

Iran's Missile Barrage PUMMELS Israel, Trump BEGS for Mercy | Elijah Magnier

War correspondent Elijah Magnier joins the show to discuss the massive strikes conducted by Iran on Israel and why Trump was begging both sides to halt the attacks. What are the geopolitical implications of this escalation? Elijah Magnier breaks it down. <https://ejmagnier.com/> FOLLOW ME ON RUMBLE: <https://rumble.com/c/DannyHaiphong> FOLLOW ME ON TELEGRAM: <https://t.me/dannyhaiphong> SUPPORT THE CHANNEL ON PATREON: <https://www.patreon.com/dannyhaiphong> Support the channel in other ways: <https://www.buymeacoffee.com/dannyhaiphong> Substack: chroniclesofhaiphong.substack.com Cashapp: \$Dhaiphong Venmo: @dannyH2020 Paypal: <https://paypal.me/spiritofho> Follow me on Telegram: <https://t.me/dannyhaiphong> #iran #trump #israel

#Danny

Welcome back, everyone. Welcome back to the show. It's your host, Danny Haiphong. As you can see, I am joined by Elijah Magnier, war correspondent and independent journalist. Everyone, hit the like button as you come on. Elijah, good to see you.

#Elijah Magnier

Hello, Danny, and thank you for having me. It's good to be with you.

#Danny

Yes, good to be with you as always. Well, Elijah, I wanted to ask if you could help recount the events overnight, because we saw, in retaliation to Israel's bombing of Beirut, Dahiya, the capital of Lebanon.

#Danny

We saw Iran launch multiple strikes, actually, because Israel did respond with bombings of its own in Iran. But initially, it looked like somewhere between 10 to 20 missiles were fired into Israel, into the northern settlements, into Haifa and various areas. Here's just a little bit of a rundown of the kind of missiles that were used. Then Israel hit a petrochemical plant, and Iran responded in kind with another barrage of missiles, a wave of missile strikes. Could you help the audience understand what exactly happened? Maybe you can help summarize the events. We know also that Yemen got involved. They've closed the Bab al-Mandeb Strait, the Red Sea, to Israeli-affiliated ships. And Donald Trump was very eager to stop the, as he called it, shooting. And I'll pull up some of these

developments as you talk, so people get a bit of understanding visually of how things went down. But help assess the situation. What happened? Give us a rundown and your analysis of it.

#Elijah Magnier

Everything started when the Iranians and the Americans reached an agreement, not only on the ceasefire but to end the war in the Middle East. The Americans agreed on that as a first point forwarded by the Iranians to the Pakistanis in Islamabad, and the Americans acknowledged that. Upon the return of the American envoy, the Americans said, well, actually, Lebanon is not included. And that was denied by the Pakistani mediator, saying, no, Iran included Lebanon in the first point. And this gave a free hand to the Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to bomb Lebanon, mainly the south of Lebanon and the Bekaa Valley.

What Netanyahu has been doing is destroying and completely flattening dozens of villages in the south of Lebanon, exactly as he did in Rafah. The Iranians watched that, and the Israelis promised to do the same, saying that the south of Lebanon would be an exact copy of what they had done in Rafah. And what they did in Rafah was remove the houses, cemeteries, schools, universities, hospitals, roads, infrastructure—everything. So the whole area in Rafah is flat. There is no indication whatsoever of any civilians or civilization that had been living there before the war. So this is what the Israelis are doing in the south of Lebanon.

Because Hezbollah is a hybrid actor, it is not an army, doesn't have an army that can stand against the most sophisticated modern Israeli army supported by the United States and supplied with weapons by Germany and the West, with intelligence, etc. There is no comparison between the two armies. This is why Hezbollah's act of resistance is to try and inflict the maximum damage in the long term on Israel. However, because of the conduct of Benjamin Netanyahu and his defense minister, Israel Katz, time is really not in favor of Hezbollah, even if Hezbollah doesn't have a choice. The rapid destruction by the Israeli machine is overwhelming in the south of Lebanon, but the Israelis are suffering casualties on a daily basis because Hezbollah is using drones and is trying to make the life of the Israelis as difficult as possible, on a very small scale of course.

Now the Israelis said to Hezbollah, trying to impose a new rule of engagement, if you bomb any of the northern areas occupied by Israel, we're going to bomb the suburb of Beirut. So the Israelis wanted to look for an excuse to bomb that area. And Iran, frustrated since the ceasefire, wanted to come into the battle but was preparing for the war, so in case it goes into the battle and the Israelis retaliate, including the Americans, then there is a possibility that this war would last another 40 days or two months or even more. So it was not really clear for Iran. It's important to be ready for a long war. This is when Hezbollah fired the missile on the north of Israel, and it is inevitable because the Israelis are firing artillery, using the air force against the entire area of the south of Lebanon.

They've started with the ancient city of Tyre, and then they moved to the suburb of Sidon. We're talking about 40 kilometers from Beirut, the Bekaa Valley. So they are really issuing evacuation

orders to civilians, and we're talking about more than 150 villages and cities, which is more than any country can absorb because all the internally displaced people have gone to the capital, Beirut, and they are really squeezed in a very small area. We're talking about 26, 27 square kilometers, which is very small. Starting to bomb the suburb of Beirut, we're talking about displacing more or less 700,000 to 800,000 people. Already there are more than 1,300,000 Lebanese displaced from the south of Lebanon and the Bekaa Valley. So that would be too much to bear. And then Israel said, I'm going to bomb the suburb of Beirut.

Iran warned Israel, if you bomb the suburb of Beirut, Iran will bomb northern Israel. And this is what happened. The Israelis bombed the suburb of Beirut, thinking that Iran was not going to retaliate. And Israel was not the only one. Many Lebanese who are against Hezbollah, or pro-American, pro-Israeli, Arabs around the Gulf countries who did not support Gaza or do not support the resistance, were very skeptical about the Iranian promise. And what happened is, last night, Iran bombed Israel and bombed the north of Israel only. By retaliating, because the Israelis retaliated to the bombing of the north of Israel, then Iran was free to bomb everywhere in Israel. And this is where the tit-for-tat started. What is important to mention is this is the first time in the history of Israel after 1949. So we're talking about after Egypt, in a very long time.

But in modern warfare, we don't have a country that starts attacking Israel. And we see Iran moving from strategic patience to strategic deterrence. We see Iran taking the initiative to bomb Israel, which is highly significant for the Israelis. It means that the promise of Benjamin Netanyahu to impose deterrence is—he is called the security man, so he's the one who looks after the security of Israel and is ready to bomb any capital. He bombed seven countries in the last three years only to impose Israeli supremacy and power over the rest of the Middle East. So that has changed the equation.

And by changing the equation, it kind of damaged the image of Israel as a regional power that can dominate the Middle East and introduced the fact that actually Iran is not only there to receive an attack initiated by Israel, as happened in June 2025, or by Israel and the United States, as happened in February 2026, but actually it can take the initiative and bomb Israel. So Donald Trump intervened and asked everyone to stop. I don't know if that was genuine, but because Ansarullah in Yemen initiated the first participation in the war where Iran is involved. In the past, Ansarullah participated in the support of Gaza and the Palestinian people, but not Iran.

That gave an indication that actually not only the Strait of Hormuz can be shut down. Iran promised to shut down the Strait of Hormuz, the Bab el-Mandeb, the Red Sea, and the Mediterranean. It is not something that Donald Trump can stomach, and the rest of the world will not accept a major economic crisis in case this happens. So Donald Trump, who instructed the Central Command of the US, CENTCOM, that Israel is part of, and coordinated with all the Israeli attacks and the interception of all the Iranian missiles and drones, inevitably supported Israel. But because of the determination of Iran to start a war, and because Donald Trump doesn't believe that Israel will have the upper hand, he rushed to stop it.

Now, there is a big question. Iran said it will retaliate against Israel if Israel continues bombing the south of Lebanon and Beirut. Now Israel is regaining the bombardment of the south of Lebanon but stopped on the suburb of Beirut. And there is an equation there that the south of the suburb of Beirut cannot be touched; otherwise, Iran will jump in and join the war. For the south of Lebanon, I think there is a lot of talk between the Pakistanis and the Americans, giving a break for a short period of time that Iran allowed in order for the Americans to convince the Israelis to stop the bombing of the south of Lebanon and end the war.

#Danny

Yeah, a great summary, Elijah. Now, maybe before... I definitely want to get into Donald Trump's reaction overall to this because there were a few different times it seemed like he had to go public with his reactions. There was a phone call with Netanyahu. But before that... what was the significance of Iran's particular targeting? There are reports that Ramat David Air Base was the, I guess, most well-known target, where Iran said that it was the source of the bombing of the suburbs of Beirut. So what was the significance of this? What did Iran actually target and why? Yeah.

#Elijah Magnier

The Ramat Air Base is the base where all the Israeli attacks come from. We're talking about drones, air force, and helicopters. They attack Lebanon on a regular basis, on a daily basis, several times a day. Attacking that base is significant because it's the heart of the Israeli attacks against Lebanon. That was one of the targets. The second target was Haifa, and that's also important. And after the Israeli bombing of Iran, the Iranians bombed the suburbs of Tel Aviv, around Jerusalem, Ashdod. They bombed a very large part of Israeli territory, where more than seven to eight million people went to shelters.

That was the dimension of the bombing. Now, what the Iranians have hit is not something that the Israelis share. And since the beginning of this attack, the Israelis warned the population not to share any videos. And people were very strict about not sharing videos, but that will come out later, and the information will be revealed later. Nevertheless, we know that there were several explosions of missiles registered in different parts of Israel.

#Danny

Yeah, I mean, there were reports, Elijah, that Israel was using air defense interceptors produced within the last year alone, signaling that they are quite depleted. So it would be very unrealistic to believe that none of these missiles reached their target. So, Elijah, now to Donald Trump's reaction, and I'm just going to pull up a few of his reactions because I do believe that they are very telling in the sense that many people have different views on why Donald Trump reacts the way he does to these kinds of events. Immediately as Iran began striking Israel and then Israel began striking Iran,

he said Israel and Iran must immediately stop the shooting, and then announced later on that both sides were looking for an immediate ceasefire and that final negotiations on peace are proceeding.

There were reports that Donald Trump had essentially told Israel not to retaliate against Iran, but Israel did it anyway. And then there was this idea of some kind of both-sides ceasefire. Now, Iran has said that they are only halting attacks so long as Lebanon does not continue to receive Israel's strikes, and Israel doesn't, of course, strike Iran. So I don't think they really are articulating a ceasefire as such. But what do you make of Donald Trump's reaction? It seemed very, very, very positive. Some people think that that's like plausible deniability because with Israel's strikes, there was likely U.S. involvement and coordination. But what do you make of all of this?

#Elijah Magnier

There are two really different theories here. First, that the Americans and the Israelis play a lot the role of good cop, bad cop. So they distribute the roles among them. When Donald Trump seems very angry because of what Benjamin Netanyahu did, Netanyahu cannot contradict Donald Trump because he is the maestro, even if he's not very clever and doesn't understand anything about politics. However, he is the one conducting the war in the sense that he is advised when he needs to stop and when he can continue. Now, bear in mind that Israel cannot fly 1,400 to 1,700 kilometers and return with its jets without an air supply, and the air supply needs to be performed above Iraq and Syria.

So this is where CENTCOM intervened, which means that the Americans are fully aware of what the Israelis were doing. Now, as we understand, like in Qatar, when the Israelis bombed Qatar trying to assassinate Hamas leaders, Donald Trump said, "I have no idea about it," and scolded Israel, which is untrue because the U.S. has the biggest major air base in Al Udeid in Qatar, and an Israeli jet cannot fly all the way to Qatar and commit a targeted assassination without the knowledge of the Americans. That is an extremely skeptical position, where the Americans are acting like they did not know. And normally Donald Trump plays that when things don't go well, because failure doesn't have any father.

And this is where Donald Trump plays, trying to keep a distance, and Benjamin Netanyahu takes the blame. Now, there are issues that we need to understand in this fight and what happened last night and today. The main issue is Washington and Tel Aviv sought to put the Lebanese and the Iranian front into compartments and separate them. But Tehran merged them into one single strategic equation and demanded the total end of the war. So that also comes when the negotiations between the U.S. and Iran reached a deadlock, despite Donald Trump's announcement that the war is over. Now, we had the American defense minister saying that the war is over.

We heard Marco Rubio telling Congress that the war is over, but nothing has been achieved. I don't think the Iranians are willing to give Donald Trump anything before the midterm elections. I don't think the Iranians are in a hurry to accept any deal if Donald Trump is not ready to give them the

\$24 billion as a first down payment of their own money that is frozen in different countries around the world. So for that, the Americans need to go out of their way and agree to give Iran these sums, but I doubt Donald Trump is ready for that. This is why we see what's happening really has another dimension than what we see unfolding in front of our eyes.

#Danny

And Elijah, you know, the scenes, of course, in Israel — there was a total blackout, as you said. So we didn't have the scenes like we did earlier in this conflict, Israelis running to their shelters. But we do know that was likely happening. The scenes in Iran are very much different, though. And I want to ask you what you believe the significance of this is, because, you know, as the missiles were flying, Iranians were in the streets celebrating the launches toward Israel.

And these are just some of the video footage coming out of that. And then here is another one of Iranians flooding the streets, celebrating as Israel was getting these missile strikes launched toward them. So what do you make—I mean, this has been a daily occurrence since the war began. Iranians have been in the streets rallying, rallying in defense of their country, rallying, you know, against the aggressors. But the scene is very different, of course, on the other side. What's the significance of this, if any, in the overall calculations of this war?

#Elijah Magnier

The area occupied by Israel is around 20,000 square kilometers. Iran is 1,648,000 square kilometers.

#Elijah Magnier

Therefore, the Iranians can be a bit everywhere. They are a large population. We're talking about almost 90 million people. And they were confident that their country took the initiative for the first time against Israel. It brings joy to the Iranian feeling because they love their country regardless of whether they agree or disagree with the current government. That's one. Two, there are very few Iranians who stood against Iran during this war because the majority really supported their country against the U.S. and Israel, because the two were destroying the infrastructure. They were not removing the ruling system; they were trying to create havoc in the country, arming the separatist Kurds in the northeast of Iran so they could create chaos in the country. It is not what the majority of the Iranians... Elijah, we seem to be losing you a bit.

#Danny

Sorry, sorry. Yeah, continue. Yeah, maybe you can just restart that thought.

#Elijah Magnier

Yeah, sorry. So, because I was saying that the Iranians don't really want to see their country destroyed. And this is what the Israelis were aiming for—to destroy the country, to destroy the infrastructure of the country. And this is why the Iranians stood against this war. Now, they are in the streets celebrating because they're happy to see the Israelis paying a price, and they're happy to see Iran defending Lebanon, because Lebanon stood with Iran and fought alongside Iran. But Iran broke the narrative of having Hezbollah as the proxy, because it is Iran that went to fight on behalf of Hezbollah and not vice versa. It is a demonstration that Iran looks after its allies and tries to protect its allies and look after them, but it is ready to pay the price on their behalf and go to war—but not for one day.

Iran was ready to go to war for weeks and months on behalf of Lebanon to protect Lebanon, because Lebanon was the weakest part in the equation, and the Israelis were bombing in a barbaric way the south of Lebanon, and the destruction was devastating, and Iran could not watch it. So it shows the relationship between Iran and its allies that is actually a relationship of respect and support, and not asking anything in exchange, because in this case Lebanon has very little to offer to Iran. And to add to that, my last point is when the Lebanese president, Joseph Aoun, came out on CNN and said Iran is using Lebanon as a bargaining chip. Well, actually, this is a demonstration that Iran is paying the price, not signing a deal until there is an end to the war in Lebanon, and can sort out and be a little bit more flexible on all the other issues.

For example, instead of 24 billion, it can accept 12 at the beginning and then another 12 in 30 or 60 days. Donald Trump is very much willing to give. The enriched uranium, they can pass it on to the IAEA to extract it and create an international coalition to come and take all the enriched uranium of 60% that is buried under the mountain of Fordow. That also Iran can be flexible with. The Strait of Hormuz, Iran can ask fees for services and security exactly like Turkey, and that also the Americans are flexible with. So the main problem here is Iran defending Lebanon, and not Lebanon using Iran or Lebanon defending Iran or fighting on behalf of Iran. And that requires a lot of courage, dedication, and faithfulness, that an entire nation in Iran is paying the price to stop this destruction happening in the south of Lebanon.

#Danny

Yeah. And Elijah, I mean, it is unprecedented in many ways what we witness. Do you see this as another phase of this war? Because, I mean, Iran has been clear since the beginning of whatever we want to call these deliberations, talks, what have you, or maybe the attempt for the U.S. to kind of wiggle its way out of defeat, these negotiations supposedly to end the war. Iran has been very clear since the very beginning that Lebanon was always a part of this, in large part because of the solidarity you mentioned.

And also, I mean, this latest war, this iteration of Israel's just absolutely horrific, inhumane, and criminal response to Lebanon happened almost as if Israel was trying to take advantage of the attacks on Iran to punish Lebanon and, of course, to achieve their seemingly unachievable dream of

destroying Hezbollah. What are your thoughts? What is the question? Do you see this as another, a new phase of the war now, given that Iran has put muscle behind its promises and its vows?

#Elijah Magnier

Yes, I think the Iranians will not allow the Israelis to have a free hand if the bombing of the south of Lebanon continues for several days and Israel continues the destruction of the south of Lebanon area and the cities there. Now, Israel can do that for a few days, but if we look at what the Israelis are doing, they're not really achieving any strategic gain, just destruction. For the last three years, Benjamin Netanyahu has been destroying Gaza, Lebanon, and part of Iran, but there are no achievements. Hamas is still there, Hezbollah is still there, the Iranian ruling system is still as it is, stronger than ever.

Iran has regained its power, otherwise it would not challenge Israel, knowing that the Americans are there to support the Israelis. So all that shows that the Iranians are growing a bit impatient with the Israelis, and the American people also are expressing their disagreement with what Donald Trump is doing. We've seen Congress voting against the war in Iran, but even if that is not significant, practically speaking, and they will not stop Donald Trump from continuing what he wants to do in Iran, it is still sending a very strong message that actually Congress is not supporting Donald Trump.

The population, according to recent statistics, 62% of Americans are against the war on Iran. So the only people who support this war are the Israeli people, society, and Benjamin Netanyahu and his government. So all that has a certain limit. Iran has been demonized for 47 years. This war was unlawful, announced by the Americans and the Israelis together, starting a war only according to what Trump and Marco Rubio told us, because Israel was going to war anyway and on its own, so the Americans joined in. And there's rhetoric about how Iran will never have a nuclear bomb. I think Iran fully agrees with that and never seeks the nuclear bomb.

So this narrative that is repeated after every question, now it's obvious for people that it's just a lie to cover up the real reason behind this war, which is to change the ruling system in Iran and steal its natural resources. And Donald Trump said, "I want the oil." That is the objective, as he said exactly the same during his first term about Syria. And he said, "I want the oil," and he was taking it. Unfortunately for him, in Iran, he's not managing to take the oil. Even if he set up a blockade outside the Strait of Hormuz, the Iranians have the capability to bomb the U.S. Navy in case of need.

And the Americans are no longer confiscating Iranian tankers, but sending them back and preventing them from crossing occasionally because some of the tankers have crossed. So if we take all that as a whole, we understand that Iran is encouraged by all these elements to start and initiate the attack against Israel. And in fact, today, surprisingly, it was not very much a surprise to see a condemnation of Iran initiating the attack against Israel, because Israel is now known by the majority of the world population to be a genocidal regime, killing children in Gaza and in Lebanon, destroying the civilian infrastructure wherever they go.

The Israeli army is stealing, destroying, raping, and all that is really indignating the population worldwide. And this is why, at the very beginning, when Iran was attacked in June 2025, there was not much sympathy for Iran. Today the situation has changed. And today, Iran is gaining more support and more sympathy around the world than in the last 47 years, because the Western narrative managed indeed to demonize Iran throughout the years, showing them as the evil, the bad people. But when everybody is watching the Iranians, who are with the government and against the government, standing with Iran against the U.S. and the Americans, the situation has changed.

#Danny

Yeah, and some new information is coming out, Elijah, about these panicked responses by Donald Trump and the U.S. administration. Donald Trump reportedly said to Channel 12 that he was communicating to Netanyahu that he might be alone against Iran very soon if he continues with strikes on Lebanon. And initially, when Israel conducted these strikes on Lebanon, which crossed Iran's red line, Trump reportedly said that these were not authorized by the United States and that he should cease, and he should cease immediately. Netanyahu should stop pursuing this. But nonetheless, you know, as you mentioned earlier, there's this good cop, bad cop thing going on. Sometimes they reverse roles.

Sometimes, you know, we know that Netanyahu has said something to the effect of there are some tactical differences in how to address things in the region. It seems that regardless of what kind of game these two might be playing, the results almost come out the same, where it almost feels like we had, unlike the 12-day war, as you said, Iran was not the one on the back foot defending itself. It was taking initiative here. But the way that Trump responded felt like a very sped-up 12-day war scenario, where he was coming in and, you know, trying to act like he was stopping things. And ultimately, the results ended up being that, yeah, Israel had to stop attacking Iran and is now potentially, you know, digging itself a bigger hole by, you know, flaunting Iran's warnings. What's your thoughts on this?

#Elijah Magnier

Well, it is not new for Donald Trump to contradict himself several times in one sentence or every day. I can answer that. Yesterday on CBS, he said that he wants to help Benjamin Netanyahu hit Lebanon and hit Hezbollah, and he was very happy to watch him continue doing what he was doing. In fact, the Americans were as surprised as the Israelis that the Iranians would retaliate. As we said at the very beginning, there were even many Lebanese or Arabs very taken by surprise to see Iran really going through all this trouble. But Donald Trump was really supportive of everything that Benjamin Netanyahu was doing. And if you look at the deal signed as a framework between Israel, the United States, and Lebanon, the statement read and distributed by the U.S. State Department, where Marco Rubio said that Lebanon and Israel agreed that the enemy of Lebanon and America and Israel is Hezbollah.

Therefore, the Americans and the Israelis, and part of the Lebanese, a small part of the Lebanese, consider Hezbollah as the enemy. Hezbollah represents more than a third to 40% of the population in Lebanon. Shia, Sunni, Christian, and Druze — not only Shia, the majority are Shia, but they also represent the others who refuse to have a deal with the Israelis in this way, where Israel nowhere is mentioned that it would withdraw from the south of Lebanon. Therefore, the plan to really hit Hezbollah and destroy the south of Lebanon did not start yesterday. For Donald Trump to say, “Oh, I have nothing to do with it,” it has been going on since 2024, and since November 2024 to February 2026 — for 15 months.

#Elijah Magnier

The Israelis did not stop destroying the south of Lebanon. And after February 2026, they continued the destruction. The Israelis destroyed 20 additional villages in April 2026. So why is Donald Trump suddenly changing his mind about it and taking a distance because he doesn't want to be blamed? But that is not very clever if he accepted, approved, and supported Benjamin Netanyahu in his task. And we have Admiral Cooper, the head of CENTCOM, visiting Israel on a very regular basis and coordinating all the needs of Israel to continue destroying the south of Lebanon because Israel doesn't have so many bombs to continue this kind of destruction.

And the capability of Israel for destruction doesn't come from munitions produced by Israel. On the contrary, 60% of the munitions come from the United States and 30% or 33% come from Germany. And then the rest is between Israel and the rest of the world. This is why Israel is so generous with the destruction and bombing and can do and achieve what it is achieving only because it is supported in its task. And in the military world, there is something called an end user. Every country supplying munitions needs to know what the country being supplied is using this kind of munition for, and for which purpose.

So Germany and the United States are very much aware of what Benjamin Netanyahu is doing in the south of Lebanon. And also, when he decided to go and bomb the suburb of Beirut, he doesn't do it without the approval of the Americans because he said it before the bombing. When he bombed the suburb of Beirut yesterday afternoon, he said that was done in coordination with the Americans. Now, Donald Trump is free to say what he wants. People will not believe him. I mean, there will always be someone who will believe him, but that is not compatible and is not consistent with what we hear from Donald Trump and Benjamin Netanyahu.

#Danny

Hmm. Yeah, great points. And to underscore this, I'll just pull up Elijah. This is BBC. We know BBC's allegiances. Well, there are U.S. personnel all up and down BBC. And here's their State Department correspondent and what he said about whether Netanyahu defied Trump. He said absolutely, almost certainly not. And then going on to say that Trump spoke after Iran fired ballistic missiles at Israel, saying that he was going to call Netanyahu and tell him not to retaliate, the implication being that

this attack would fracture and jeopardize fragile diplomacy with Iran. But then hours later, Israel did it anyway. Israel attacked Iran. Did Netanyahu defy Trump?

They say no. The correspondent does because of its huge military presence—hundreds of military personnel liaising with the IDF in Israel itself—meaning that Israel would need to have coordinated with U.S. forces there, based in the region, over every single air route. And I know Jordan has been almost the butt of memes because it keeps on firing THAAD interceptors at Iranian missiles every time they go over Jordanian airspace. So your thoughts on this? I mean, do you find this to be an accurate assessment that absolutely not, Israel could not have conducted this kind of operation or response to Iran's initiative without U.S. assistance and approval?

#Elijah Magnier

After the 7th of October, Joe Biden told us that he sent 2,000 Delta Forces, general officers, and soldiers, all with different expertise, to Israel to support Israel. Nobody ever in America said that they pulled them out. On the contrary, we have the British, the Americans, the Germans, the French, all keep supporting Israel militarily—providing surveillance, providing munitions, military support, intelligence, and also intercepting missiles that are coming from Yemen and from Iran.

Therefore, they're all aware of what's happening. There is a command and control center that CENTCOM has established, where there are Israeli coordinating officers in the command and control center. Everything is known, and you cannot start attacking Iran and crossing all this distance between 1,400 and 1,700 kilometers. Even if the Americans allow it, even if the Israelis want to stand above Iraq and bomb Iran just to be safe from the Iranian anti-air missiles, how can they stay above Iraq without American permission, where the U.S. has a base in Erbil at the airport and in Harir in Kurdistan, Iraq? So all that needs full coordination.

How will the Americans be unaware of Benjamin Netanyahu bombing Beirut, when the agreement a few weeks ago was between the Americans and the Israelis, and was overtly distributed to all the media, that they both agreed the suburb of Beirut would no longer be bombed? To violate this agreement, Benjamin Netanyahu doesn't have a shop where he can sell what he wants. On the contrary, he depends on U.S. support, and the U.S. is fully involved in this war, where the U.S. is negotiating with Iran on behalf of Israel. And Benjamin Netanyahu told us that he received regular reports personally from the White House and exchanged information with them.

This is what the Israeli Prime Minister said. So can you imagine an act of war of this kind and the consequences that will come with it, particularly when Iran threatened to bomb Israel in case the suburb is bombed, that Benjamin Netanyahu will do it on his own? I think this is an insult to our intelligence. But, I mean, Donald Trump... Elijah, we lost you at Donald Trump. If you do end up coming back shortly—sorry, I think there is a problem with the internet—but I was saying, sorry, I lost you at Donald... yeah, yeah, so I said, okay.

#Danny

I can hear you. I can hear you. Please continue. Yeah, sorry.

#Elijah Magnier

So I said Donald Trump is permitted to change his mind because he is someone who constantly changes his mind. He can say what he wants. It's up to people to believe him or not. And I think his record doesn't give him much credit.

#Danny

Yeah, that's for sure, Elijah. Now, maybe as we head into the last 15 or so minutes here of the hour, we can talk about the significance of what appeared to be coordinated responses. Hezbollah was still fighting during this period of Iranian strikes. Yemen launched its own salvo of missiles. And of course, there was the announcement by Yemen that they were closing the Red Sea to all Israeli-affiliated vessels. How significant is it that the axis of resistance, even to this point—and then I saw some reports recently before we came on the show that Iran is also working to include Gaza in any kind of comprehensive end to the war—so what is the significance that the axis of resistance is coordinating in this manner? And what does it tell us about the overall state of the war, given, I don't know, even before the February 28th strikes, Elijah, we had been told that this resistance had been all but dead?

#Elijah Magnier

The axis of resistance was kind of an answer to George Bush's "axis of evil" when he defined Iran and North Korea as the axis of evil. So the response was, well, actually, it's an axis of resistance against what George W. Bush represented as the axis of evil, because he attacked Afghanistan and then Iraq. This is where the term "axis of resistance" was born. Actually, it was a Libyan newspaper that for the first time spoke about the axis of resistance, and it was adopted by Iran and its allies. However, the axis of resistance remained a kind of deterrence by narrative that never had a command and control center throughout the decade from 2002 to June 2025, because in September 2023, when Hamas started the attack on Israel...

#Elijah Magnier

The Palestinians did not inform Iran or Hezbollah, and the Israelis told us that they discovered letters from Al-Sinwar saying that only half an hour before the attack, explaining why they did not inform anyone for the secrecy and success of the operation. Therefore, there was no command and control center unifying all these forces of the axis of resistance. There were differences among them, for example, in Syria. Hamas was against Hezbollah in Syria. Khalid Mishaal was overtly against Syria. In Iraq, there were differences. Also, Iraq was under a completely different regime—the control and

occupation of the Americans. And then after that, ISIS in 2014 occupied a third of Iraq. There was really no coordination on any level.

And that took place only after June 2025. Believe it or not, it was only the Israeli attack on Iran that triggered the necessity to coordinate between the axis of resistance and to actually create more of a command and control center where they could talk to one another and coordinate their actions. This is why Iran came out in this war, imposed on Iran, to speak in the name of Ansarullah in Yemen and say that Bab al-Mandeb would be closed, because Iran could contribute with the Yemenis to close Bab al-Mandeb and to close the Red Sea with the drones that the Iranians could send, and with the participation of Ansarullah, who were bombed by Benjamin Netanyahu during the support of Yemen to the people of Gaza.

Therefore, this is where the Iranians understood the necessity to actually strengthen the axis of resistance. Nevertheless, there were problems because Syria fell, Bashar al-Assad was no longer there, so the supply to Hezbollah was more limited—not zero, but more limited—because another force came to power in Syria that represented completely the opposite of what Iran supports. That is Ahmad al-Sharaf, who was the ISIS emir and then turned into an al-Qaeda leader, emir in the Levant, in Bilad al-Sham, and after that he allied himself with Turkey, and then he took over Syria with the support of Turkey and Russia.

So all that happened, and the axis of resistance had the supply and logistics line interrupted with the fall of Bashar al-Assad, who refused to participate and allow Hezbollah and Iran to fire against Israel during the genocide in Gaza. So for that, the Iranian army, when they were attacked by the Israelis in June 2025, started another level of cooperation. Again, the difficulty came because Lebanon, as a government and a president, prevented and prohibited Iranian flights between Tehran and Beirut, therefore reducing any possible, even cash or financial, support to Hezbollah from Iran directly.

Of course, smuggling is something that happens everywhere in the world, and there is never a complete blockade. Even the Americans are not managing to impose a blockade on the Strait of Hormuz. So the Axis of Resistance started coordinating because they knew another war was coming. The war of Israel against Iran did not really produce any objective for the Israelis. The Iranian enriched uranium was still there. The Iranian capacity to produce missiles and fire their missiles on the Israelis was still there. And Iran was still selling oil to different countries, mainly China—80%—but still having some income to be able to recover from the bombardment and the destruction caused by the Israelis in 2025. So they knew this war was coming as a necessity to coordinate.

And because they were coordinating this time, at the beginning of the war, when the Americans and the Israelis attacked Iran, in the first hour, Iran retaliated, but also Hezbollah retaliated against the Israeli violation of the ceasefire and the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1701 that was stipulated in November 2024 and never respected by Israel. So it was an opportunity for Hezbollah to take advantage of Iran, as the Israelis and the Americans were busy bombing Iran, to enter the war to impose a kind of deterrence on Israel and stop the massacre and the destruction that Israel

was causing on Lebanese civilians, which killed 513 in 15 months, and the destruction of homes in the south of Lebanon.

And this is where we could see the level of coordination. We've seen Yemen today in the coordination between Iran and Lebanon, when all three fired simultaneously on Israel when Israel was attacked, to indicate that actually the three countries are coordinating, even if we say Hezbollah is not really the representative of the entire Lebanese people as a country. But they are in the government, they are in the parliament, they are in municipalities, and they represent 40% of the population. So a big part of Lebanon was present.

And that is the Axis of Resistance that I expect to be reinforced, supported, and to increase the level of coordination among at least these three, regardless of the Iraqi resistance that has another status because of the American presence in Iraq and because of the financial shortage, as Iraq receives all its resources, the revenue of oil, that is 90% of Iraq's budget, into the American Federal Bank. So there is more control over the Iraqis. And that is the work of the Axis of Resistance that actually started to be efficient only in this war. And this is why Iran is offering sacrifices on behalf of Lebanon, because it has taken on board the engagement to support this axis that saw the necessity to consolidate after June 2025.

#Danny

Yeah. And then final question, Elijah, is the Strait of Hormuz now fully closed? Iran said as much during and directly after this exchange of fire with Israel. And why is it that it seems that the United States and, of course, all of those who hang on or call themselves allies of the United States seem to be whistling past this issue? A big problem of the potential economic fallout of the war continuing on in this manner, because it does feel like there's been a lot of cooling of the panic of late, yet the war seems very much in play.

#Elijah Magnier

Well, the financial market is affected by social media and announcements. This is why we hear Donald Trump talking to the market to calm it down, saying we are going to reach a deal. Every week he says that at the beginning, and then at the end he pronounces his threat to Iran. So that's already a game that we see. But today, for example, there was uncertainty in the market, and the price of oil and gas increased by four to five percent because people thought that the Strait of Hormuz was going to shut down, that there was going to be a long war. But then they saw things calming down a bit, and the market stabilized itself. But we also see the Americans allowing a few tankers to cross because they want the supply to continue, because America is paying the price.

There are hundreds of millions of dollars that the Americans are paying on behalf of Israel and Trump's war because of the price of gasoline and transport and everything else in America. It's not Iran that is paying the price. Here in Europe, we are paying 37% extra for the price of gas. The

gasoline has increased to 2.2 euros per liter. Diesel is more expensive than gasoline. So everybody is paying the price. And this is why Donald Trump acknowledged that. He is fully aware, and he said, well, for a while, this is going to happen. He doesn't really care. He doesn't care about the prices and the cost on the American and the rest of the world population.

He doesn't care about the midterm elections. He cares only about his image, and he wants to do something that Barack Obama did not do. He is obsessed with the Obama deal, the JCPOA of 2015. So he's really very limited, and he has not achieved any of his objectives, and neither has Benjamin Netanyahu achieved any of the stated objectives from the beginning. And today, Iran launched all the missiles from all the positions that Donald Trump said he had obliterated. So everything is back to square one, and nothing has been achieved. But something for Iran has been achieved. Iran today has under its control the Strait of Hormuz and is imposing fees under any other title. But that was not the case before the war.

#Danny

Elijah, it was great to be with you. One final unrelated question, though. The audience is very curious and very much inspired and in awe of the painting behind you. If you want to give maybe some details about what it is so you can satisfy their curiosity. You don't have to, but I just thought I would ask.

#Elijah Magnier

Well, maybe we'll leave it for another time, but I can move away so you can see it.

#Danny

Amazing. Amazing. Who did it? Who created it, if you don't mind me asking.

#Elijah Magnier

It's by a Belgian artist.

#Danny

Belgian artist.

#Elijah Magnier

It's a Belgian-Russian.

#Danny

Oh, very cool. Very cool. Well, uh, Elijah, I want to make sure everybody knows that they can find your website in the video description below. That's how to support Elijah. You can subscribe and support his work, and you can read all of the original publications that he writes. Elijah, any last words before we leave the audience here?

#Elijah Magnier

Well, thank you very much for having me. I'm grateful to the audience for listening to everything we are exchanging here. And if you want to support, you can subscribe to my blog, where I publish articles on a regular basis. Thank you.

#Danny

Yes, great. Well, we're going to head out together. Everyone, hit the like button before you go. That helps boost the show as we end here. Also, in the video description, along with Elijah's website, are the places to support this channel as well—Patreon, Substack, and much more. Tomorrow, I'll be back at 2 p.m. Eastern time with Professor Mohammed Randi. I will see you then, June 9th. All right, take care, everyone. Bye-bye.