

Seyed M. Marandi: Iran Promises Total Annihilation of Any US/Israeli Strike Origin

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#Nima

Hi, everybody. Today is Tuesday, May 19, 2026, and our dear friend Professor Marandi is here with us. Welcome back, Professor. Hi, Nima.

#Seyed

Thank you very much for inviting me. It's always a great pleasure.

#Nima

Yeah. What are we supposed to see with the conflict between Iran and the United States? Donald Trump has announced that he canceled the attack on Iran today, which was supposed to be today. And because Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and other GCC countries have asked him not to attack Iran, that's why he's not attacking Iran today. And what is the assessment on the part of Iranians, and what do we know about the American forces in the region?

#Seyed

Well, the Americans definitely don't make their decisions based on what the Emiratis or what the Qataris or what the Saudis ask them to do. I mean, if the Saudis and the others had blocked their airspace, that would be a different story. If all these countries said no to the United States and said you're not going to be allowed to use our airspace or our land or our sea, that would be a different story altogether. You have to leave our countries, and we want to have peaceful relations with our neighbors. That would be a different scenario. But based on some requests, that's not going to change anything in any significant way.

So just like if you recall, when they carried out the operation two, three weeks ago near the Strait of Hormuz, and then when it failed, they said the Pakistanis asked us to discontinue it because we were close to an agreement or something like that. Obviously, it had nothing to do with Pakistan, and it wasn't due to a Pakistani request that they ended a major military operation that was supposed to

open the Strait of Hormuz for ships that the Americans wanted to get through. That definitely wasn't the case. The operation failed. Now, in the case of these three countries, either they put a request to Trump, and because of that, he delays this, then that basically means that the calculations are still the same.

In other words, what was supposed to happen, let's say today, will probably happen in two, three days from now. If it wasn't based on their calculations, if it wasn't based on the requests of these three countries, like in the case of Pakistan, as I mentioned earlier, then again, it doesn't change the calculations. So based on what we see in the region, on the movements of troops and equipment in the Emirates, in Saudi Arabia, in Qatar, in Kuwait, in Bahrain, in Jordan, and in the Israeli regime, based on all of these, the Iranians believe that the chances for war are very high. The chances for a major assault against Iran are very high. And in the last two, three days, they've been on full alert for quite a while, for two, three weeks.

The last couple of days, more so than before, because they're constantly monitoring the movements. So nothing really has changed. If we believe that Trump will actually wait a couple of days—he says two or three days—and if we believe that he's honest, that he won't carry out some sudden attack today, which I don't think anyone in Iran would say is impossible or that they're not going to prepare themselves for such a scenario, then it's just that we'll have to wait. We shouldn't even wait three days. We'll say, let's put it at two days—two days after last night. After that, you can be pretty sure, based on what we're seeing now, that an assault will take place. Does that mean it will necessarily happen?

#Nima

No.

#Seyed

But the assessment now, from my understanding, is that the chances for an assault on Iran and the Iranian people are high.

#Nima

The New York Times reported that Iran has extensively reorganized and prepared for a new war, ready to fire hundreds of missiles and drones a day. And this assessment is from the New York Times. We know about them. But on the part of the Iranians, how do they see the conflict? If the war happens, it's going to be from the air—the same sort of strategy they had with the first and the second round of war?

#Seyed

Again, it depends. The Americans have capabilities in the region that they did not have before—for ground operations, meaning that they could attack islands or they can attack the mainland. And they can also carry out another operation like the one near Isfahan, which failed, because that wasn't about saving pilots or anything like that. That was an operation to extract Iran's uranium. So the Americans have capabilities in the region that they didn't have before, so they can carry out a ground assault. They've been funding terrorists inside Iran, the remnants of those who carried out the military assaults on January the 8th and 9th—the ones where the Americans keep saying 40 million people or 40,000 people were killed or whatever.

Those terrorists, their remnants, they are being prepared. But also on the border with Pakistan, ISIS, and, well, the Takfiri, the Wahhabi Salafi Takfiris that are funded by Western intelligence agencies and the Israeli regime, they are being prepared. And in Iraqi Kurdistan, they're also being prepared. Some say roughly 5,000 people, these terrorists, are being prepared. So there are multiple scenarios. So these are the capabilities that the Iranian side is preparing itself for, and they could be a part of this broader operation. But what is also the case is that the United States has certain difficulties now that it didn't have before. One, as we've discussed before on your show, is the weather.

It is becoming very hot in the Arabian Peninsula. And if there is an assault, then Iran's critical infrastructure is targeted, which is quite possible. Then when Iran retaliates, that could end those regimes. So, for example, if Iran strikes the Emirati critical infrastructure—its electricity, its water—then everyone in the Emirates will have to leave. They'll have to go to Oman. They'll have to go. The country will just collapse. And the same is true with the other five. So everyone will immediately have to—these tiny countries, except for Saudi Arabia—but they'd all have to leave. And that would really be the end of these regimes. And I think that would basically mean that a global economic depression, far worse than 1929, the 1930s, is inevitable.

#Seyed

The second point, the second disadvantage that the Americans have—so the advantages were that they brought in ground troops, they brought in capabilities, and they've been funding their terrorists, as I explained—but another disadvantage is that they don't have the sort of ammunition that they had the last time around. As you know, and as you've said before, and as your other guests have pointed out, U.S. ammunition is very low with regard to key tools or key types of ammunition that they would like to use. So a 39-day assault on the Iranian people would be impossible to carry out with this amount of ammunition. Some are critically low, some are low, but 39 days is not possible. But the Iranians do have that ability.

So, and this is what the Americans should be worried about. The Iranians are not necessarily going to stop the war when they feel that they can no longer continue. The Iranians are going to stop the war whenever they feel that the other side has been adequately punished. So Iran's missile and drone capabilities and other capabilities are much greater than the capabilities of the Americans

because Iran has been producing these weapons for decades. And the Iranian military industry is different from that of the United States, where they're just making money—where the companies, you know, they take billions and they produce nothing, or they produce very expensive equipment with very little ammunition.

The Iranians, when they build missiles, they build them, you know, one after another. So they have, you know, in all these underground cities, they're full of missiles. And many of the underground cities have not been used yet. So Iran has no shortage of firepower. And as I just explained earlier in a couple of previous shows that you've invited me to, the Iranians, at the beginning of the war, were using a lot of their older drones and older missiles. But what they're producing now are newer drones and newer missiles. Remember, a number of things have happened since, and the New York Times article should remind us of what happened after the 12-day war. After the 12-day war, Iran redesigned everything, so a lot of its buildings were emptied.

A lot of its high-tech equipment was removed from the places where they used to be in order to preserve them in case of attack. And a lot of Iranian facilities were taken underground. So a lot of expensive Iranian equipment is hidden here and there in places where they can't be bombed. And a lot of those that are necessary for war are in factories underground to produce goods. So the Iranians can easily outlast the Americans. There's no logic in this, as we were discussing before the show. U.S. policy towards Iran is not logical. The siege, yes, it's going to hurt Iranians. It hurts Iranians as we speak. But the Iranians will outlast the Americans.

And the global economy is going to go down. Militarily, yes, the United States and the Israeli regime, when they strike the Iranian people with the help of our neighbors, they hurt us. But we will still outlast them. But still, the belief is that the United States is not taking a rational approach. And just as they haven't so far, we're approaching three months now. And if the 39 days of war were a success, then why did Trump begin with unconditional surrender and then ultimately, by day 39, accept the Iranian 10-point plan as the framework for negotiations? If the siege was working well, then why did they try to open the Strait of Hormuz with an operation two, three weeks ago?

If the siege is still going well, then why is Trump planning another assault on Iran? Again, the assault is not, based on my understanding and the assessment of people who I consider to be reasonable and rational and who I've learned from, both your guests and other friends. Based on my understanding, this is going to be another failure for the United States. But the difference is that now the global economy is in a very precarious situation and much more vulnerable than before. And a continuation of the current policy by Trump, I think, will destroy him, his presidency, his party, and U.S. hegemony.

#Nima

Is there any way for Saudi Arabia and Qatar to stay out of the war if it starts again?

#Seyed

Well, if they stay out of the war, that would mean that the Americans would not be able to use their airspace, their territory, their—nothing. They'd have to leave. There'd have to be no troops on their territory. That's not what we see at the moment. So there's an enormous American presence. Some assets of the United States have been taken further away for protection, but they have lots of assets in the region. But yes, I mean, if these five countries were to tell the Americans that you cannot wage war against Iran using our territory, using our capabilities, then war would not be possible because, logistically speaking, it would be very difficult for the Americans to carry out even limited strikes.

So yes, it would make a big difference, but I don't think that's happening. My understanding, and I may be wrong, but my understanding is not that the Saudis or the Emiratis or the Qataris have said, "You cannot use our territory." They pressed Trump to delay it to see if a solution can be found. That's not a very big deal. That's not going to change the situation. It makes it a bit more difficult for the United States. True, because we have three more days of shortages across the world, three more days closer toward the hot weather, three more days of U.S. soldiers in very uncomfortable conditions, in a very uncomfortable situation, three more days of extra expenses for the U.S. military.

And some believe that the U.S. military has spent well over—well over—I mean, some calculations here that are being made in Iran are that the United States has spent well over \$200 billion, not 25 billion or not 50. Just today, actually, someone was showing me a calculation on, you know, and this has nothing to do with the price of oil and all that, but based on their own calculations, the price of this war is much higher. But in any case, each day makes it more difficult, but it's not going to make a big difference. It's something that Trump can do. He can say, look, I'm taking this extra step for the sake of peace. And then later on, he can, you know, carry out his assault. So the calculations in Tehran have not changed.

#Nima

We know that Donald Trump, the reason he's talking about the war, is that they want to force Iran into a new position or accept the terms of Washington. And how is that possible with the mindset you see in Tehran? We know what's going on. Many people don't know what's going on in Iran. They want to know what the position of the government is if the escalation happens, if new attacks happen—not on the part of the United States, but the Israelis altogether coming back to the war. Is that going to change or force Iran into a new position?

#Seyed

No. And even if the Americans succeed in murdering senior Iranian leaders again—which, of course, you know, just talking about this is strange—the fact that this has become the new norm, where the Zionist regime and the Trump regime can just murder people, they can invade, they can threaten to

take over Cuba, they can take Venezuela hostage. It's just amazing where they've taken the world in just a year and a half. The United States has always been very sinister, the regime. But we now live in a completely lawless world. But even if the United States succeeded and the Zionist regime succeeded in, let's say, taking out or murdering our leaders, a series of leaders are marching again, it's not going to change anything.

The next, let's say, layers of leaders are going to be the same. They just don't comprehend Iran. And right now, during these three months, new leaders have come. They are now acquainted. Now they have their own deputies. Their deputies are like-minded people. So what? So are they going to kill another? Nothing is going to happen. All they're going to do is dig themselves deeper into this hole that they've already made for themselves. Nothing is going to change in Iran. In fact, all that they've done during this period is show how credible the Iranian leaders are. Because during this war in Nima Alkhorshid, no one resigned. No one left his or her position. Everyone, whether military or civilian, stood their ground.

No one went with their families and hid somewhere in the north of Iran, in the forest, in Sambilah, and so on. Everyone was at work. Everyone, you know, and those who were martyred were immediately replaced. The next person in line took charge, and then their deputies moved up. And so for decades, the Americans have been trying, you know, through their Persian media, to convince Iranians that the state, the so-called regime, is separate from the people. But disproportionately, we've seen commanders and people of influence being martyred, and then immediately replaced by others who were then martyred too. And so people are seeing that these people are paying a heavy price, yet they remain steadfast.

What the Americans have unwittingly done, and the Israeli regime as well, is that they've strengthened the credibility and legitimacy of the Islamic Republic in the eyes of its people and across the world. Because, you know, people outside of Iran are looking and saying, what is this country, who are these people, that they're able to stand up against a superpower in this way, give these martyrs, yet still remain steadfast? So, you know, obviously it causes damage to society when elites are murdered, when scientists are murdered, when commanders or military commanders are martyred. But at the same time, it has created a certain bond within Iranian society that will make it much stronger in the months and years ahead. Does that mean that the Americans will not be able to, I don't know, carry out terror attacks in Iran? Of course they will. Does that mean that in the coming weeks or months they may not be able to carry out riots here or there? Of course they'll try, and they will do that, as they've done in the past. And every time there's some riot somewhere because of some shortage that, you know, they've instigated, or terror attacks, they'll say that the regime is about to fall.

These are the, you know, "it's finally collapsing." But it won't. The opposite has in fact happened. Iran will be much stronger today, and it will persevere during this period of crisis, come what may. So in my opinion, all their calculations were wrong. As I was saying to you before the show, everything that the Americans have done has damaged the United States and the Israeli regime.

And the Israeli regime has sacrificed the United States for its own selfish interests. But the Israeli regime is working against its own interests. So some of the things that they do may be logical, but when you put them all together, this entire policy has been illogical. It may be logical, for example, to take out a commander, but the way in which all of this has been put together has only enhanced the strength of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

It has made the armed forces more credible. It has made those who lead the country more credible in the eyes of the people. And so if they continue with this, all they do is further these bonds. But they will continue to miscalculate. So a particular action may sound logical at one level, but when you look at the bigger picture, everything they've done has only served to empower Iran, the Islamic Republic, the axis of resistance, and it has made people across the world, let alone many young people in Iran who had no interest in any of this before—students of mine who were completely indifferent to everything political—they've changed. So everything that the United States is doing, and the reason why this is not to the benefit of the Israeli regime either, is because Iran's influence is growing.

And then Israeli allies, all those regimes that are allied to the Israeli regime, they're being undermined as a result of Gaza, as a result of these wars. So if they think that the status quo in the Arabian Peninsula is going to remain the same, perhaps. But that's not predetermined. So I think that this is based on the selfishness of Netanyahu for his own selfish gains. And what I was saying the other time that I was on the show turned out to be correct. I said that Netanyahu revealed his trip to the Emirates for his own selfish gains. Now we're hearing that the opposition leader was supposed to go, you know, whether that's correct or not. I'm not saying it's correct, but it's not as if Netanyahu is working for the Israeli regime. It's not as if these people are working for the interests of the Zionist project.

He is working for himself, and I think that all these policies during the last two and a half years in Gaza and Lebanon and elsewhere, even in Syria—what they did in Syria—I said this after Syria fell, what they did in Syria was they exposed, in the long run, for those who are fair-minded and those who are really seeking truth, they've exposed that Iran and Hezbollah, the resistance, were right all along about the nature of the so-called Syrian revolution. So I don't think that anything that Netanyahu has done in the past two and a half years has been to the benefit of the Israeli regime in the broader sense. And I think all of this is horrible for the United States. And Iran has the upper hand. And we'll have to wait and see what the next round of war brings to the world.

#Nima

There are some rumors about the new proposal, the Iranian proposal, the 14-point plan. It was updated. It seems that in the latest version, some reports say that Iran has finally mentioned the Iranian nuclear program, but it said that they're not pursuing nuclear bombs. That was mentioned in

the new proposal. The other one says that Iran has agreed to send enriched uranium to Russia instead. What is that? Is that all just rumors and some sort of allegations with no basis, or do we have something about that being discussed in Iran?

#Seyed

Yeah, this is all speculation. The Iranian position has not evolved. There may be, uh, changes in tactics, uh, tactical changes, or, uh, a changing of wording or prioritizing some things over another. But nothing has changed in the Iranian position. And why should it? Are the Iranians demanding the territory of neighboring countries? Are the Iranians demanding the United States give up its nuclear weapons? Iran is not demanding anything unreasonable. Iran is demanding reparations for all the kids that the Americans have murdered, that the Israelis have murdered, all the civilians that they've murdered, all the civilian infrastructure that they've destroyed. What is strange about that? It's a war of aggression. It's an illegal war of aggression. The Strait of Hormuz, these are not international waters.

It's a tiny waterway that belongs to Iran and Oman. And Iran is saying from now on, it's not going to be like before. You brought this upon yourselves. The Americans, Netanyahu, and Trump brought this upon the United States and the Israeli regime. Does Iran want the Strait of Hormuz closed? No, it's not Iran that's closed the Strait of Hormuz. It's the Americans. It's the United States on behalf of the Israeli regime that has done this. Iran wants the Strait open. We had a ceasefire agreement, and in that ceasefire agreement, we were supposed to have a ceasefire in Lebanon and Gaza and across the board. And then we were supposed to allow the ships, ships that were linked to those countries that helped the United States in the war, to get to use the Strait of Hormuz. Otherwise, ships are passing.

#Nima

It seems that we've lost Professor Marandi. Let me just check. You're back. You're back.

#Seyed

So in fact, okay, sorry. So the Iranians do not want the Strait of Hormuz closed, but the Iranians, they, you know, ships—Russian ships, Chinese ships, Iraqi ships, ships from Oman, Iran, others go through—Indian and Pakistani ships. But the limitations are for those regimes that have been at war with Iran. And in the ceasefire agreement, Iran was going to allow many of those ships to go through. But the Americans and Netanyahu and Trump violated the ceasefire. They imposed a siege on the Strait of Hormuz. And Netanyahu continued with the slaughter in Lebanon. So they violated the ceasefire agreement that Trump agreed to. It wasn't Iran.

#Nima

So Iran's control over the Strait of Hormuz is nothing extraordinary.

#Seyed

Iran doesn't want U.S. forces to be able to rebuild bases in the Persian Gulf. For obvious reasons—they've killed so many kids. So nothing in the 10-point Iranian plan is extraordinary; it's all normal. But for the empire, for any country to say we want our rights as a sovereign country, that's abnormal for the empire. For Iran to say, you know, you have to respect our sovereignty—they said, no, we don't, we're not going to respect your sovereignty. We have rights as a country to have a peaceful nuclear program. They said, no, no, you don't have any rights. You must give assurances that you'll never attack us again. No, no, no, we won't give you such assurances. That's the mentality of the empire, and that's why we're not seeing any real progress.

#Nima

There are disagreements between Saudi Arabia and the UAE. That's why we had the UAE criticizing Saudi Arabia and Qatar. But when it comes to that concept of a non-aggression pact, how do you see the role of Pakistan in that? Pakistan has some sort of military agreement with Saudi Arabia. Is that of concern for Iran, or is that something that Iran has totally—Iran knows about each and every aspect of that cooperation with Saudi Arabia? That was because we know how close the government in Pakistan is to the Iranians. I think it's obvious right now, the cooperation between the two governments. How do they see the situation with Saudi Arabia, and how can they facilitate or help the situation with this new pact we're talking about? Saudi Arabia is talking about it together with Qatar, and they need it because of the Strait of Hormuz as time goes by.

#Seyed

No, it's not going to make any difference, Seyed. Iran's relationship with Pakistan is very good. The Pakistani population is with Iran. The polls show that in Pakistan, Iran's popularity is through the roof. And that's during the time when Iran was bombing U.S. targets and targets affiliated with the United States or to the subordinates of the United States across the Persian Gulf region. People know what's going on. And Iran did not start the war. Iran did not initiate any escalation. As we speak, Iran right now can carry out assaults, major assaults, but it doesn't do so because it doesn't want to initiate war. For Iran, it's in a moral position.

Contrary to in the West, Iran has moral values. That's why Iran is opposed to the genocide in Gaza. That's why it's opposed to the ongoing Holocaust, and that's why the West supports the ongoing Holocaust—because they don't have moral values, the Western elites, the regimes. And the Iranians do have moral values. So Iran is not going to initiate any war against any of its neighbors. But if the United States attacks Iran, you know, those countries that host U.S. bases, those countries that facilitate U.S. strikes, they are part of that war, just like during the 39 days. There's no escape. And there's nothing—I mean, the Americans couldn't defeat Iran. No one else can defeat Iran.

#Nima

General Keith Kellogg said that the only solution for the United States is to occupy Kharg Island and the islands close to Kharg Island. And what are the capabilities of Iran with Kharg Island and the air defense system? We've learned that Iran has improved its air defense system, but do they have air defense systems on these islands and the territory close to this island?

#Seyed

Nima, the Iranians want the United States to take some of these territories. They want them to come in. That's where the war starts. They're not going to keep them out. They want their forces to come onto Iranian territory. And then those capabilities that Iran has hidden for decades and has been preparing for decades against the Americans, they'll begin using them. They'll begin striking the American troops. They'll begin to hammer them with counterstrikes, whether it's on islands or whether it's on the mainland. They'll make them miserable. Ultimately, the Americans are going to have to leave. We discussed this at the very beginning of the war, almost at the beginning. I don't know when our first conversation after the war began was.

I said that the Americans want this to be a short war and the Iranians want this to be a long war. Remember, during the 39 days of fighting initially, the Americans said unconditional surrender. They thought it'd be over in a couple of days. Many of Iran's friends thought it would be over in a few days. The Iranians were planning this for decades. The Iranians were planning for a long war. So after a few days, when the Americans saw things were going downhill, they kept sending messages. The Iranians ignored them until Trump accepted the Iranian 10-point plan, which was a humiliation for him. And people attacked him. And then ultimately his folks went and said, no, no, no, we threw it in the bin. But he accepted it. He tweeted it.

So then came the ceasefire. The longer it lasts, Trump is bringing down the global economy. Time is not on his side. So if they carry out an assault, let them take the island — like, what difference does it make to us? There'll probably be some defenses, then they'll allow them to take territory over wherever. I don't know the military plans. But the plan is to fight them on the ground, not to prevent them from getting there. The Americans can bomb a few places, take territory, but then they have to keep that territory. In the counterattacks that can last weeks and months, the Americans will have to stay. Because if they leave, they're humiliated. So they have to stay so the Iranians can keep hitting them and hitting them and hitting them and hitting them.

So, I mean, these generals or, you know, former generals of the United States, they are, you know, they are fools. But, you know, these are political appointees. As you know, to become a general in the United States, you have to be obedient to the military-industrial complex. Why? Because after they retire, they want to get on the board of all these different companies and make their millions. They've lived as a general with their entourage and so on, and then when they retire, they have

nothing. So they want to be a part of something big so that they can keep that lifestyle. They're not like Iranian generals. Iranian generals, they're like us. They're on the front line.

It's a different world. It's a different mentality. They're the first to put their lives on the line. So, you know, it's a completely different world. So he can talk this way. Yeah, fine. That's exactly what the Iranians want. Not that the Iranians want war. No one should be mistaken. Because many people think, you know, in the West, they say the Shia Muslims have, what do they call it, something like a martyrdom complex or something silly like that. No. They're prepared for martyrdom. But why? Because for the right cause, for the right cause, if you sacrifice your life, you're a martyr. And what is the right cause? It is supporting the children of Gaza.

What is the right cause? Supporting the people of Cuba. What is the right cause? Opposing racism in Southern Africa. Those are the causes of the Iranians. That's why they hate Iran. So, if it's a cause to defend the country against an aggressor that supports ethno-supremacism and racism and ethnic cleansing and the extermination of children in Lebanon and Gaza, then it's the right cause. So the Iranians want to make this a long war to punish the aggressor and to make sure that it never happens again. Iran wants to make sure when this war is over, the United States government never, ever thinks about attacking our country again.

So we want this war to be longer in Iran so that in the future we don't have to fight another war. And these people are prepared to give their lives, to make sacrifices because this is the right cause to end aggression and to support these people. Again, it goes beyond their comprehension because in their narrative, you know, I said before, and I've said this on many shows, I've been promoting Flynt and Hillary Leverett's book, **Going to Tehran**. If people read that book or read Alastair Crooke's book, **Resistance**, even though it's a somewhat old book and things have changed, I think they get a better understanding of this movement, of the resistance, of the axis of resistance and what this all means.

Instead of believing the silly narratives of The New York Times or The Washington Post or The Guardian or The Times or France 24, they should just, you know, ignore those. And if they read these, and if they read other material—I mean, there's another good book by Peter Osborne on the nuclear program, I forgot the name—but in any case, you know, if people read, they'd see that actually the Iranians are very, very logical, very, very reasonable, and that ideologically speaking, they're very, you know, it's all coherent. It all makes sense.

But they've been taught for all these decades to see Iran as irrational, crazy, dangerous. And of course, who has been promoting this? The Abyssinian class, and their proxies in the region—the Saudis, the Emiratis, the Qataris, and their NATO allies and all that. But people are seeing through that. So in any case, the Iranians want the Americans to take islands. They want the Americans to take territory on the mainland. That's what they want. They want them to carry out these operations so that they can give them the real punishment, because that will be much more painful for them ultimately than Iran's missiles and drones.

#Nima

What would be your response to those people who are arguing that the Iran proposal is too much for Donald Trump to agree to? Because part of what Iran is asking for, in terms of the regime of sanctions—tremendous sanctions for such a long time on Iran—is not in the hands of the Trump administration alone. They have to cooperate with Congress, with all components of power in the United States, pertaining to those sanctions and all of that. What is your response to that, if Donald Trump himself and his administration would not be able to provide that or to do that for Iran in the negotiations?

#Seyed

Well, I think it's pretty clear that it just shows that Iran doesn't need the United States. If they don't want a peace agreement with Iran and they say they can't do it, then we move on. We're not going anywhere. Let them fight the war. We're prepared. They want to attack tonight, we're prepared. They want to attack tomorrow night, we're prepared. We're not afraid. Our cause is just. Where no one took a stand, Iran took a stand for Palestine, for, you know, for Gaza. Our cause is just. We're protecting our sovereignty. We never initiated a war. This is the second war that the United States has launched against us in less than a year. If they can't deliver, then why should— you know, that's not our problem.

They want us to give up our sovereignty and say we won't have a peaceful nuclear program because they say so. And then we can't demand that these unjust sanctions against ordinary Iranians be removed because they don't have the political capital to do it. That's not our problem. That's their problem. Again, Iran is not an ordinary country, and the United States has to come to terms with that. It can't come to terms with it. And that logic, that logic that you use, indicates that we're not going to appease Trump. If there's going to be peace, then there has to be peace. That means all of our assets have to be released. That means the sanctions that target women and children—and that's what they do.

Obama, Biden, Trump, Bush — all of them targeted ordinary Iranians. It's been normalized in the West because, for them, human life doesn't matter. You see all these Western journalists in Beirut. As we speak, the Israelis target medics in Lebanon. They find them. They hunt them. They hunt them down to kill them. You would think that this would be the number one news story in the world. You don't even hear about it. Why? Because it's normal for them. Genocide, slaughter, death, sanctions, strangling Cuba, strangling Cuban children, preventing them from having a normal life — it's all normal. We're not going to accept that. And so, if they can't deliver, then we won't have a peace agreement.

#Nima

You mentioned the situation in Lebanon. We know that Israel is attacking Lebanon in various parts. Today we've learned from Smotrich—he's talking about if the government in Lebanon doesn't disarm Hezbollah, they're going to capture all the southern part of Lebanon. And I don't know how militarily Israel can do that, but at least they're talking about it and nobody's objecting. I'm talking about the government in Lebanon.

#Seyed

Well, the government in Lebanon is not a government. It's a puppet regime of the United States. But I have no doubt that under no circumstances will we have a ceasefire agreement—forget the peace agreement—without Lebanon included. We are already seeing that. So, lifting the siege on Iranian ports comes along with ending the war in Lebanon and the slaughter in Gaza. It comes with that, and it will not be separated. Second, every single building in Lebanon will be rebuilt.

And those who assisted the enemy will pay. We'll see. Every single building will be rebuilt. So Israel will be expelled from Lebanon. And all those towns and villages that were flattened, they're going to be built better than before. And then the Israeli regime will have to wonder what this was all about. The only thing that will remain for them is that the world despises them, and they're going to have increasing internal problems because of their failure. But Iran, under no circumstances, will separate these files from one another. It's not happening.

#Nima

Do you expect Yemen to help Iran if the war starts again? Or does Iran not need Yemen to be involved this time because they can handle it? My understanding is that this time, things are going to be very different.

#Seyed

And Yemen is very prepared. The resistance in Iraq is going to be very different. This will be the decisive war. So the Americans will probably do everything they can, and the resistance will show them what they can do.

#Nima

What do we know, Professor Marandi, about those internet cables that pass through the Suez or Hormuz? Because there are some reports that Iran is going to consider some sort of mechanism for those cables. But is that the case? Is there any sort of discussion in Iran?

#Seyed

Yes, there are these discussions, and everything is possible. Look, Nima, when they murder leaders and they slaughter kids and they bomb hospitals and they target medics and they bomb universities, they cannot complain about law and international law anymore. That's finished. So Iran will do what it deems to be in its interest, in the interest of the resistance, in the interest of the Palestinians and the Lebanese and Iran's allies and the Iranian people. So when they tear down international law, when they rip it up, they should have been thinking about it back then. So Iran will do whatever it deems necessary, whether it's with regards to internet cables, whether it's with regards to ships. It's up to the Americans, the Europeans — they cannot.

The problem that they have in the West, these Western elites, is that they want international law for themselves, but not for us. I remember speaking to this BBC journalist. She was reporting during the war, and when the Iranians first announced that they're going to control the Strait of Hormuz, she said, this is against international law. And I said, you do know that war is being waged against Iran as we speak. First of all, it's not against international law, but what is international law exactly? You just murdered our leader. You just murdered all these kids, your alliance. So she was really angry, insisting, why is Iran doing this? This is wrong.

#Nima

What?

#Seyed

It's okay for you to kidnap presidents. It's okay for you to bomb fishermen or boats and kill hundreds of people in the Caribbean. It's okay for you to strangle 10 million people in Cuba. It's okay for you to destroy Syria with ISIS and Al-Qaeda and the monstrous Caesar sanctions. It's okay for you to destroy Libya. And the list goes on. It's a never-ending list. Look at Afghanistan after all the decades of dirty war there and occupations. It's a country, a broken country. The Americans, they were there for 20 years. They didn't do anything for the country. All they did was basically increase the production of drugs 20, 30-fold. And of course, the Emirates was the means through which the drug money went back and forth. But in any case, yes, those cables, like everything else, if necessary, the Iranians will deal with them in whatever way they think is necessary in order to bring an end to aggression.

#Nima

Before wrapping up, what has happened to those old facilities that were supposed to be destroyed by the blockade of the United States?

#Seyed

At night, I try to go to the rooftop and listen to see if maybe I can hear the explosions. You know, Nima, our oil and gas industry has been under sanctions for decades. Sometimes we wouldn't be able to export. Sometimes we would. Sometimes we'd have limited exports. Sometimes we'd have large amounts of... We know how to deal. We're sophisticated people. We're an educated people. You've been educated in Iran. You're a professor now in Brazil. You know what I'm speaking about. Iran is a highly educated society. We know how to make missiles. We know how to make drones.

We know how to make military capabilities to defeat U.S. ground forces. And we know how to take oil out of the ground, and we know how to keep it in the ground. So I don't think the Americans should be too worried about our oil and gas assets, but they should be worried about their oil and gas assets on the other side of the Persian Gulf. Because those countries do not have such experience, and they're much more vulnerable. We don't want them to be damaged or destroyed, but if the Americans take the wrong actions, then retaliation will be inevitable.

#Nima

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

#Seyed

It's always a great pleasure, Nima. Thank you very much for having me.