

Nima R. Alkhorshid: Iran-US Nail Down Deal? as Russia SLAMS Kiev with Oreshnik Missile

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#Nima

Hi, everybody. Today's Sunday, May 24th, 2026, and I'm here to talk about what's going on between Iran and the United States. We had some sort of negotiations. As you know, yesterday and the day before, the Pakistani government tried to do everything to negotiate, to send their messages from the United States to Iran, and from Iran to the United States. We had a delegation going to Iran, talking with Iranian officials. We don't know exactly what the framework is that was somehow agreed between Iran and the United States. There are various reports coming out. One of them is Axios — what Axios reported just hours ago — and I want to go through all of these points that Axios mentioned in this report.

And they say it's gonna be a 60-day ceasefire extension between both sides. So this is nothing new. We had the ceasefire, so-called ceasefire, which wasn't a ceasefire. And the second point is about the Strait of Hormuz. And it says that the reopening of the Strait of Hormuz with no tolls — is it possible for Iran to accept that? There are various talks, discussions, everything in Iran. They're talking about what would be the future of the Strait of Hormuz. Yesterday, you know, the spokesperson of the Iranian foreign ministry, Baghaei — his name is Baghaei — said that the Strait of Hormuz is a regional issue.

It doesn't matter what the United States is thinking of or is trying to do, because it's all about Iran and Oman deciding about the Strait of Hormuz. And I would say there is no way for Iran to negotiate on the Strait of Hormuz, because they're talking about international law and all of this sort of thing. This is something related to international law, and each and every country should decide about it. But it's not — it's a regional issue in the mind of Iran, and they think this way. And even in the parliament, they were discussing this. And I would say after coordinating with the Omani government, they're going to pass it through the parliament, and the Guardian Council would accept it, and it's going to be a law.

There is no way for the United States to change the reality of the Strait of Hormuz. And this is the outcome. If I were to mention the single outcome of this war so far, it's going to be the Strait of Hormuz. There is no way for Iran to change its position, its policy on the Strait of Hormuz. They may somehow decide which country should pay more, which country should pay less, but they're going to have a mechanism, a system, to charge all those countries who paid, who facilitated, who let the United States use their bases in their countries. I'm talking about Europeans as well. It's not just about GCC countries. They have to pay for what has happened so far with the war against Iran. And nobody can change that.

The Iranian Supreme Leader mentioned that. No one, if the Supreme Leader of Iran says that, I don't see anybody going against that policy. It's not going to be the government. It's not going to be anybody in the parliament. So everybody should follow that because it's a strategy for the country. It's not something, a policy, a tactic. No, it's a strategy. So everybody should follow that. That's not going to change. And when it comes to the Iranian nuclear program, it doesn't seem that there is much about the Iranian nuclear program. You remember what it was before this document came out in Axis. It was a three-step sort of plan proposal on the part of the Iranians. The first part was to end the war on all fronts.

And in that process, they basically were talking about the situation between Israel and Lebanon. Today, in this new document, Axis mentions the last point. It says the end of the Israel-Hezbollah war under the framework of the agreement, but Israel preserves freedom of action. What is that, freedom of action? It means that Israel can hit whenever it decides to hit — in Lebanon, in Beirut, in the central part of Lebanon, in the eastern, western, southern — basically, they're hitting each and every day the southern part of Lebanon. Just today, they announced a list of 10 cities and villages that everybody should evacuate, those villages, those regions. But they were bombing these cities and villages before. And right now, they announced a list of those cities.

Everybody knows they were hit before. So it doesn't matter if they want to make it official or they mention these cities should be evacuated. That doesn't change the reality between Israel and Lebanon. I don't see Donald Trump being able to change the Israeli mindset in the region. Maybe in the case of Iran, they can do something because Iran is different. And Israel is not going to be able to go against Iran without the United States. That's the reality. But in the case of Lebanon, they're going to continue attacking Lebanon, destroying cities, villages, killing civilians. This is the manner. That's why they mentioned they have to have the freedom of action. The freedom of action means that there is no ceasefire. That's it.

You cannot call something, you know, we had the same thing. You remember in 2024, there was a ceasefire between Israel and Lebanon. And nobody in Israel cares about those things. This is official, something on paper, but in reality, practically, they're doing something else. They were hitting Gaza. There is a ceasefire, but they're hitting Gaza, the West Bank, everywhere. There is no war between Israel and Syria, but they're attacking Syria. They're bombing Syria. This is Israel. This is the reality.

The new norm in the Middle East by Israel, supported by the Trump administration, and before the Trump administration was the Biden administration, and nobody — we have to remember — there is no difference between Democrats and Republicans when it comes to the Middle East.

Antony Blinken is the same as Marco Rubio. I would say even worse. Antony Blinken was worse because he went to Israel and said—he didn't say, "I am the Secretary of State of the United States." He said, "I am a Jew here. I'm here to help you to destroy everything, to bring the leverage to Israel." So this is the reality. It doesn't matter who's going to be the president of the United States today, tomorrow, or the day after tomorrow. They're going to have the same idea, the same policy—to let Israel, provide Israel with bombs, cruise missiles, ammunition, everything to destroy the vicinity, to destroy these countries. Because Israel, the agenda is the Greater Israel. Israel wants to expand.

Israel wants to be greater. The Greater Israel is defined by capturing the land of other countries. It's about the southern part of Lebanon. It's about the southern part of Syria. It's about the entire Gaza Strip. It's going to be the West Bank. There is no West Bank. Look at the map. You see, nobody would argue that there is a West Bank or PLO or Mahmoud Abbas, Abu Mazen. Who are these people? They have their real houses. They're living there. They don't care about the vicinity. They don't care about their people. This is the reality that Israel wants. And Israel doesn't have any sort of problem to absorb these people in Greater Israel and let them live as second-class citizens in Israel. Because this is the reality.

Of today's Israel. So, this is what's going on, in my opinion, with Lebanon. And the problem of Israel is that Lebanon is not going to be like Syria today. Syria can bend because they have... we have... it's just unbelievable what's going on in Syria. Al-Jolani is receiving perfumes from Donald Trump and posting an X that he has received those perfumes—beautiful. The guy was a head chopper, and right now it seems that he's in a relationship with Donald Trump, receiving perfumes. This is unbelievable. Just imagine, just imagine what was Syria before this sort of chaos with the Assad government, and those people who were chanting outside of Syria, those Syrian people, "Let's go, let's liberate Syria."

Where is Syria today? This is the reality that Israel is seeking. Israel doesn't want—Israel is not happy with al-Jolani. Israel loves the chaos among these people in that region. They want chaos. They made it in Syria. That's why they can go little by little, go to Damascus. But the case of Lebanon is different. And Hezbollah is not going to get weaker. Hezbollah is going to get stronger. Hezbollah is part of the acts of resistance. Syria—I would say Syria—sooner or later, we're going to see some sort of uprising in Syria. And the government is so fragile. Turkey is not doing—you know, the government in Turkey is not doing its job for the Syrian people.

They were bragging about what's going on with the new government in Syria, how everything's going to get better. But you have, right now in Syria, the United States, Israel, and Turkey. These are players in Syria, and they're confronted somehow. In some ways, they're confronting each other.

So nobody wants this sort of chaos coming to Lebanon. Nobody wants that. So this is the reason that Iran is not going to give up on Lebanon, on Hezbollah. Hezbollah is part of the resistance. Hezbollah is the heart of the resistance. Many people should understand, and many people understand, in Iran, there is no difference between right, left, reformists, conservatives, supreme leader—they're all united in supporting Hezbollah and the future of Lebanon.

They won't let the same chaos happen in the southern part of Lebanon. This is putting Lebanon aside. I think Hezbollah has proven they have shown how they're able to defend themselves. And as time goes by, I would say sooner or later, the United States has to leave the region. There is no place for the United States with the blockade that they have in the Persian Gulf. They're going to withdraw. And right now they're talking about 60 days of ceasefire. It's not because somehow Donald Trump is under tremendous pressure domestically and internationally. He has started a war in the Middle East that has weakened its allies. The United States has weakened its allies in the Middle East.

The way that they did in Europe, they started the war in Ukraine to weaken Russia. Today, as Politico reported, look at the economic growth of these three important countries in Europe—France, Germany, and the United Kingdom. They're all less than 0.5, 0.6, something like that, 0.7% of growth. This is the reality of what's going on in Europe after four years of war. And we learned yesterday what has happened. I'll come later on to what has happened last night between Ukraine and Russia, because I think that was huge. What's going on between Russia and Ukraine is huge. We have to consider that to understand the big picture. But before going there and focusing on what's going on between Iran and the United States, the total system is going to remain.

It's going to be coordinated between Iran and Oman. They're going to decide about it. I don't know the share—how much of that is going to go to the Omani government, going to Omani banks, and how much of that is going to go to Iranian banks—but they have defined, they're in the process of defining that. They have received, you know, these tools so far. All of those tankers that passed through the Strait of Hormuz, they paid, they signed the documents before passing through the Strait of Hormuz. So this is the reality. Nobody's going to change that. I don't know how Donald Trump is going to sell it to the people in the United States. Yesterday we saw how Lindsey Graham was crying out, saying that this is the total defeat of Israel. Yeah, this is the total defeat of Israel. Who did that?

It was Israel. It was you, Lindsey. You did that. You were advocating for this war. Nobody wanted this war. Iran was negotiating with you. But you and people like you, those Zionists who are serving Israel, not the United States, you thought that you were going to have a regime change in Iran. You had meetings with those people, opposition in the United States, about what would be the future for Iran. So we're going to have a new government. We're going to have a new policy. We're going to reshape the whole Middle East. Those dreams are gone. They're not there anymore, Lindsey. That's

why Israel is losing. Israel today is nowhere close to what it was before this war started. Nowhere, nowhere close to that position. Look at how Hezbollah is hitting Iron Dome batteries each and every day.

Merkava tanks, communication systems in Israel, not in the southern part of Lebanon. They're hitting those batteries in the southern part of Lebanon, but they're hitting them in Israel, you know, as they call it, occupied Palestine. They're hitting those targets. So this is Israel today. Yesterday, it was asked at the Pentagon—one of the officials at the Pentagon was asked by Mitch McConnell. He said, why are you not sending those beautiful weapons to Taiwan? More than \$15 billion of weapons to Taiwan. He said, because we are in a war against Iran, the epic fury—that's so epic. It was so epic, this fury of Donald Trump—that since they started the war against Iran, they didn't send that many weapons to Ukraine. They stopped sending weapons.

And imagine not sending—they didn't send anything to Ukraine—but they went to South Korea because of those THAAD air defense systems, those THAAD systems that they have. Because Iran hit, if I'm not mistaken, four of the THAAD air defense systems during the 40 days, 39 days of war between Iran and the United States. So they had to bring something else to the region to defend Israel. So they went to South Korea. They're naked right now. The United States—the United States weakened each and every ally they have right now in East Asia, in Europe, in the Middle East, to improve the Israeli position in the war, in those days of war. So for those people who are advocating for the continuation of the war, as General Keith Kellogg, who's so happy, who's so hawkish about each and every war—in Ukraine, let's go in and destroy Russia.

Here in the Middle East, let's go and capture the heart island. Let's bring the government to its knees. You don't know what you're talking about, because it's going to be a disaster for the United States if it decides to go underground. And Donald Trump knows that. I hope that he knows that by now, because that's why he's trying to negotiate with the Iranians. The economy is not working for him. His support is shrinking domestically. Look at what is happening in Kentucky against Thomas Massey—how the Israeli lobby in the United States went to great lengths. They did everything. They did everything to bring down Thomas Massey in the primary. It wasn't, you know, the main election. It was the primary. And the guy who beat Thomas Massey, he's still not the candidate. He was not elected yet.

And so it shows how the Israeli position is diminishing. Israeli support is shrinking in the United States. There is no way for Donald Trump to change that sentiment, these sorts of sentiments of the people in the United States, because they feel, what is the main reason for going to war with Iran in the Middle East? What was the outcome? How is Donald Trump going to be able to sell it to the people in the United States? That's going to be his problem. Nobody seems to care about that in Iran. They're not going to do anything to help Donald Trump in the United States. So they have to come out and say, we have to reopen the Strait of Hormuz without any toll. Nobody should pay tolls. It's not for the United States to decide about it. I'm repeating that. I would say it's going to be a regional issue.

It's going to be between Iran and Oman, and no one else is going to participate in that. They don't care about Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the UAE, all of these GCC countries. That's the end of it. When it comes to the Iranian frozen assets, which is one of the points in this proposal, in this sort of document that Axios put out, it seems that the United States is offering Iran not lifting the sanctions on the Iranian economy, but somehow lifting or reducing the sanctions on the Iranian energy sector. This is the same thing that happened, you know, when the war started. You remember when the war started and we had huge repercussions of war on the global economy, then the United States decided to lift the sanctions on Iranian energy, Iranian oil and gas, and Russian oil and gas, which is in place for Russia today.

And it seems that they're offering the same thing to happen by this document. And the frozen Iranian assets, this is not the assets of the United States. Just imagine how unjust and brutal the international law is under the dominance of the United States. They have put sanctions for more than 46 years on the Iranian economy. And these frozen assets outside of Iran are because of those sanctions, because the governments who are receiving Iranian energy, Iranian goods, Iranian everything, they're receiving something from Iran they cannot pay back. So they have these frozen assets in those countries like South Korea. Some of those assets from South Korea are in Qatari banks. So these are not assets of the United States to decide about. They're releasing.

They're talking about how they're going to release those assets. That's good after such a long time. Nobody is going to object to that in Iran. The government will be happy to receive those frozen assets. But that's not going to change the reality of the war. The outcome of the war, the reality, is that the United States lost the war. The United States couldn't do regime change. They couldn't do regime change in Iran. The new leadership in Iran, I would say, they know, because looking at the last 40 days, the way they started with the assassination of the Supreme Leader, the commanders, that had huge repercussions in Iran. And they thought that these commanders, these people who are close to the Supreme Leader, were going to be intimidated by these attacks, which didn't happen, by the way.

You see, look at what has happened to Ali Larijani, the head of the Iranian Security Council. He wasn't a military guy. He was not, you know, leading those brigades, you know, those missiles. No, he was negotiating. He was trying to find a political solution to what was happening between Iran and the United States. He was assassinated. Ali Shamkhani, who was, you know, one of the advisors to the Supreme Leader of Iran, who was so important. You remember in the first round of war, in the 12-day war, they tried to assassinate him. They hit his house. He survived those attacks. In the second round of war, they assassinated him. So this is the new norm in Iran. Nobody's intimidated by this sort of tantrum. I'm going to attack.

The attack is coming. And this time it's going to be different. What else can they do? You have to remember, the United States decided to announce the ceasefire because they were running out of targets in Iran. If they continued the war, they had to hit more hospitals, schools, bridges,

universities. What else? I would say some police stations in various cities — they hit the police stations. These were the targets of the United States before announcing the ceasefire. If they get back, the reality doesn't change. They have to hit again and again, killing more civilians and more people. Is it going to be helpful for the United States and its position? Is it going to intimidate Iran to change its position? There is no way.

I think many people, at least in the alternative media, many people in the United States — I don't know the mindset of the Trump administration and how they're feeling about the war. But the war didn't go the way Benjamin Netanyahu was selling to the United States before the war started. They were saying that we're going to do everything, it's going to be beautiful for Israel, for the region, for all GCC countries. That's why all of the GCC, these countries in the Persian Gulf, they participated. They helped the United States to attack Iran. And nobody would ignore that. This is the reality. Sooner or later, the United States is going to leave the region. And they're in the neighborhood. They have to decide if they want to help the enemy.

They want to get closer to Iran. They want to have a... they want to have... a better region? Are they concerned about the future of the region? Is the future of the region dependent on the militarization of the region? Which means you bring the United States and Israel in. Because Iran and the United States cannot live together. These are two different, sort of, I would say, political animals. They cannot live together. Because the United States is not the United States of America, it's the United States of Israel. This is the way that Iran sees the United States today. And nobody would ignore the way that the United States attacked Iran and killed many people in Iran. More than 3,000 people were killed — the civilians, the casualties. Nobody would ignore that.

But Iran is strategic. Iran — that's why you see, in the aftermath of the Iran-Iraq war, you see Iran is improving. Iran has improved its relationship with the Iraqi government and with the Iraqi people because they saw what happened between Iran and Iraq not as a conflict between the two nations, but as a conflict that was provoked by other players — which was basically the United States behind the scenes, forcing the Iraqi government to attack Iran. And we know what happened. You know, the government was so weak because there was a revolution happening in 1979. So the government was not that powerful, and the United States saw we had, you know, the crisis with the American hostages in Iran.

So the United States wanted to do something against Iran. The Iran-Iraq war was the outcome of that. So this war, I think the United States is not going to be able to get back and get anything else. If they try to do something, it has to be through negotiations. It has to be something by negotiation, by diplomacy. There is no way, there is no military solution for the United States. I think this is the reality that the Trump administration is somehow understanding, is getting there, is somehow perceiving. But you see Ted Cruz coming out, Lindsey Graham. The Israeli government is not happy at all with what's going on because they want the United States to stay in the region.

There is no way Israel is attacking Iran or fighting Iran without having the United States in the region. That's why they don't want that. They want to be, you know, to attack Lebanon. So if the United States is in the region and can take care of Iran, then Israel would be more, you know, concentrated, focused on Lebanon, Syria, and Gaza, the West Bank. So in my opinion, we are talking about a new sort of deal, agreement, document. I would call it a document, a little page or two pages. And it seems that the Iranian nuclear program is not in this document, and they're going to talk about it in the next 30 or 60 days.

And when it comes to the Iranian nuclear program, which, if that's the main issue for Donald Trump right now, I doubt that would be the main issue. Iran is not going to stop; the enrichment of uranium on Iranian soil is going to continue. Iran is not going to give up on that. And the second point is the enriched uranium on Iranian soil — that's 60% or more, something like 400 kilograms of enriched uranium, 60% enriched uranium. That is not going to — Donald Trump, what he was telling us in the last two or three days, he said they have to send it to the United States, and we're not going to use it, we're going to destroy it. He says, "the dust."

He doesn't mention the enrichment. They have to send the dust to the United States. But Iran is not going to do that. If they do something, it's going to be the way it was before the war started. You remember, Iran had agreed to downgrade or down-blend that 60% on Iranian soil, not outside of Iran. That's, as far as I am concerned, the main agenda right now on the part of the Iranians when it comes to the nuclear program. So no concession on the Iranian nuclear program, no outcome for that, for the Iranian nuclear program, as though, you know, Donald Trump is talking about that, he's feeling that, or he's winning something out of this war, but he's not winning anything.

This rate of removal is going to increase, going to stay in the hands of Iranians. I don't know if the United States would release the frozen assets of Iran. I doubt, I really doubt the United States would do that. But they may do that under the Trump administration. It's unpredictable. The whole administration is unpredictable. But when it comes to the sanctions, part of the sanctions, when it comes to lifting sanctions on Iranian energy to sell oil and gas, something like that, they can do something about it. But the deep roots of the sanctions are in Congress. Without Congress, the Trump administration is not going to be able to do any sort of substantial or meaningful change in the policies of sanctions against Iran.

And I don't see that happening. And it could be that it's a cover for Donald Trump. The whole negotiations, the whole what's going on, this theater that is going on, it's some sort of cover for Donald Trump to sell it to the people in the United States, to those people who are supporting him, those Zionists, and just leave the region. The blockade is so costly for the United States. Donald Trump says that we are in control, in full control of the Strait of Hormuz. Just on Friday, he said we have full control of the Strait of Hormuz with the blockade. And two minutes later, he said that we have to open up the Strait of Hormuz. So he doesn't have control.

That's why Iran is not going to lose the Strait of Hormuz. It's forever. And I would say this is the main point for Iranians right now. And how is that going to change the reality of GCC countries in the region? Because since the war started, they have been sacrificing a lot, because this was supposed to be four days or a week. But this war is taking more than that. It's been two, three, four months, and right now they're talking about another 60 days of ceasefire, and nobody knows about the blockade. And the other point that is important is that the United States said that during the negotiations, within the framework of 60 days, the forces of the United States, the army, the presence of the United States in the region, are gonna remain there in the vicinity of Iran, close to the Iranian borders.

So somehow they're gonna have to block it, something like block it. We're gonna have some sort of confrontations, maybe some sort of escalations, because that doesn't mean anything meaningful for GCC countries. Because right now it seems that the Trump administration is receiving a lot of pressure from GCC countries because they cannot sell oil, gas, fertilizers, all these things that run their economy. So they see the United States is selling everything and they're not able to, they're losing the market. And they have to do something about it. So if they decide to withdraw the blockade, it's going to be because of GCC countries and all these pressures going to the Trump administration. This is one part.

And I am not optimistic. I didn't change. I don't change my mind about the ceasefire. I think finally, no sanctions are going to be, no meaningful sanctions. They're not going to leave any sanctions on Iran. The United States' frozen assets are going to be a fraction of the frozen assets. It's going to be nothing meaningful. It's going to be just, I don't know, \$10 billion of frozen Iranian assets, something like that. Is that meaningful? No. Is that going to change the reality? No. And this is on the part of the sanctions. And I don't see that much of a change. The United States is going to, after all, if they decide, if they want to put an end to the war, Donald Trump has to decide about it. Just leave the region without achieving anything.

He's not going to achieve anything. And the Iranian nuclear program is going to be the same as it was before this war started. The negotiation is going to be of the same nature and the same sort of people, the same sort of mindset. The strategy is going to be on the table on the Iranian part, talking with the United States. That's all. And what has happened in the Middle East is that Iran understands that Europe is going to be more dependent on Iran right now because of the Strait of Hormuz. GCC countries are going to be more dependent on Iran. We have not only oil and gas, fertilizers, we have these cables, internet cables, passing through the Strait of Hormuz. Iran has a lot of leverage right now with the Strait of Hormuz.

This is the nuclear program of Iran, people. People should understand that. And I think Iran doesn't need to go after nuclear bombs. This is the understanding on the part of Iran. Iran has weapons. I don't know how much of it, but the other day I was reading Iranian Persian media. They have something bigger and more powerful, killing fewer innocent people but having the same sort of damage. They have these sorts of bombs, you know, the same bombs with the same sort of impact

or greater impact than nuclear bombs, but killing fewer civilian, innocent people. They have those sorts of bombs, something like Oreshnik, I would say. They have something like that.

They didn't use it. They used those old 15, 25-year-old ballistic missiles in this war against the United States and Israel. So they're so much more comfortable with the position they're in right now, militarily and strategically. But when it comes to the economy, the economy is under pressure. And they know this is the sacrifice that you commit for a strategic gain, for a greater strategy that you have in your mind. And the people in Iran right now understand that. You remember before the war started, we had these protests, then riots in Iran — those are gone. Those days are gone. Because the enemy right now for the Iranian people is Israel and the United States. And the friend of the Iranian people is its army. Iran has no friend, as Russia said.

I think what Russia said during the war against Ukraine was so beautiful. The only ally of Russia is its army. No one else is an ally of Russia. All these countries — we know that. This is the reality of the war. The only ally of Russia was its army. And Iran, the people in Iran are learning that through this war, this war of aggression against the Iranian people, which killed and destroyed lives and, you know, much infrastructure in Iran, many infrastructures. You know, they hit the pharmaceutical plants in Iran. Who does that? This is the enemy that doesn't like you, that hates you. Nobody would hit a primary school in Iran on the first day of war if they really — because they said, we're going to liberate the Iranian people. So I'm going to kill you, then liberate you. Yeah, you're going to be liberated by killing.

I'm killing you and at the same time liberating you. And people understand that. I think the reality of today's Iran, for those people who are advocating, you know, in the mainstream media in the West — we have multiple Iranian experts. For many years, Iranian experts in various institutions in the United States — Iran does this and that, Iran is weak, Iran is, you know, Iran doesn't have that much power, the society is collapsing from within. And these people are the same people who are today saying, no, Iran is strong, Iran is getting stronger. The same people before this war started, those Iranian experts, were saying Iran is weak domestically, society is collapsing, the economy is collapsing, IRGC — nobody likes IRGC, people hate IRGC, people in Iran hate the Iranian army, they want democracy.

They want freedom of speech, human rights, and that sort of nonsense they were selling — these liberal ideas. Puppets, in my opinion, were selling to American media. And right now they're learning something. Not about those experts outside of Iran, those Iranians in the diaspora. I would say it wasn't all Iranians in the diaspora. It was something like 10% of those people. They were somehow bought with this sort of mindset that Israel is going to change everything. It's going to be the greater — we're going to have the Shah, the king, you know, the son of the Shah going to Iran and has a new kingdom, and everything is going to be big and beautiful for us. And we're going to get back to Iran. Those days are gone. And the outcome of the war for Iran and the people of Iran, in society, is that they're more united today.

They understand how important the IRGC and the Iranian army are for Iran. Iran has no ally but its army, its IRGC. This is the reality that is happening in the minds of the Iranian people today. They understand the strategic partnership between Iran and Russia, between Iran and China. But all these countries, when it comes to foreign policy, basically see their own benefit. And that's why Russia, Iran, and China are getting together, because it's beneficial for all these nations to come together. That's why they're talking about a new security architecture for Eurasia. That's why I think the reality of the region is changing — because they have the same enemy.

The enemy is the hegemony, is the United States of America. When it comes to Ukraine, they're doing this through their proxy in Ukraine, Zelensky. When it comes to the Middle East, it's going to be a proxy called Israel. When it comes to China, it's a proxy called Taiwan. That's the reality. They're fighting the same enemy. That's why they're united. They know at the end of the day their only ally is their people. Without unity, without gathering the people together around the government, around the constitution, you cannot make deals with other countries. That's why Iran today is more united. Iran today has no fear.

Because Iran, I think they thought that the United States was going to be different in the war if they started a war against Iran. And during the process of the war, they learned that the United States was not the way they thought it would be in a war against Iran. That the United States has destroyed its big image in the minds of those Iranian people who thought that the United States was going to be a big army, that it was going to be huge, that they were going to attack us, that they were going to destroy many things. But they saw how the Iranian army and IRGC could fight back. And that's the reality. And the other point about Russia is, the same is happening, people.

Just imagine, when we talk about the agreement between Iran and the United States, you don't need to fantasize. You don't need to make dreams out of these sorts of talks and these sorts of announcements by the Trump administration. Look at what has happened in Ukraine so far. What did he do in Ukraine? Nothing. Nothing. They're doing the same thing. You remember the day, I think six, seven months ago, we were talking about how the Ukrainian army doesn't have the manpower to go against Russia. They're basically not able to fight Russia on the battlefield. They don't have the missiles. They don't have interceptors. They don't have manpower. It's not there anymore.

So what else can they do? It was suggested by The Guardian, if you remember. It was suggested by other outlets, by The Times. They said the new phase of the war, the new reality of the war between Ukraine and Russia, is going to be using drones because Ukraine doesn't have the manpower anymore. They cannot fight on the battleground. So what else can they do? They can produce more drones instead of having soldiers, drones, and sending these drones into Russia, killing people, mostly civilians. And they did that. They hit a college dormitory, and they killed innocent kids, as the United States did on the first day of the war against Iran. And Ukraine is doing the same.

They did that. And last night, finally, you know, people are not happy with what Ukraine is doing. And the government in Russia is trying to do its best politically and militarily to put an end to the war in Ukraine. That's not possible with the Trump administration. The Trump administration is not capable of negotiating anything because they're not negotiators. They're not diplomats. Who's a diplomat in this administration? Just mention one. Who's a diplomat? Just imagine you have someone like Medvedev in Russia. The guy is a giant sort of negotiator, a diplomat, to talk, to negotiate. And you have to send Kirill Dmitriev to negotiate with the United States, who is a billionaire. This is not diplomacy.

This is not negotiation. The guy doesn't know how to negotiate. They sent Steve Witkoff together with Jared Kushner to talk with the Iranian diplomat on the nuclear program of Iran before the war started, in the first and second rounds of the war, before they were negotiating. None of them, Steve Witkoff or Jared Kushner, know anything about the nuclear talks, the nuclear program, no technical understanding. They don't know the basics of negotiations. So how can you achieve anything negotiating with these people? That's why Russia came to, you know, last night finally we've seen that someone like Vladimir Putin, who is so cautious, I would say, I have never seen a leader so patient as Vladimir Putin.

The guy is so patient. He's so patient. And last night, finally, we've seen he's using, you know, Russia using or rationing missiles to hit targets in Kyiv. It seems that they hit two military industrial complexes or some regions that were producing weapons. And they hit some symbolic places in Ukraine, in Kyiv, but their main targets were those that are related to the production of drones, I don't know, some sort of missiles, weapons for the Ukrainian army. And again, in their response, they're not going to hit civilians. They're not going to kill people because they know they're fighting the Ukrainian government. They're fighting the Ukrainian army. They're not fighting.

They're not willing to kill Ukrainian people, civilian people in Ukraine. And this is the reality. And do you think that's going to change? I've mentioned that before. They were asked—Mitch McConnell was asking the Pentagon, why are we not sending weapons to Taiwan? He said, because we are involved in a war in the Middle East against Iran. We don't have it. We have to produce those. You cannot send the money. Money doesn't make \$15 billion of budget for Taiwan. Is that going to be transformed into weapons overnight? No. They have to produce those arms. They have lost, at least from what we've heard, more than 50% of their THAAD interceptors were used during the war between Iran and Israel, Israel slash United States.

So how long does it take for them to produce these weapons? How long does it take to send them to Taiwan? China is not in a rush right now when it comes to Taiwan. China saw what has happened in Ukraine, what is happening in Ukraine. China saw what has happened in the Middle East. So they know that the United States is not the way many people thought it is against Taiwan. And the only point that they're mentioning right now is that China doesn't know how to fight. For such a long time, they didn't, you know, they've been in no war for such a long time. They don't know how to fight. They don't know how to use their weapons.

But people, believe me, the reality of war has changed. In Ukraine, we've seen that. We are witnessing, as we talk today, the reality of war. Just imagine what has happened between Iran and the United States. It was all about drones and missiles. There were no troops on the ground fighting each other. So in those things, I think China is gigantic. China has a lot of leverage. They can defeat the United States easily when it comes to Taiwan. Taiwan is an island, and the United States cannot do much about Taiwan. Just a blockade, some sort of embargo on Taiwan would end the island. Their economy would be devastated by any move on the part of the Chinese government.

And the United States cannot do anything. Look at what the United States did for GCC countries. Nothing. That's going to be the same. Nobody would believe that's going to be different if tomorrow something happens to South Korea, to Japan, or to Taiwan. The United States is going to be in the same sort of position. What has happened in West Asia, what has happened in GCC countries, is revealing the reality of the United States. The other point for the United States, I would say, would be Cuba. Cuba, they tried to do the same as they did in Venezuela. Cuba is different. The society is different. People are different. People are so tough, by the way, in Cuba. The government is much tougher.

And I don't know if they can achieve something by negotiations. If they could do something by negotiations, that could do something in favor of the United States. But if it goes down to the military sort of operations, that's not going to end well for Donald Trump. As the president of Cuba said, it's going to be a bloodbath. And let's see what would happen. And I don't see any sort of change between Iran and the United States. The war is going to continue. Israel is going to have the same attitude. They're going to attack each and every country in the region. Right now, the difference is that there is no red line for Israel, for Iranians anymore, because Israel has crossed all those red lines.

Today, at any moment, you can see a drone or a missile going to Israel to hit some targets in Israel. This is the new reality, the new norm that Benjamin Netanyahu brought to Israel. He wanted to make the greater Israel. But I would say it doesn't matter. Israel is bombing other countries. Israel is not going to achieve anything by these bombings. And all those villages, all those cities in the southern part of Lebanon that were destroyed, they're going to rebuild all of them. All of them. Better than before. This is the new power of the Axis of Resistance. The Axis of Resistance is more united, is stronger than before. Iraq is going to be a totally different country in a period of, I would say, five years or ten years.

Totally different country. And GCC countries are going to be totally, they have to learn something. If they don't learn it, you know, they have to learn it, you know, as Donald Trump wants to put it, the soft way or the hard way. I think they didn't learn it the soft way, and that's why they're learning the process in the outcome of the Iranian war. The war on Iran is devastating for GCC countries

because, after all, in the short run, in my opinion, but in the long run, if they understand the new reality of the Middle East, if they get closer to the Iranian position, or make some sort of security architecture for the region, which the region desperately needs, in my opinion. Desperately.

Israel is not going to end its wars on other countries. They already, they're talking about how they want to be more independent of the United States. The first time I heard that Israel was talking about it was during the 60 Minutes interview, the interview that Benjamin Netanyahu had on 60 Minutes. He said, we want to be independent of the United States in a decade, in 10 years. So why is that? Because they see that they got everything that the United States can deliver to them. Because the war against Iran is the ultimate goal. It was the ultimate goal of the Israeli government, of Benjamin Netanyahu. That failed. Israel is weaker today than it was before the war started—militarily, economically, politically, regionally, internally. The society is fractured in Israel.

Many people, while supporting this genocide in Gaza, hate Benjamin Netanyahu and his administration. This is the reality of Israel today. Look at the society in Israel — it's more, you know, in chaos than, you know... You don't see that sort of unity in Israel today. But you see that in Iran. You see that in Iraq. You see that in, considering the whole axis of resistance, they're so much more connected right now. Yemen didn't even fight in this war. So this is, I think, for those people who assume that Israel is going to be in a better position in the long run. Israel has to learn something. If they don't — and that's why I was mentioning that they want to be independent — but who's going to help Israel?

Are they going to produce all those arms and missiles? No, they're going to receive them from Europe, from the United States. Again, they're not going to—never. Israel is not able to be independent. Because despite all this sort of propaganda in the reports that they're producing everything, the only democracy in the Middle East, the economy is just amazing. The only thing amazing about their economy is those spy, this sort of military equipment, you know, in the area of spying, surveillance, this sort of, you know, all the bad things that you can get through the military-industrial complex. It's all about—all they produce is about killing people, assassinating people, mostly killing civilians.

It's all about—the only production of Israel is killing people. They're not even able to produce; their Iron Dome is produced outside of Israel—interceptors, missiles. The only power they have is the Air Force. It's totally, 100% made by the United States. Yeah, this is Israel today. But let's see what would happen. I think we're going to see a sea change in the United States in, I don't know, something like 10 years. Because the Israeli position is weakening in the United States. The support for Israel today is less than 30% based on the polls. How is that going to play out in the long run for the politicians, the people elected in the United States? That remains to be seen.

But I'm hopeful about that, because people are awakening in the United States. They see what Israel is, what the reality of Israel is. They don't want to be part of this genocide. They don't want to. And that would be a huge change for the whole region. And this is my understanding of what's

going on. I hope I could help a little bit for you to understand the Iranian position and the big picture—Russia, China, and Iran. And I think many good things will happen in the long run. If not in the short run, in the long run, we're going to have a lot of possible changes happening in Eurasia, in West Asia, and with the case of Israel as well. Thank you so much for being with me today. Great pleasure, as always. Thank you.