Iran HITS US Base in Kuwait, Israel Eyes STRIKE on Supreme Leader | Mohammad Marandi

Seyed Mohammad Marandi is a Professor of the University of Tehran and former advisor to the nation's nuclear negotiations team. He discusses Iran's game changing strategy underway on this Thanksgiving to force US surrender even as Israel eyes a preemptive strike on Iranian leadership. This show covers all the most pressing developments in this war from a perspective not heard in mainstream media. SUPPORT THE SHOW BY BECOMING A YOUTUBE MEMBER: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCOxLhz6B_elvLflntSEfnzA/join 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 #israel #trump

#Danny

Welcome, everyone. Welcome back to the show. As you can see, I'm joined by Professor Seyed Mohammad Marandi to go over the latest developments on this Thanksgiving Day. Everyone, hit the like button. Now, Professor Marandi, let me ask you this. The Israeli media is absolutely rife with stories and reports about whether Israel is going to strike Iran before Eisenkot forms a new government, if he does. There's no guarantee that's going to happen. So here are just a couple of examples from the Israeli media over the last 24 hours, citing reports from the Israeli regime that Israel is ready to strike Iran with or without the United States.

And we know that the United States and Israel are talking not just about a decapitation strike, but about actually targeting the supreme leader, Ayatollah Mojtaba Khamenei. What's the mood like in Iran? You know, it's Thanksgiving. It's supposed to be a time to give thanks, but it seems like the U. S. and the Israeli regime are using it as a pause before going back to war, or at least launching another major military operation. What are your thoughts on what's happening right now?

#Mohammad Marandi

Well, thank you for inviting me, Danny. It's always a great pleasure to be with your excellent audience. In Iran, things are normal. We're used to this sort of media speculation. People are going about their daily business. They don't even talk about these things. They may check the news every now and then and see the latest threat or hear Bessent gloating about bringing about the collapse of Iranian society. Bessent has this dream that he can crush Iranian society and make it collapse. I don'

t know if the Nazis ever used that sort of language, or Saddam Hussein, or any of the other monsters of history, but that's the norm now in the United States. And you don't see any anger or outrage in the media, in The Guardian or Breitbart.

But in any case, it's not something that really registers here. I think there are a number of things we have to take into account. One is that the Israelis can't attack Iran on their own. They need the Americans to refuel their jets. That's just one part of it. All their ammunition, all their weapons, basically everything they have is American. Even the stuff that's made in Israel is made with American money. But that aside, if they want to launch a war, they have to use American refueling planes. So that would mean the Americans are part of the war, and the Iranian response would include American forces.

#Danny

Professor Marandi, you cut out a little bit. You were saying that the Iranian response would also target American forces.

#Mohammad Marandi

Yeah, so if the Israeli regime carries out a strike, it will have to use American refueling planes. That means the Americans will be involved, and Iran will strike the Americans. And when Iran strikes the Americans, that means it'll also strike the regimes in the Persian Gulf that host American forces. So it' s an all-out war. The Israelis can't do it on their own. And I think the Iranians have already declared that if the Israeli regime attacks, it means the Americans have attacked. And if the Americans attack, it means the Israelis have attacked. So no matter how you look at it, the response is going to include both, as well as the Arab regimes that are just proxies of the Americans. That's one issue the regime has to take into account.

The second thing is that, in my opinion, the Iranians are actually looking for an excuse for war. We've seen Iranian leaders talk about the need to break the siege. Ayatollah Sayyid Mojtaba Khamenei, the leader, has said it, and senior political and military figures in the country have been talking about it. So ultimately, the way to break the siege is for the Americans to back down. And the only way to do that is to force them to back down. That means the Iranians will have to escalate. So if the Israelis start the war, that gives Iran the opportunity to break the siege. And Iran has already said, "If they start a war, they don't decide when it ends. It ends when we feel we've accomplished our objectives."

And Iran is far better equipped for a long war than the Israelis or the Americans. Some say the Americans have enough ammunition to last a couple of weeks. The Iranians can go on for months. We saw that in the first 40 days of this war. The Americans were so insistent on a ceasefire because they couldn't keep going. And they haven't been able to improve their situation since then, but Iran has been able to do a lot. So Iran is far more prepared today than it was eight or nine months ago,

whereas the Americans are no better prepared. So if anyone on the other side starts the war, that means everyone on that side is involved. And on top of that, the Iranians are looking to escalate. So if the other side escalates, that works to Iran's advantage.

#Danny

Yes. Well, Professor Marandi, could you elaborate on this idea that Iran is trying to draw the United States back into a larger operation? What we've been seeing, especially over the last 24 hours, is that Iran isn't letting up. In the Strait of Hormuz, there are tankers burning as we speak. And oil prices rose again. There's been a lot of manipulation, but they did rise again. What might Iran be doing to make the U.S., and maybe even Israel, feel they need to move ahead sooner with a larger operation? I would assume that if Iran is trying to bait them into doing that, it must be prepared for it as well.

#Mohammad Marandi

That doesn't mean the Iranians want war. Iran wants to break the siege. So if Trump backs down, so much the better. And if he implements the MOU, the memorandum of understanding, that's even better.

#Danny

Sorry, Professor Marandi. Sometimes when I interrupt you, it seems to help. You were saying that Iran wants to break the siege and that they don't necessarily want war. Then the audio started to break up.

#Mohammad Marandi

So Iran doesn't necessarily want war. Iran wants to break the siege. If the Americans back down, that's a better scenario. If they actually implement the MOU, that's the best scenario for the entire world. But if the United States is unwilling to do that, then Iran will need to escalate. If the Iranians can push the Americans to escalate, they can make the military situation intolerable for the Americans, who would then have to withdraw. So the Iranians are going to escalate to force Trump to make a decision: either he fights or he backs down.

But if the other side makes the first move, that's ideal for Iran because, again, it makes it easier for Iran to punish them. Iran, of course, is the victim in this war. Iran didn't start it. The war is ongoing, but if the other side starts this new chapter, it's politically easier for Iran. It underscores, once again, that Iran is the victim. So I think what Iran is going to do, at least for now, is tighten the noose in the Strait of Hormuz. We're already seeing that. They'll drive up the price of oil again.

After the midterms, the Iranians allowed the price of oil to go down to see if Trump was willing to be reasonable. Iran had driven up the price before the midterms to force Trump to negotiate. If he didn't reach an agreement before the midterms, he would lose. So for Iran, it's mission accomplished. He lost badly, as Vance himself admitted in his post. Effectively, they lost the election badly because of Palestine, Israel, and Iran. So now the Iranians are driving up energy prices again and making the shortages worse to put pressure on Trump.

Now, that's one way to force Trump to make a decision. There are other ways, too. The Iranians could hurt the Americans on the ground in the region or elsewhere. I don't know if that's part of the plan. But as we speak, we're already seeing escalation. The Iranians are carrying out strikes on American targets in Kuwait, Bahrain, and Oman. And it's clear that the Iranians are very well entrenched in the Persian Gulf region and around the Strait of Hormuz, so they're prepared for all-out war. You saw two new underground missile bases inaugurated just recently, so Iranian firepower is increasing. They're ready for war.

#Danny

Iran has said that it's not the one experiencing weapons shortages; it's the United States. And the latest is that two tankers appear to be burning in the Strait of Hormuz. One of them is UAE-owned. You know, Professor Rondi, there are all kinds of reports. A lot of them come from Israel, and some come from the United States. One of the reports from the United States is interesting because, as you say, Iran wants to maximize the pressure on the Trump administration and will take an offensive posture—at least in the sense that they're not going to wait around for a major operation to start.

But at the same time, a lot of what's being said about Iran right now really does sound like an attempt to justify that larger operation. I don't know if you've seen the reports claiming, for example, that sleeper cells have supposedly been activated in the United States and that they're going to assassinate Trump. That's what the Israeli regime is spreading. And then, of course, there are claims about chemical weapons and all kinds of other narratives about Iran that seem aimed at pushing the United States back into a larger-scale war. So what do you make of this? How much of it do you think has to do with what's actually happening on the ground and with the situations that the U.S. and the Israeli regime may find themselves in but won't talk about?

#Mohammad Marandi

All of this is propaganda. It's hasbara. But the problem is that the Israelis are really bad at it. We were always told that they were really good at this sort of thing. They're the worst. Going out every day and making new accusations is the worst thing you could do, because it becomes clear to everyone that it's all propaganda. Trump comes out and says they want to nuke Los Angeles and San Diego. Then Netanyahu says they want to use chemical weapons. Then they come out and say that Iran wants to use drones to assassinate senior American figures. Then they move their senior

officials onto a military base. And then the liberal media—not Fox News, the liberal media—says the Iranians are going to use a dirty bomb.

Even though they know it comes from the Israeli regime, they don't say so. They only admit it later because no one believes it. Then they talk about chemical weapons, biological weapons, and sleeper cells. All of this in the last two or three weeks. Why? Because they're seeking war. The Israeli regime and the Zionist lobby are desperate for war. They're not going to win the war. The Americans are not going to win the war, but they want more anyway. And they're willing to sacrifice the U.S. economy and the global economy for the sake of this genocidal Zionist regime. And then you had Fareed Zakaria do a show asking why Iran has been trying for decades to develop nuclear weapons.

But we all know that U.S. intelligence has said Iran is not seeking nuclear weapons. It hasn't been developing nuclear weapons since 2003. And the International Atomic Energy Agency says there's no indication that Iran was seeking nuclear weapons, either before or after 2003. Why would Fareed Zakaria do this? Why would CNN do this? And then The New York Times tries to draw some sort of link between Iran's water reserves and dams and its underground bases. Again, liberal media. It just shows that the political regime, the Epstein class—they're all the same. Whether it's The Guardian or Sky News in the UK, or Breitbart, Fox News, or The New York Times, they're all the same. MSNBC, CNN—they're all the same.

#Danny

Well, Professor Marandi, since we're talking on Thanksgiving Day, there's an interesting little piece of history that I think offers a parallel. A lot of people might not know that the first Thanksgiving was declared in 1637 in what is now Connecticut, after a horrible massacre of the Pequot people. I believe somewhere between 700 and 1,000 Pequot people were killed, including women and children. And afterward, the governor, John Winthrop, declared a day of thanksgiving.

That's where it officially comes from. Not Plymouth, none of that. The justification for the massacre was that Pequot warriors were supposedly plotting to attack the men, women, and children of the colony itself. So that was the justification. It's so interesting. It's a stark parallel to the narrative we always hear about Iran. And then, of course, we can go on and on about Palestinians, Hamas, the resistance. It's always that they're about to do something terrible.

#Mohammad Marandi

The empire is always the victim. The empire is always the victim.

#Danny

They're about to do something terrible, so the empire has to, you know, strike first. And of course, if we look at what happened to Iran, for example, it was civilians, including women and children, who

were targeted. So what do you think about this? I mean, we're seeing some deep historical parallels. I've been calling it "the loop." Sometimes it feels like we're hearing the same old narratives about Iran and the region, even ones from the recent past, recycled as propaganda to push for military escalation. What are your thoughts on that?

#Mohammad Marandi

Well, you're right. They used the dirty bomb propaganda against Saddam Hussein. They also used chemical weapons claims against him. And I think they used the dirty bomb claim against Osama bin Laden, too. So yes, this is all just repetition. It even affects people who are anti-war. The last time I went on Piers Morgan's show—and I have no interest in going on again—there were two pro-genocide, pro-war people and two anti-war people. Neither of the two anti-war people wanted to say that Iran was the victim. They both wanted to say, "Well, all governments are mafias."

I don't want to name them, but one of them said, "All governments are mafias." What does that mean? That means they're drawing a moral equivalence between the U.S., which is the aggressor, and the Iranians, who are the victims. So they can't even bring themselves to say Iran is the victim. Then the other anti-war person said that Iran fights dirty. He was anti-war, but he was also attacking Iran. And, you know, I think this is important. He kept saying, "Iran fights dirty." So, looking at the bigger picture, why am I saying this? Let's go over the chemical weapons, the terrorism, and the nuclear weapons in the 40-day war. I used DeepSeek and Kimi for this. You can check for yourself, and so can your viewers.

I asked how many civilians died in the Arab countries in the Persian Gulf region during the 40 days of fighting. I asked in different ways, and I got different numbers from the two: anywhere from 11 to 30 or 40. But I think it was closer to a dozen, or two dozen at most. So Iran fired thousands of missiles and drones—thousands—and destroyed all those U.S. bases. And in all, let's say a dozen civilians, noncombatants, were killed. Is that fighting dirty? On the very first day of the war, the Americans slaughtered hundreds of civilians. Just on day one, they wiped out 168 little schoolchildren, mostly girls, and their teachers in Minab. Intentionally. Intentionally. Because many of the students at that school were the children of naval officers.

They wanted to teach the naval officers a lesson. And then, in Lamerd, they bombed a sports complex where teenage girls were playing volleyball and boys were playing football, and they wiped them out. Then they struck other places. So hundreds were killed in the first minute, and it wasn't the fog of war. These were the first strikes. So, after 40 days of Iranian strikes, how many civilians were killed? It's tragic when any innocent person is killed. But anyone can look it up right now, as we speak. You can look it up, too. A handful or a dozen or so—two dozen, let's say, or even three dozen—civilians were killed in 40 days. But thousands were killed by the Americans and the Israelis. That's fighting dirty.

#Danny

Sorry, sorry. But yeah, it's breaking up again. You said thousands were killed by the United States and Israel during the 40 days. That's where you left off.

#Mohammad Marandi

What did I say last?

#Danny

Oh, you said that thousands of civilians were killed by Israel and the United States during the 40-day war.

#Mohammad Marandi

So Iran fires thousands of missiles and drones, and a handful of people are killed. The Americans and Israelis kill thousands, and Iran is the one fighting dirty? This is the sad part of all this: this is how some anti-war people treat Iran. I'm not talking about all of them. And then one other example. Saddam Hussein invaded Iran, again with U.S. support, and the United States entered the war against Iran in its last year. In 1988, the United States fought directly alongside Saddam Hussein against Iran. But when Saddam invaded Iran with U.S., Western, and Soviet support, he began shelling Iranian cities and firing missiles at them.

Iran didn't retaliate. Iran protested to the UN and to other countries, but it wouldn't retaliate. I don't know how long that went on. You could look it up. But for a whole year, maybe a year and a half, Saddam kept firing missiles at our cities, killing thousands of innocent people. And Iran wouldn't retaliate. Ultimately, the Iranians saw that this wasn't going to stop. And the West was indifferent. They supported Saddam. So Iran began firing flares. Whenever Saddam's forces hit Iranian cities, Iran would fire flares over Iraqi cities to tell the Iraqis, "Look, we can hit you, but we don't want to." That didn't work. So then what happened? After a while, the Iranians said, "OK, we're going to retaliate. How are we going to retaliate?"

#Danny

Google says, Professor Marandi, that it was about four and a half years before Iran fired its own retaliatory missiles. So that's a long time, actually. It's a very long time.

#Mohammad Marandi

So Saddam would attack without warning. But before firing retaliatory missiles, the Iranians would tell the Iraqi public, "You have 24 hours to leave these cities." Then the Iranians would start striking, and they'd stop as soon as Saddam stopped. Which country fights like that? Can you name a war in the last 50 years where one side fought like that?

#Danny

Professor Marandi, you asked whether anyone could name another country that's fought a war like that in the last 50 years, and then you got cut off. I think your video froze, but it looks like you're slowly coming back. Maybe you can pick up where you left off.

#Mohammad Marandi

That was basically it. What I'm saying is, what other country has fought this way? The guest on that show says Iran fights dirty. This is the reality we live in: In the West, even if they bring on someone who's anti-war, they won't depict Iran as the victim. They'll try to create some sort of moral equivalence.

#Danny

Yeah, that's a great point. I also looked at Grok, and it says approximately 20 civilians were killed in the Gulf states during the 40-day war, citing Amnesty International back in June. It lists 10 in the UAE, two to three in Bahrain, three to five in Saudi Arabia, and small numbers in Kuwait, Qatar, and Oman. Those numbers are hard to verify. But what's interesting is that Iran might look even better in this case, because it's also hard to tell whether those deaths were caused by Iranian missiles and drones or by misfires from Patriots, THAADs, and other air defense systems used to intercept them. Some people might say, "Well, that's splitting hairs." But these systems are supposed to be the most effective weapons against any kind of missile or drone incursion.

And yet, Professor Roddy, we've shown the footage. On so many shows, including recently, we've played videos from Bahrain and elsewhere where you see buildings on fire because air defenses malfunctioned. And as we've gone over on this program, malfunctions are actually a normal part of how these air defense systems operate. I've seen reports of more than 9,000 missiles, and I've seen lower estimates. It depends on how scary or how weak the Western mainstream media wants to make Iran look. Iran has never said how many missiles it actually fired, but it's somewhere in the high thousands, up to 10,000. And, yeah, 28 is a pretty impressive number. And for those 28 deaths, it's hard to say whether they were caused by Patriot or THAAD missiles misfiring or malfunctioning, or by Iranian missiles and drones.

So it's obvious Iran wasn't targeting civilians. It was incredibly precise in avoiding civilian casualties, which is hard to do in a place like Bahrain. I don't know what percentage of the country the Fifth Fleet takes up, but it's significant. I've heard it's something like a third of the entire country, and it's a small, small, small country. A colleague who's been to Bahrain a lot of times just told me, "I don't know what Iran could be hitting in Bahrain because it's really small." So, anyway, I just wanted to bring that up.

#Mohammad Marandi

One other thing is that those who died were foreign workers. They were forced to go to work because many of them are basically slaves, indentured servants. So when the citizens of these countries go home, they leave these people at work because they don't care what happens to them. So those two dozen or maybe a dozen and a half people who were sadly killed in those 40 days probably died because they weren't allowed to leave their workplaces. But in any case, the point is that Iran was incredibly careful to avoid civilian deaths, whether in the war with Saddam Hussein or in this war. But for the Americans and Israelis, it was the other way around.

#Danny

Well, Professor Marandi, before the show we were talking about Iran potentially taking action. This would also back up what you said about Iran not letting up. It doesn't want war, but it's still putting pressure on the U.S. to either back down or escalate further and weaken itself in the process, as Iran pushes for a complete end to the war. As we've been speaking, the Kuwaiti army has said that Iran targeted a vital site in Kuwait with one-way attack drones, causing damage and injuries. Iran hasn't acknowledged this, but here's the official notice from the Kuwaiti army. It says that several hostile drones were detected in Kuwaiti airspace and that some military personnel were injured.

Yeah, Iran is not letting up. We're talking about the tankers and the bases. Maybe you can comment on this: Iran is really preserving its stockpiles of ballistic missiles, hypersonic missiles, and other missiles. It's relying almost entirely on drones. I believe it used ballistic missiles in one recent attack, but for the most part, Iran is just using drones and doesn't seem to think it needs anything else. What are your thoughts on how this is shaping up, especially given what seems to be proof that Iran isn't letting the U.S. rest, even on Thanksgiving?

#Mohammad Marandi

Well, the Iranians are using drones because they're incredibly cheap. And the targets of those who waged war against Iran and those who facilitated it are very vulnerable. They're close. They're right on the other side of the Persian Gulf, so they're easy to hit. There's no need to use missiles. But Iran has been building huge numbers of missiles. Even though it's building new underground missile bases—and we saw images in the Iranian media of two new bases inaugurated last week—Iran is having trouble storing all those missiles. They've built so many over the past few months that they're running out of space in their underground missile facilities and bases.

Of course, I'm sure they'll find a solution, but they have no shortage of missiles. So these drone attacks will continue. Iran will soften up the enemy both to strengthen its control over the strait and the Persian Gulf and to weaken the enemy in case it wants to launch a war. Many of the targets so

far have been Patriot air defense systems and U.S. radar systems. With those systems destroyed, if a hot war breaks out, it becomes much more difficult for the Americans to monitor the situation, defend their assets, and so on. And it also shows that Iran isn't intimidated by the Americans.

The Americans are talking about attacking Iran, and the Israelis are talking about attacking Iran. And instead of pulling back, the Iranians are striking targets because we're not in a ceasefire. There is no ceasefire. And the Americans do carry out strikes against Iran. They haven't done so for a few days. I don't know why, but they may start again shortly. Who knows? But there is no ceasefire, so the Iranians have every right to strike targets. It's not like when the Israeli regime signed a fake ceasefire with the Palestinians in Gaza. The Americans, Erdogan, Sisi, and Abdullah of Jordan—all these people gathered to celebrate that fake ceasefire.

#Danny

Sorry, Professor Rodney, just to clarify for people listening, you were talking about how Abdullah of Jordan and others in the region were celebrating a ceasefire that doesn't really exist. Maybe you can continue with that.

#Mohammad Marandi

Yeah, I was just saying that they all celebrated a fake ceasefire put forward by Trump, yet the Israeli regime has been killing Palestinians every day. Yesterday they murdered 11, and the day before that, 10, including many children and women. But with Iran, there's no ceasefire, and the Americans do strike Iran. So when Iran strikes Kuwait or any other target—assuming it did strike Kuwait, since, as you pointed out, the Iranians haven't announced anything yet—it has every right to strike, right?

#Danny

A plot twist here, Professor Marandi: Not only does the Kuwaiti military call it a vital site, but there are also reports that Italian military personnel were injured in the strike. And I find that interesting because of Europe's particular role and the predicament it's in. Iran has said that, of course, it's extended the range of its missiles to the point where, if bases in European countries are used in a major operation against Iran in the near future, those bases won't be safe.

But yeah, it isn't talked about very much, but of course Europe has played a very supportive role in this war. And speaking of false flag narratives, propaganda, all of that, it wasn't too long ago, earlier this fall, that we heard from the Royal Air Force that Iran was seeking to destroy bombers and their hangars at Royal Air Force bases that were actually U.S. military bases. So what are your thoughts on Europe's role in this? I actually wasn't aware that there were still European military personnel at these bases, but I guess there are. What's your reaction?

#Mohammad Marandi

Well, many of them aren't necessarily at those bases. I don't know about these particular people, but many are now stationed at bases belonging to the host country because their own bases have been destroyed. The U.S. bases have been destroyed. In some cases, remnants of the U.S. forces are still in parts of the bases that haven't been destroyed, but some have moved to the host country' s bases. And some are actually living in hotels and other buildings that have been made available free of charge to the United States and its allies to house their troops. I'm guessing it was an air defense system that was struck.

This is just speculation, but I'd guess it was an Italian air defense system being used to help the Americans, the Israelis, and these regimes block Iranian retaliation when they launch an attack on Iran. I think that because Iran has been targeting air defense and radar systems over the past few days. But yes, the Europeans are complicit in this war, just like these Arab regimes. They're all complicit. They all assisted the Israelis and the Americans. We saw the commander of NATO brag that 5,000 flights took off from NATO countries during the first two months of the war to assist with the bombing of Iranian civilian and military targets.

#Danny

Yeah, well, that's a really good point about their air defense systems, because it's already well known that the United States has been blowing through them. It seems like Iran is well aware of the weapons shortages. Iran's military recently said that it's the U.S. that's running out of weapons. But the U.S. keeps transferring weapons there. I mean, I think a lot of people don't understand that while the U.S. has been very hesitant to launch a major operation, it hasn't been hesitant to prepare for one however it can.

U.S. Central Command has been trying to refortify these sites with military equipment, which means the U.S. is just blowing through more of its air defenses. And, of course, much of that hardware has gone to the Israeli regime, which probably explains why Israel is so eager to restart the war. They probably feel more prepared, at least. It might be a miscalculation, but it wouldn't be shocking if Israel's resupply and rearmament, combined with its hubris, arrogance, and lust for blood, turned out to be a noxious mix that fuels its desire to restart the war on a larger scale. What do you think of this?

#Mohammad Marandi

The Israeli regime won't be safe. They don't have enough air defenses to protect themselves. Defeating the United States and its proxies in the Persian Gulf would be disastrous for the regime because it's completely dependent on the United States. And if U.S. assets and proxies are destroyed, that severely weakens the United States, which in turn weakens the regime. Without the full support of Europe and the United States, without the many, many billions of dollars they receive

directly and indirectly every year, they would fall apart. And we saw in the past that the Iranians struck Israeli targets very effectively.

And this time around, the Iranians are going to hit much harder. There are fewer air defenses everywhere else now, and it seems that Iran is striking more and more of them. And in Yemen, they're also depleting what's left of the Saudi air defenses. So in the next war, Iran can focus even more on the Israeli regime because there are few, if any, air defenses left elsewhere. Those missiles and drones will get through much more easily, so Iran could hit the Israeli regime much harder. There's no solution for the regime. If it wants war with Iran, it's going to take a bad beating.

And Iran's military assets are all deep underground. They can bomb Iranian civilians. They can strike Iranian civilian infrastructure. No one would be surprised, because these are barbaric regimes. When Bessent, Trump, and senators go and boast about how they're going to strangle Iranians and cause societal collapse, it just shows who they are. What a sick regime and political class we see in the United States and the West. But when Iran strikes back, its retaliation will be far worse. These countries in the Persian Gulf will be wiped out. They'll be gone in days because they're just tiny regimes that have oil or gas.

So once Iran destroys their oil and gas facilities, they're finished. And they're all guilty because they're facilitating the war. They're part of it. When that happens, the global economy will collapse, and we'll go into a great depression. So there really is no good option for the Israeli regime. If there's a war, it's not going to end well for them. Their assets and infrastructure will be destroyed as well. But the bigger picture is that the United States will be severely weakened, and people across the world will blame the Israelis and Zionism for this catastrophe because they're insisting on…

#Danny

Well, first of all, Ronnie, if I remember correctly, one of the reasons you drew Piers Morgan's ire was that you said something just like what you said here. I think he got very angry at you and said, "How could you, you know, talk about the United States and Israel doing all these horrible things and then talk about Iran wiping out the regimes in the Gulf states?" Maybe you can respond to that, because it's an interesting equivalence, given that the Gulf states certainly aren't acting independently. And you've shown, as so many others have, that it's actually the U.S. military presence in the region that allows the U.S. to conduct the war in the first place. It's not as if the U.S. is flying all the way from bases in the United States to Iran to carry out bombing and other operations. So how would you respond to this idea that there's an equivalence between Iran and the United States in this war?

#Mohammad Marandi

Of course there's no equivalence. Let me explain very quickly. It's easy for people to figure this out. When Saddam Hussein invaded Iran, these countries gave him hundreds of billions of dollars to kill

Iranians. Saudi Arabia and Kuwait in particular were wealthier than the others back then. After the war, Iran forgave them and moved toward rapprochement. In the 12-day war, they assisted the Israelis. How? American refueling planes flew out of these countries with jet fuel the countries gave them for free.

They gave that jet fuel to American planes, which then passed the free fuel from these countries on to Israeli jets so they could bomb Iran. So these countries were involved in the 12-day war. We didn' t strike them, except that when the Americans struck Iran, the Iranians struck Qatar. In this war, as we discussed earlier, only a handful of people were killed in these countries, and they were probably workers. Why? Because Iran was careful not to kill civilians, while thousands of Iranians were murdered. But this time around, the Iranians are saying this is a deterrent.

#Danny

Professor Miranda, I believe you were saying that this time around, Iran sees this as a deterrent. Please continue.

#Mohammad Marandi

Yes. This time around, though, if the United States and the Israeli regime are going to go after our critical infrastructure, then the countries that facilitate that by cooperating with the Americans and Israelis are co-conspirators. So this would be retaliation. And saying that we're going to retaliate is deterrence. Iran doesn't want war. It does not want this to happen. It's warning them: If you do this, here's what we're going to do. So don't do it. But if you do it, we'll retaliate. There's no other option. We can't just sit back and let them destroy our country.

And then Kuwait, the Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, and Qatar say, "Well, we're just innocent bystanders." But they let them do it. Right now, where do the F-15s and F-16s take off from? What countries do they fly over? They don't come from aircraft carriers. And where do the refueling planes come from? They all fly over these countries. Where do American drones come from when they strike Iran or probe Iranian airspace? They come from these countries. So these countries are part of the war. These warnings are meant to get them to distance themselves from the United States and block the war. But if they facilitate the war, then they're co-conspirators.

#Danny

One of the interesting things I've noticed about tracking this war is how much open-source intelligence is out there now. Even individuals, some of whom are actually based in Iran, are tracking U.S. military developments and movements. And one striking pattern that many sites point out is that when refueling tankers land and stay on the ground at Al Udeid Air Base, it means no operation is underway. Once they're back in the air, a bigger attack is likely.

So despite the destruction at Al Udeid, the United States still keeps its refueling planes there. And once they're sent out on a mission, that's likely when a strike is going to happen. That shows how the United States is operating. But as we get to the last part of the show, I want to ask you: What's the cost to Iran? Iran is hitting air defense systems at U.S. bases in places like Kuwait and Bahrain, but it's clear that Iran has calculated there would be costs to just wiping those systems out.

It's very precise targeting, though. But what would it cost Iran to go after, for example, those tankers—the 135s, whatever they are—the KC-130s, the Poseidons? They're all just sitting there. They're sitting ducks. The U.S. certainly can't defend them. So what's the cost to Iran of upping the ante in that way? What do you think the calculation is there? Because some people are looking at the satellite images and saying, "Well, those look pretty ripe for the picking." What do you think goes through Iran's mind when it decides, "Not worth the cost"?

#Mohammad Marandi

In general, Iran wants everyone to know that it doesn't start wars. Even though we're at war as we speak, and the United States is carrying out aggression and threatening to wipe us off the face of the earth and carry out the most horrific holocaust in human history, the Iranians want everyone to know that they didn't start it. So even now, they're targeting radar installations and anti-aircraft systems. When Iran strikes back, it tries to make its response effective but limited so that, ultimately, if there's a major confrontation, the U.S. will be blamed. And the U.S. should be blamed even if Iran were to launch a massive assault on the United States and the Israelis right now, as we speak.

We're in the middle of a war. There's no ceasefire, so Iran has every right to do so. But the Global South and the global majority, including many people in the West, side with Iran because they see Iran as the moral actor. No matter how much the West tries to demonize Iran, the West is infinitely inferior when it comes to morality. So I think the Iranians want to be careful not to escalate too much unless they have to, because that further damages the image of the Israeli regime, the United States, and its proxies. And if Iran is later forced to hit very hard, which it will if there's a war, then everyone will see it as completely justified.

#Danny

There are now reports that the two Italians reported as casualties in the recent Iranian drone attack actually died. I can't confirm that, and we also can't confirm that it was the Iranian drones that caused those casualties. I mean, as we've shown before, the Kuwaiti military said it had taken care of the drones, which would mean it was firing its air defenses. So we're not sure exactly what caused the injuries or, if the reports are true, the deaths. I just wanted to put that out there. Do you have any final words? You know, it's Thanksgiving in the United States. What's your message to our U.S. audience and to those who don't celebrate Thanksgiving, whether they're in the U.S. or elsewhere around the world?

#Mohammad Marandi

Well, first of all, CENTCOM and these Arab dictatorships are always saying that they blocked all Iranian drones and missiles. And then, after the 40-day war, we saw that all the U.S. bases had been destroyed. It was so bad that Senator Murphy wasn't even allowed to visit them. So whether it's Kuwait, the United States, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, or the Emirates, their denials and statements are all fake. You assume they're fake unless proven otherwise. But this war was not initiated by Iran. The previous war was not initiated by Iran. Saddam Hussein's war was not initiated by Iran.

And Iran is being attacked because it supports the Palestinian people and wants an end to the genocide. It's very simple. No matter how they try to demonize Iran, this is how things stand. Iran and the Axis of Resistance say, "End the genocide." The West wants the Israeli regime to do what it needs to do. That's how it is. And the governments in the region, whether it's Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, or the Emirates, aren't going to do anything for the Palestinian people. If anything, they're going to help attack the Yemeni armed forces on behalf of Saudi Arabia, which is a U.S. ally. That's where things stand.

#Danny

And we didn't even get to talk about Yemen and Ansar Allah really damaging Ras Tanura and continuing on their path toward defeating the Saudi regime once and for all, which also means defeating the U.S. in that part of the world. Professor Morandi, first, you know, it is Thanksgiving, but the United American Indians of New England call it a day of mourning.

And of course, Palestinians and other people in the region we're talking about have been mourning daily since this war—this genocidal war, I guess—escalated after October 7th. So I want to hearken back to our past conversations, when we said, "Keep that in mind." Everyone should keep that in mind. Also, everyone should hit the like button because, as you can tell, Professor Morandi didn't have to give me my lashings today. We didn't even talk about that ridiculous story about musicians being lashed.

What was it, four men and one woman, right? I was watching some Iranian accounts of this, and they were saying, "Well, nobody understands that there are actually local differences in how certain things are enforced." Well, remind me next time. We can talk about this sort of thing. Yeah, yeah, because it's very important. But anyway, I thought I'd make light of it a little bit because of how ridiculous the narrative itself is. But yeah, the genocidal monsters are so, so worried about the four men and the one woman who were punished. Well, they're not worried about the four men. No, they're not.

Just the one woman. The four men weren't even mentioned. You have to look at the fine print in the BBC coverage for that. And then you have to look at other sources to even hear about the massacres and murders of people in Palestine and, you know, the rest of the Iranians, et cetera. So

anyway, Professor Morandi, thanks so much. We're going to head out of here together. Hit the like button. That always helps the show and gets more people to hear Professor Morandi's voice in this conversation. It helps with the algorithm. Thanks to all the moderators, everyone who tuned in, and all the members. In the video description below, you can find all the ways to support this show: Patreon, Substack, and much more.

#Mohammad Marandi

Happy holidays to everybody who celebrates, and I'll see you all tomorrow.

#Danny

I'll let you know what's happening on November 21st.