't do that, then I think we're going to see a different map of the region. I mean, six months from now, I think you and I will be talking about a very different region, and we'll be talking about a very different world too. And it's not going to look pretty. And I don't want this, no one wants this, but we did not start this. And even now, Nima, the Iranians could launch a preemptive strike right now.

And they could devastate the Americans. Right now, Iran can launch tens of missiles at Israeli air bases and destroy tens of planes. You saw the report about the U.S. planes that have been destroyed and damaged now. Things are gradually coming out. It's becoming clear that things are much worse for the United States than they claimed. And all those underground bases, all the things that we were saying before, and they were saying it's propaganda and nonsense, it turns out to be right. Iran's underground bases are untouched. They are well protected. They did a fantastic job building and designing them.

And remember when we discussed this before, the 12-day war, the reason why Iran accepted the ceasefire was so that it could learn from its experience and be more prepared, and that bore fruit. I assure you now, Iran is much more prepared than during the 39-day war. And this is our home turf. And Yemen is fully prepared. Iraq is prepared. Yemen is full of energy. They haven't had any, you know, they've been on the bench, as they say. So this is not going to be pretty. But Iran does not want to escalate. Iran does not want war. Iran does not initiate war. It is not in our religious culture. I mean, Iran has the right to do so. I'm not saying it won't, but it usually doesn't.

Because we are at war. Iran can legitimately carry out a preemptive strike right now and destroy American assets across the board. But that's usually not what Iran does. We are far more humane than all those others. The axis of resistance is immensely humane. They are unique. And as I said, the number of people killed in the Persian Gulf region, they're like 20 or less than 20. That shows that Iran has always been careful not to have people killed. But in any case, and I've gone on too long, the point of what I'm saying is that Iran is fully prepared. This time escalation will be very swift and destruction will be immense. And I hope it doesn't happen.

## **#Nima**

Bloomberg reported that during the war, the UAE, Mohammed bin Zayed, MBZ, personally called Saudi Arabia and other GCC countries to make a coalition against Iran, to join the war and fight and go against Iran. And considering that, and what right now is going on between Israel and the UAE, we know Israel is somehow throwing them under the bus with the new sort of reports that Benjamin Netanyahu was visiting the UAE during the war. It was a secret meeting. Then the UAE denied that, and then Israel doubled down and said not only Benjamin Netanyahu, but the head of Mossad, the head of Shin Bet, and the Joint Chief of Staff of the IDF all together went to... What are they doing to the UAE? Because it's supposed to be their best friend in the region.

## **#Seyed**

You know, Nima, there's a very bad word for this in Persian. You know, they say they did so-and-so to that person. It's just amazing how Israel is so, as we say, nejis. It is so dirty, it is so filthy, that being associated with it, just having your name alongside it, gives you a bad reputation. It's like a man or a woman who has a relationship with some very bad person, and then that's exposed. Your

relationship, that person's relationship, is in ruins. And so that is what the Israeli regime is. It is a source of shame to be associated with it. And the thing about the Israeli regime is they don't care about their friends, their so-called friends. They'll throw them under the bus anytime. Why would Netanyahu do this to the Emirates?

Probably because Netanyahu wants to tell the Israeli public that, look, I've infiltrated this far, this deep into the Arab world. Because he has no success story. Gaza is not a success story. Lebanon is definitely not a success. Look at what Hezbollah is doing. I mean, across the world, people contact me and speak about the greatness of Iran and the success of the Islamic Republic. And I mean, so many people have spoken in praise of the Islamic Republic, but the true, true, true heroes are Hezbollah and Lebanon. The sacrifices that the people of Lebanon and the resistance are making, while at the same time humiliating this racist regime, are extraordinary.

So Netanyahu, except for in Syria, has no success story. And I think the reason why he's humiliating the Emirates is for his own personal gain. Just like everything else he does is for his own personal gain. He doesn't care about it. I don't think he cares about Israel as much as he cares about himself at all. And what he said, and all this, is harming Israel, no doubt. You know, because no other country—everyone is going, from now on, no one is going to go and see that corrupt woman or man, you know, in private anymore.

So, I'm trying to say it in a way which is not impolite. But the Emirates, we knew their relationship with the Israeli regime. And throughout the war, that's the main reason why Iran hit the Emirates so hard. And that's why it punished it so badly. It knew that the Emirates was deeply committed to its alliance with its overlords in Tel Aviv. But, you know, the Saudis and the others were complicit in the war too. It's not as if they weren't. But the fact is that they are not a fighting force. The Saudis and the Emirates and the Kuwaitis and the Bahrainis and the Qataris, they buy all of these weapons from the United States, but they can't use them. The Saudis, with the help of the entire West and the region, especially at the beginning, Turkey and Qatar were helping them in their genocidal war in Yemen.

And then later, when they split with Qatar and imposed a siege, Qatar and Turkey walked away. But the entire world was helping them starve Yemen and carry out this genocidal war. Just like what later happened in Gaza, it began in Yemen. And they failed. With all that weaponry and all the money that they've spent on their armed forces, they're incompetent, they're incapable of fighting. Most of these weapons are bought for the kickbacks and the commissions that the princes get and the elites get, both on both sides in the United States and in these countries. I mean, Qatar has a population of 350,000—like, what are its armed forces going to do? How is it going to fight? Where are the pilots to fly the planes or whatever navy they have?

So this is not serious talk. I think that the Saudis, though, are more sane. And that's why the Iranians allowed the Saudis to preserve their exports to the Red Sea, because Iran wants to give them an off-ramp. But where we are now is not nearly enough. If a war is launched against Iran

today, then it will be very bad news for these regimes in the Persian Gulf. And of course, I don't name Jordan that much, but Jordan is a proxy of the Israeli regime, and it has been deeply involved in this war, and it has done whatever it could to help the Israeli regime during the 12-day war and to help the Israeli regime during the 39-day war. And in any future assault, it will do whatever it can to assist its overlords in Tel Aviv.

## **#Nima**

Israelis are talking about sending settlers to the southern part of Lebanon, and not only in Lebanon, in Syria. And they're talking about the whole West Bank being annexed to Israel. And do you see any sort of—because we have this war and many people understand the reality of what's going on. On the other hand, we have the reality of the genocide in Gaza, genocide in Lebanon as time goes by. Hezbollah is fighting back, but they cannot control the devastation and the way that Israeli fighter jets are killing civilians in Lebanon, for example. They were hitting in Dahiya in Beirut. They were killing people. This is not—you know, they don't have an air defense system. They don't know how to deal with that.

They can fight back. We know that. They can fight back well. And we've seen the footage coming out. But the reality is, how is that going to help the whole region? Because there has to be some sort of understanding in the region about what Israel is doing. It's not just about the talks between the Lebanese government and the Israeli government. The Lebanese government is not part of the war. Nobody cares about the Lebanese government and what they're talking about with the Israelis. It's about Hezbollah and Israel. Because Hezbollah is fighting back. Hezbollah is defending Lebanon. And Hezbollah, if they try to send their settlers to the southern part of Lebanon, it's going to be Hezbollah that forces them out of Lebanon.

## **#Seyed**

What is the understanding in the region?

## **#Nima**

Is there any sort of ongoing talks between the governments in the region?

## **#Seyed**

Well, first of all, I'd like to address Syria. Those people who, for years, joined the United States' dirty war in Syria, supported the overthrow of the Syrian government and the destruction of the country with the help of Turkey and Qatar and these other regimes in the Persian Gulf and Jordan and the Israeli regime as a broad coalition. Many of these so-called Syrians who are living in the West and in

the United States and Europe, and non-Syrians, but who are deeply sectarian. Let's be very blunt. They're like Salafi, Wahhabi, just deeply sectarian. Where are they now? Why aren't they calling for jihad and the overthrow and the liberation of southern Syria? Where are they? They're all gone.

This was not about freedom for Syria. This was a proxy war that was carried out, led by the Americans, paid for by these Arab dictatorships. And there is no more money. There's not going to be money funded. There was money from Qatar and others to help overthrow the Syrian government. But there's not going to be money to liberate Syria from Israel. And since there's no money, these people who were on the payroll all these years, they're not going to say anything about it because they were never sincere. They were never sincere. They helped Israel. They were, wittingly or otherwise, assisting the empire. And they can pretend all they want, how Iran was evil, Hezbollah was evil. They know what they did.

They helped Israel. In their blind sectarianism and their blind hatred and their foolishness and in their ignorance and in their utter stupidity, they destroyed a defensive line against Zionism. That's all they did. And if they were sincere, you would see them mobilizing people in Syria as we speak. Israel, the Israeli regime, is fighting along the Lebanese border, and Hezbollah is doing so much damage. Syria is much bigger than Lebanon. It has a much larger population. They can't do what Hezbollah is doing. If they did it on their own territory, if they started fighting back against the Israeli regime right now on the Syrian side of the border, would the Israelis be able to manage all these fronts simultaneously?

Of course not. But they won't do it, because they're proxies. Because the regime is a proxy regime. Al-Qaeda and ISIS were always proxies of the West, and these people who supported them, now they look away and they walk away, and all they can do is attack the resistance because they know that the resistance is the true force of good and for liberation, and that they are the ones who were the forces of empire. And so, in order to deny that reality today, they either look away, they walk away, and they attack the resistance. They're not sincere. Remember when there was infighting with the Druze and they had all those people mobilized across? Where is the mobilization now?

If Syria decided to defend its territory against the Israeli regime, obviously Erdogan will do nothing, but Iran will support. Iraq, the resistance in Iraq, will support. Hezbollah will support them. But we knew from 2011 that these forces would do nothing of the sort. We knew from 2011 what this was all about. And so did the others. Erdogan knew what he was doing. He was following his own personal ambitions. He wasn't doing it for the sake of Palestine. He's never done anything for the sake of Palestine. He's transporting oil from Baku to Israel as we speak. He's enabling the genocide, like Jordan or Egypt.

So Syrians, those who supported the so-called blessed revolution, where are they now? Now is the best time to liberate southern Syria. Contribute to the struggle right now and Syria can get something out of it. But if they do not attempt to strangle Hezbollah, which they are trying to do as we speak, that would be, you know, if they stop strangling Hezbollah, that would be more than

enough. Let alone, you know, asking for them to help liberate Syrian territories. So the whole Syria episode was a dirty war planned by the empire in order to help Israel today. And these people helped them. And they spent their lives and years of their lives helping Israel.

And they got their money from Qatar and Erdogan through Qatar, because Qatar funded Erdogan and others in order to do so. If they were sincere, it's time to go to southern Syria and take back their territory. So that was fake. And they can insult and attack and abuse and, you know, use all sorts of slander to distract attention away from reality. But I think everyone knows what's happening. Those whose eyes are open, they know what happened in Syria, and they know what's happening now. But with regards to Lebanon and Gaza, there will be no solution to the Strait of Hormuz until there is a solution in Gaza and in Lebanon. Iran said a ceasefire across the region.

Israel will have to leave Lebanon if there's going to be a solution in the Strait of Hormuz. In Gaza, it's more complicated because these very same regimes that helped with the dirty war in Syria, they helped impose Trump's fake ceasefire in Gaza. They helped Trump. They went to Egypt in that disgusting monkey show where Trump went, and they whitewashed his crimes. We saw them all come one by one and bow to the emperor, and Trump spoke of each of them as his personal friend. So it's going to be more difficult to get concessions with regards to Gaza because these regimes helped give away all the concessions to Netanyahu and Trump. But a ceasefire in Gaza—hopefully the Iranians will push to get a more serious ceasefire, at least.

But in Lebanon, there's no doubt that even though the Lebanese government has conspired against the people of Lebanon and southern Lebanon, and they helped Netanyahu and Trump wreck the ceasefire in Lebanon, Iran will make sure that that takes place. But again, is there talk among countries across the region? They all know what the U.S. ambassador to Tel Aviv has said. He said if Israel takes all this region, that's fine. The only countries that would be untouched would be Yemen and Iran. Turkey would be badly affected. Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, Egypt, Saudi Arabia—Iran and Yemen would be untouched. But apparently, it's only Iran and Yemen that care.

## **#Nima**

That's this range. Thank you. Exactly. You know, all those countries that are influenced by this greater Israeli sort of agenda, expanded Israel, they're going to be influenced by that, but they're not fighting back. They're not considering that as the main reason and the main difficulty and the main problem in the region. Professor Marandi, the other point is the case of Iran and Europe. Is there any sort of negotiation and talks when it comes to the Strait of Hormuz that Europeans want to make a deal with Iran or make some sort of agreement with Iran without the United States defining their way of dealing with the Strait of Hormuz? What do we know about that, negotiations between Iran and Europeans?

## **#Seyed**

I don't know the details. I've heard some vague news a couple of days ago, I think, that the Europeans gave some sort of proposal to Oman. Is that what you're alluding to? Yeah. I don't know the details. I don't think the Europeans have seen the light yet. But I'm just guessing—pure speculation. If the Europeans want to improve their relations with Iran, all the sanctions have to go.

## **#Nima**

All of them.

## **#Seyed**

Will they do that? Do they have the political will to do that? I don't see that happening. When the Americans blew up Nord Stream, did the Germans even say it was the Americans? Everyone tried to pretend it was the Russians who blew up their own... We all knew who did it, but everyone—the Western media, I mean, the free world, the Western media that's supposedly free—they all pointed their fingers at Russia. Like the Russians would blow up their own pipeline, like an uninsured pipeline—what would they gain from it? It was obvious that the Russians didn't do it. But the Europeans are so obedient to the United States. If the United States cuts off their heads, they'll still thank them.

They say things nowadays about having an independent foreign policy or an independent defense policy. And the French sometimes say something. But I don't see them as having that, based on what I've seen. I don't see them having the political will to do what is necessary to improve ties with Iran. And they've burnt their bridges with Iran. They betrayed Iran with the JCPOA, the nuclear deal, and they have no special status. And they are in rapid decline. It is going, you know, I... I once said—some people hate me, and some of these liberals in Iran hate me for saying it—I said that Europe is heading for a dark winter, a harsh winter, and that winter is upon them. And I think it's going to last for a very, very long time.

I remember when we were in Vienna during the negotiations and the war in Ukraine began, a lot of these European elites would come to me because I was the media advisor of the delegation, and diplomats would come and have coffee with me, and journalists, and so on. And I would say, after the war began, I said, look, you need Iran. You've destroyed your bridges with Russia. You need to deal with Iran. And I said, you know, winter for Europe is approaching, and you will not have gas or oil from Russia for years to come. And they were, all of them literally, saying, no, the war will be over in weeks, and there will be a new regime in Moscow when Putin's gone. And I was saying to them, like, like Cuba, you know, you've besieged Cuba since before I was born, and you still haven't.

And so you're going to overthrow Russia. That's how these Euros, you know, this Eurocentric and American exceptionalist arrogance destroys Europe and North America. In their arrogance, they don't see their adversaries, and they underestimate everyone. And the biggest underestimation, of course, is Iran. With Iran, they thought it would be over, and they hit a brick wall. And when you

look at it, you know, this was an unprecedented defeat for the United States. Kagan, in his article in The Atlantic, this godfather of the neocons, he said this was an unprecedented defeat. So the Europeans back then, they ignored it, they didn't take this seriously. There was a deal ultimately with Iran, as you know, there was a final text, and the Americans didn't accept it. And the Europeans didn't go with it because the Americans didn't.

Josep Borrell said the text is fine. Hopefully Biden will accept and we'll move on. Biden didn't accept, and the Europeans walked away with Biden. And now look at the European economies. So does Europe have clout with Iran? No. Is Europe's status as it was a few years ago? No. It's on the decline. It's weakening. And I don't see it willing to take the necessary steps for rapprochement, at least for now. So in my personal judgment, without knowing any details about anything that's going on between Europe and Iran—I seriously have no idea—I would say that I would not take this seriously. But it does show how desperate they are, that they want a solution. But, you know, it's like someone who wants a solution but is unwilling to do what is necessary to find the solution.

**#Nima**

Yeah. Thank you so much, Professor Marandi, for being with us today.

**#Seyed**

Great pleasure. Sorry, Nima. I apologize to you. I apologize to every single one of your viewers.

**#Nima**

No problem at all, Professor Marandi. Thank you. Thank you for having me.