

Anthony Aguilar: Iran SUSPENDS All Flights in Western Region – Attack on Israel Imminent

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#Nima

Hi everybody, today is Sunday, June 14th, 2026, and our dear friend, our brother Anthony Aguilar, is here with us. Welcome back, Tony.

#Anthony

Thank you. It's a pleasure to be here, as always, and thanks for having me on.

#Nima

Tony, I want to start with the madness of today, what has happened. You remember last time Israel attacked Beirut in Dahia. Again, today they attacked Beirut in Dahia. And the outcome is the same thing. Last time they attacked, they were supposed to assassinate some Hezbollah forces, which failed, totally failed. Today, the same thing. They have failed to assassinate Hezbollah forces or commanders, but they killed civilians, ordinary people. Again, at least one or two were killed, and four of them were injured by the attack. It was huge. By the way, I don't know if you watched the footage of that bombing. It was a huge bombing, and you see the explosion coming into the street and destroying the building.

And then, what was happening in Iran, we had battery delegations in Iran trying to bring the two sides together, final negotiations, details being discussed in Iran. And right after the attack, Iran said, we're going to respond, we're going to respond hard. And the United States, Donald Trump said he had a phone call. He had two phone calls today. One of them, in the initial hours right after the attack, he said, we were supposed to sign the agreement this morning. Then Israel carried out that effing attack in Beirut. I couldn't believe it. Bibi has no effing judgment. I told him I was very unhappy. Then later on, he said he talked with the Iranians. He said, don't attack Israel because you're going to ruin everything.

And then, we know at the same time there are various talks between the two sides through Qatari delegations, because the Qataris are there in Tehran as we speak, trying to do their best to bridge the gap between the two sides. But the problem is, so far, whatever Donald Trump tried to do, he said, I'm going to lift the blockade unilaterally. I'm going to pay you \$12 billion not to attack, just to avoid the attack on Israel. I don't know why he's so concerned about Israel, because if he sees how Israel is trying to destroy everything, if he's honest in the way that he's negotiating, he's talking about the deal between the two sides. So if Iran punishes Israel, that would help him, because Israel has to learn.

If the United States is achieving, he said the same morning that he wants to sign the agreement, Israel attacks Lebanon to destroy everything, basically. And then he tried to offer Iran, we're gonna do this, we're gonna give you the frozen assets. Iran said, no, our allies are not for sale. And from the head of the Iranian National Security Council, he said that we're going to respond because Lebanon is our soul, and violating Iran's red line will not be tolerated. I think in the coming hours, we're going to see huge, massive attacks on Israel. It seems that it's going to be in the northern part of Israel. But looking at what's going on, what is your understanding of that?

#Anthony

Well, there's quite a bit to unpack, not only in what we're seeing unfold right now, but how it unfolded and what we knew and know preceding the attacks on Lebanon yet again. So, looking at the peace agreement first, I don't think that there was any reality to the agreement being signed this morning. The signaling from Tehran, from the leadership within Iran, was that the excitement of a negotiation or a deal or the MOU, which really is a memorandum of understanding, is really just that. It's a memorandum that lays out understanding between the two parties of this is how we are going to proceed. There are no guarantees, no obligations, no commitments.

It's just an understanding. It's still very fragile. And even in that, we weren't even close to signing yet. In terms of, um, yes, there was a date to sign, we were going to meet at a certain location, we were going to sign this, there would be some ceremonial agreement to mark the seriousness of this — none of that was happening. So for Donald Trump to respond to Israel would be, "Hey, we were going to sign this this morning, you know, you ruined it, we were so close" — that's not true. Now, whatever deal was happening in terms of going towards an MOU, did Israel's actions today in striking the southern suburbs of Beirut cause that to derail?

Absolutely. But I still don't think that we were as close to a final MOU as Donald Trump was suggesting because of the very issue of Lebanon, in that the issue had not been addressed. And as I've continued to say this from weeks and weeks ago, when there was any inclination of how an agreement may come to an end or bring this conflict to an end, was that a lot of things on both sides of this are negotiable, fungible, flexible — things that can be offered in place of other things to where you still achieve the same intent or the same objective, just through different means, like the Strait of Hormuz.

Does anyone think that if the United States were to get everything it wanted regarding the Strait of Hormuz, or that Iran would get everything it wanted regarding the Strait of Hormuz, that that would be a negotiation? No. The only way one warring side gets everything it wants is if there's a military victory that draws to complete capitulation of the other party. That hasn't happened. So there is no realism in thinking that either side is going to get everything they want. So in each of those instances—sanctions, frozen assets, the Strait of Hormuz, even discussion of a nuclear program or lack thereof—all of those things, there's the ability to discuss around the fringes to get to some type of agreement.

But when it comes to the issue of Lebanon, not because it's Israel, but because it is Israel attacking Lebanon, and that Israel has given every indication that they're never going to leave Lebanon unless they are forced to do so by either military force or diplomatic pressure. Diplomatic pressure, it doesn't matter where it comes from. If the United States isn't backing that diplomatic pressure with a strong position and action, then Israel's never going to do it. I think now we've seen the point where even if the United States does stand against Israel politically, Israel still is not going to cease its operations in southern Lebanon.

And for people that would think that, well, Israel can restrain itself to south of the Litani, southern Lebanon, to where the actual fighting is going on, we see yet again that that is not possible. So that's kind of the position I would say where this deal is now. Particularly with this strike today and the strike that we saw last week, Israel does possess the capability to conduct very precise strikes—very precise, without-collateral-damage strikes. If they were truly intending to strike a high-value target or assassinate a Hezbollah leader, they have the ability, even with kinetic strikes, to conduct very precise kinetic engagements. The fact that what we've seen from this recent strike and last week is that they choose to be unrestrained.

They choose to create maximum collateral damage within the aspect of whatever strike they're conducting. They choose to be destructive in their kinetic engagements. And that should be obvious to everyone. So when you look at the timing of the strikes in the suburbs of southern Beirut, the type of strikes, the collateral damage of the strikes, the complete disregard for the civilian population, the complete disregard for any type of negotiated settlements or peace deals being brought between Iran and the United States, especially involving the very issue of Lebanon, it's clear to me that, once again, Israel is the spoiler of any type of peace negotiation, if there were any real serious peace negotiations actually happening.

I think the Trump administration was pushing with a lot of pressure. Get it done. Get it done. Get it done. Hey, did you get the latest copy? Hey, Iran, did you get the latest copy? Have you signed it yet? Why haven't you signed it yet? When are we going to do this? Like this pressure, pressure, pressure, this almost manic pressure to get this done, to where from Iran's position, they're like,

hey, you know, we want to reach a peace agreement or at least an understanding toward a peace agreement, but we're not going to rush into something that's going to end up putting us in a weaker position because we don't trust you, America.

We're not coming to the table with any sense of trust on either side. And when you look at how Israel continues to interact and continues to interject and, quite frankly, ruin any type of setting of the table—you know, you set the table for talks and Israel keeps coming in and just flipping the table over and ruining any true sense of, can we get from here, from point A to point B, with any sense of genuine negotiation. So I agree with you that we are very likely going to see a response from Iran, and I think that in that response from Iran, Iran will be very strategic. Iran will signal to China and Russia prior to that, because I think when you look at China and Russia looking at this from the outside as kind of a big brother—not necessarily a big brother, but another strategic interest in this that actually has a lot of power—they're looking at this and saying, like, hey, Iran, we support you.

But don't get crazy. Don't go, you know, throwing our support for you around in vain, thinking that we're just going to support you in anything you do. Don't get crazy. So I think that when you look at how Iran would respond to Israel in this approach, there's going to be signaling prior to it with China and Russia from Iran that says, hey, this was a red line in our negotiation. And we were negotiating in good faith. They did this. We cannot sit back and do nothing. And we have to do something. And here's what we're going to do. And they're going to signal that to China and Russia so that China and Russia are ensured that Iran is not taking their support for granted. And then Iran, probably through Pakistan, will have some type of messaging to the United States along the lines of, you know, hey, this is why we don't trust you.

This is why any type of negotiation you bring to us that you are in a hurry to sign, we take our time in looking at it—because we don't trust you. Because we also do not trust Israel, and your two interests are intrinsically linked. So these strikes that we're going to counterstrike in northern Israel, maybe even some hits in Tel Aviv to take out some Israeli leadership. At a certain point, Iran is going to take the gloves off again and strike Ben Gurion Airport. It's a shock to me that they've demonstrated this much restraint thus far. But, you know, I think—will they strike northern Israel? Yes. Is it possible that there could be some strategic targets in Tel Aviv where we could see strikes in Tel Aviv as well? Potentially.

#Nima

He said just moments ago what Donald Trump told the Wall Street Journal—that he plans to soon announce that the United States has reached a deal with Iran through Tehran. You know, by the way, Tehran is emphasizing this issue. In this report from the Wall Street Journal, Iran has not yet confirmed acceptance of the agreement. Donald Trump wants to announce it. I don't know what that means so far. But Bibi—we have the second phone call today with Bibi. And again, Bibi is trying to explain what's going on. Why did Israel try to attack Iran, and what was the meaning of that? But

after all, Donald Trump says Bibi is okay—in this report from the Wall Street Journal—that Bibi is okay with the deal between Iran and the United States. So if he's okay with the deal, why does he need to attack Dahia? First question.

Second question. He said today, he said Israel is not going to withdraw from Lebanon, which is part of the deal. Israel has to withdraw totally from Lebanon. These are huge issues for the Trump administration. Do you see any sort of move or any sort of leverage at this particular moment that Donald Trump would be able to use to convince Benjamin Netanyahu to withdraw from Lebanon while he's attacking Lebanon? Today he was attacking the southern part of Lebanon. He was attacking Gazans, Palestinians, the West Bank, and Dahia in Beirut. Just imagine what the Israeli government is doing. Looking at the scene, it's just all about madness with the Netanyahu administration. And how can you convince such a guy, such an administration, to stop everything—not only stopping the war, but withdrawing from Lebanon?

#Anthony

Well, I think it's very clear over not only recent events, but in time since the U.N. mandates for Israel to leave Lebanon, that Israel isn't going to leave Lebanon—not then, not now, not in the future—unless forced to through some type of military means. Political and diplomatic means will not be the ticket to Israel leaving Lebanon or leaving Shebaa Farms of the Golan Heights or leaving occupied areas of the West Bank or leaving Gaza, or at least returning to the positions within Gaza that were agreed upon in this ceasefire deal of U.N. Resolution 2803 months ago that we've all long since forgotten, because the ceasefire in Gaza is such a lie and never existed. So when you look at Israel's intent to actually withdraw or to cease operations in Lebanon in the south, but also we've seen that they'll, at a whim, strike in the north.

That it's not a genuine negotiation position. And Iran sees that. And I'm quite certain that the United States sees that. When the United States is going into this round of negotiation with Iran, the United States has a position where Donald Trump wants out of this conflict. And when I say that, some people say, no, he doesn't. Look at how he continues the war. Donald Trump wants out, whether the way out is to fight his way out to get a military capitulation from Iran or to make a deal. And he's tried both. But the bottom line is he doesn't want to continue this to try to get more of a negotiation or leverage. He wants out. And this deal was the most likely and closest to a way for Donald Trump to punch his ticket and get out. Would it be a lasting negotiation? No.

Would it bring actual peace to the region in terms of what we see between Israel and Lebanon or Iran and Israel with the aspects of the resistance? No. But it was surely a way for Donald Trump to punch his ticket to at least get out and say, hey, we did our part. We're out. Whatever else happens, that's between y'all. And we'll figure out our position with Israel going forward. But in terms of the greater war, not our problem anymore. Israel is not going to allow that to happen. Israel is not going to allow the United States to tiptoe its way out of this without putting skin in the game and a commitment to either continue backing Israel or make it very clear that they are not. Donald

Trump's not going to be able to gray-area or walk on eggshells out of this. Iran will not—or, excuse me, Israel will not—allow it. And Iran is not going to allow Israel to get away with it.

So as much as Donald Trump wants to wish this away, now he's at the threshold of a deal. And again, you see it almost—I would call it desperation—the desperate approach of Donald Trump in, "We're there." I mean, last Thursday, right? Thursday evening of last week, so four days ago. "Hey, breakthrough, big news. The deal's done. Everybody's agreed. All we're waiting for now is for the Sharpie pens to be delivered so we can all sign it. This is a done deal." And then we go into Friday. "Hey, it's still a done deal. We're still working out some pieces, but hey, this thing is all but signed. This thing is good to go." And then later on Friday morning, Donald Trump is then responding with, "Iran is—they're liars."

They're not good negotiators. They negotiate in bad faith. They don't mean it—they don't want this to end. And then by Friday lunchtime, everything's good again. Oh, we're back on track. We're going to sign a deal. And then by Friday evening, we're going to close this thing up by Saturday. We're definitely going to sign it Sunday. And here we are Sunday, and we are nowhere closer to this thing being signed than we were Thursday. And in fact, I would argue that based on what we've seen this morning with the strikes yet again in southern Beirut, we're now even further away from this memorandum of understanding being agreed upon and signed.

Because now the intent of Israel to continue strikes in southern Lebanon last week is an indicator of, okay, that's concerning, but they've done it again. So now they've established a clear pattern. And the United States is going to have to decide, are we just going to continue into this escalation, de-escalation, tit-for-tat war until one or the other side has capitulated militarily to where there's just a total surrender, which isn't going to happen, or are we going to pick the side of diplomacy and make a deal, which involves having to put Israel, you know, kind of in their place.

#Nima

Yeah. Here is just breaking. Here is Pakistani Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif. He says that a deal has been reached between the United States and Iran, that the official signing will be on Friday, June 19. It's going to be on Friday in Switzerland. He says both sides have declared immediate and permanent termination of military operations on all fronts, including Lebanon. The problem is, as the Wall Street Journal just moments ago reported, that the Iran deal is expected to include a ceasefire for Lebanon that gives Israel the right to respond when attacked. This is the problem.

I think the basic problem is here: when attacked, what does that mean? Is it gonna be an attack on Israel? Is it gonna be an attack on Israeli forces in the southern part of Lebanon? Because as long as the occupation is going on, Hezbollah is not gonna back down. They're gonna attack Israelis. They're gonna attack Merkava tanks. They're gonna attack air defense batteries, Israeli soldiers. That's going to go on and on. And today we had various reports that Hezbollah is capable of shooting down Israeli drones, and their drones are getting through the air defense system.

Their air defense system is not capable of recognizing them because, I don't know, because of the size of the drone, because of the altitude of the drone, the way that they're flying over and hitting the targets and Israeli soldiers. We had two Merkava tanks at least yesterday being destroyed because there was an attack on a group of Merkava tanks in the southern part of Lebanon. Two of them were destroyed. This is the reality. So if you want to support Israel in their occupation of Lebanon, and then you say if they're attacked, they're going to respond, this is the recipe for continuous war. And you cannot put an end to any sort of war in southern Lebanon. You're understanding of that.

#Anthony

Yeah, the aspect of Lebanon and Israel's responses is always a great question. And it should be a question on all sides. I know that Iran is certainly questioning the genuineness of what Israel is saying. Iran doesn't trust Israel. Israel doesn't trust Iran. Iran doesn't trust the United States. The United States doesn't trust Iran. The United States doesn't trust Israel. Israel doesn't even trust Israel. So when you look at all of the aspects of this mistrust, how do you go into a negotiation based on trust when there's no aspect of trust? You have to have guarantees—show me the money, show me the proof—before we go forward with any type of agreement on, for example, if between now and Friday, you know, and this is such a, what, you know, anyone should now look at this and see, like, come on now, this is ridiculous.

Thursday, we're signing the deal. Friday, we're signing the deal. Saturday, it's for sure on Sunday. It's a done deal. You know, pop the champagne, this is a done deal. And now we're saying it's going to be Friday the 19th. There is no deal. There is a continuation of wanting a deal. You don't have a deal when the main aspects of a deal are not yet negotiated. You have discussions. You have talks. That's not it. If you sit down to buy a house and you're going to sign the closing documents, and it's the day to close on your new house, and you don't yet know a percentage rate or a monthly payment, or are you doing a 30-year, are you doing a 15-year? If none of that has been negotiated, you're not sitting down to close on a house. It's just not true. So when you look at this, where we stand now, now it's going to be next Friday.

Okay, a lot can happen between now and next Friday. And if you're trusting Israel to show restraint, then next Friday will never come. This is completely ludicrous in terms of no one in the world should be thinking that this is serious in any way. And I know that Iran is not taking it seriously in terms of an actual intent to negotiate and agree. We're seeing the United States once again being played by Israel and used as a tactic to buy time. Even if the United States, Donald Trump, is genuinely pursuing some type of agreement, he is not restraining Israel in this, so there won't be, and therefore Donald Trump's efforts should not be taken as serious or genuine. And if, you know, between now and Friday, if we were to see some concrete evidence of things to where, across the board, for everybody in play, between now and Friday, by this date and by this time, Iran must release or uncontrol military aspects of the Strait of Hormuz.

And we need to see some flow of cargo without impediment. And the United States is going to release frozen funds, not through a cutout, not through a fake process, but actually genuine and official. And Israel is going to, pulse begin, like actually leaving Lebanon — like show me evidence that Israeli forces are actually leaving, not establishing a buffer zone, or not just they stop shooting for a while, but they're actually leaving. And that's a first step. Let's say that happens by Tuesday. And then by Thursday, you have the Strait of Hormuz free-flowing. The Iranian and Omani administrative control is transparent to the rest of the world, other than some upkeep fees. More certain sanctions have been lifted, and Israel has completely withdrawn from Lebanon.

Then I would say, okay, well, now there's the possibility of some signing on the dotted line to happen by Friday. But if we're just going to continue to talk, talk, talk, talk, talk about what we should do, about what we could do, but nothing actually physically happens in an environment of zero trust between the negotiation parties, nothing's going to happen by Friday. We're just going to continue kicking the can down the road. And at any given time, Israel will do something to derail this entirely. And, you know, again, I don't think from what we saw today, I think that there will be an Iranian response. And from that Iranian response, the United States will attempt to blame Iran, saying, hey, you know, they did this strike.

But we agreed that we were all just going to, like, not respond, not shoot back, not do this, not do that. You know, Iran is breaking the deal. And if you're Iran, you say, well, an inherent and intrinsic part of this deal was that Israel would not do that. And they did it even amidst the negotiations that we're having about that very topic. So, yeah, this is not a good faith deal. So I think that we're going to see Iran respond to these strikes immediately. And I think that the United States is immediately going to take on a position of, oh, look, Iran is trying to ruin the deal. When in reality, Israel has and is and will continue to undermine any negotiation that in some way may force Israel, at least diplomatically, politically, to leave Lebanon. I don't think Israel intends to, nor will they.

#Nima

I think Donald Trump himself and his administration are part of the problem. They're not part of the solution, Tony. No, no, no. They're not genuine. They're not sincerely following or seeking any sort of deal between the United States and Iran. Because we had a senior advisor to the Syrian president who said that the United States proposed that we join the fight against Hezbollah in Lebanon. It was going to be Syria together with the Israelis joining forces to fight Hezbollah in Lebanon. But we declined, said the senior advisor to the Syrian president. We declined. We are not interested in interfering in Lebanon. This is the red line. We had the Syrian president just two days ago. He had a meeting with the prime minister of Lebanon. He said, don't negotiate with the Israelis. We did that, and nothing came out of it. Nothing positive.

We know that what Israel is doing in Syria — they're bombing everything. Whenever they find some sort of time, they go and bomb Syria. This is the outcome. This is not even, you know, these guys are not close to Iran or any acts of resistance, any part of the acts of resistance. They're basically

connected with the United States, with Israel, with Turkey. And they're saying that there is no way you don't negotiate with Israelis. They don't care about negotiations. They want to bomb you. They want to destroy you. And here you see Donald Trump coming out and saying, I am not happy with what Netanyahu is doing. He's doing the same. He's just gathering — I think he's preparing what is happening with the negotiation. He wants some sort of off-ramp for himself. And he's not going to provide any sort of guarantees for the situation in Lebanon, in the southern part of Lebanon. Do you see that coming?

#Anthony

Well, for anyone who thinks that they're going to get a good negotiation out of negotiating with terrorists, that's foolish. And Israel is a terrorist state. Israel is not a state sponsor of terrorism; Israel is a terrorist state. Bibi Netanyahu is a terrorist. We see that now more than ever with the complete undermining of any type of political or diplomatic solutions toward peace at all. Israel is going to continue, at every step of the way, to undermine any type of peace or any type of agreement that ends conflict. Even if Israel were to get everything they wanted, even if, let's say, tomorrow there were some type of magical agreement made where, hey, Israel, all hostilities are going to end. War is going to end. War is over. All wars are over.

Israel is no longer in a state of emergency. Israel is going to get everything they want from this deal. Everything's over. Well, Netanyahu is still going to find a way to keep Israel at war and find a way to maintain emergency powers under his authority, because if not, he faces criminal trial, he faces prosecution, and he doesn't want that. So what better way to keep yourself out of prison than to continue war on all fronts or find every opportunity to start a war on a new front? And if it's not Lebanon, it's going to be moving further into Syria. And if it's not Syria, it's going to be attempts to start a war with Turkey. We've already seen that. I mean, in the midst of current ongoing conflict, Israel is already signaling, at least in principle, that Turkey would be next.

There's never an intent for Israel to end war. They're a terrorist state bent on chaos and war. And as long as the administration within Israel and the current powers that be are in power, there will be no end to war and conflict. And therefore, with this particular conflict, with the war that we've started, you know, this was something that I think, going all the way back to the 28th of February, that whatever lie was sold to the administration—that this war would be a quick, decisive victory to Donald Trump, this war would be over—whoever believed that is an absolute idiot. And I don't think that in reality anyone in the Trump administration actually believed it. It was a convenient excuse to convince Donald Trump to do it.

But for those that are actually in power—the Jared Kushners, the Steve Witkoffs, the Rothschilds, and whoever else is pulling the strings in the Trump administration—that it was always the intent for this war to go on, because it gives Israel the opportunity to continue to take land in Gaza, take land in the West Bank, take land in Lebanon, take land and secure a buffer zone, if you will, in Syria. And it all goes into Israel's overall overarching plan of the Greater Israel or the Pax Judaica. And Israel is,

by every definition imaginable that we've established in international norms and laws, a terrorist state. And if we think that there's going to be any negotiations between anybody that will ever be upheld or respected by a terrorist state, then we're simply lying to ourselves.

#Nima

Here is what Donald Trump, moments ago, posted—breaking again. The deal with the Islamic Republic of Iran is now complete. Congratulations to all. I hereby fully authorize the total free opening of the Strait of Hormuz and simultaneously herewith authorize the immediate removal of the United States naval blockade. Ships of the world, start your engines. Let's let the oil flow. Here is what Donald Trump said just moments ago, two minutes ago. And we have not heard from the Iranians. I think we have to stay—we have to wait to see what will be the reaction on the part of the Iranians. No reaction so far. I think he's just making things up, to be honest. He just made it.

#Anthony

It's insane. It's absolutely insane that as Donald Trump sits in the Oval Office looking out at the UFC arena with fighters arriving and fans arriving, he's sitting there celebrating his birthday. He probably just blew out the candles on his birthday cake. And they're surrounded by all of his sycophant fans, vacuumed, or, you know, in a vacuum chamber of lies, in that, "Hey, now's a great time to announce our great victory, sir." And that's exactly what this was, which is why he kept pushing for Sunday. There should be no—there should be zero doubt in anyone's mind that the reason why Donald Trump was pushing, pushing, pushing, pushing for Sunday, June 14th, for all this to be signed and opened—there should be no doubt.

I mean, as we speak, a federal court has demanded that the man's name be ripped off of the Kennedy Center because he wanted to name it after himself. If anybody doesn't think that Sunday the 14th, to sign the deal and open the Strait, was in any way associated with his birthday, then you're just naive. So yes, this is what he wants. And the thing is, the truth with the U.S. naval blockade—the U.S. naval blockade was never an effective control measure of the Strait of Hormuz. The only thing the U.S. naval blockade in the Gulf of Oman, that was a filter to anything going into the Strait of Hormuz, was essentially to keep anything coming in and anything going out secondary to the blockade that Iran actually had against the Strait of Hormuz itself, which did have concessions for certain vessels that could pass in and out.

So this lifting of the U.S. blockade, okay, great. That doesn't change anything in terms of the actual Strait of Hormuz itself. And what has Iran said? We've heard nothing from Iran yet. In fact, Pakistan is saying that this agreement won't be signed until Friday, June 19th. And Iran is saying, hey, we're not there yet with signing. There are some issues here, most notably that Israel has struck southern Beirut again today. Yeah, we're not close to this being signed or done. In fact, we're further away

today, Sunday, June 14th, than we were last Thursday. We're further away now than we were then. And yet Donald Trump's going forward with this great celebration. Anybody that believes that is simply naive and not paying attention.

Donald Trump wants to put a bow on this so that he can go to the G7 summit tomorrow, which starts tomorrow, the 15th through the 17th. He wants to show up to the G7 summit with some type of victory in this. And he's not going to have it. The truth is, the agreement's not signed. The truth is, the Strait of Hormuz has always been open. It has been controlled in terms of what can go in and out, but it's been open. That's like saying if you have to cross the U.S.-Canadian border and you have to show your passport, or they decide who gets to come in and out, that the border is closed. That's not true. There's border control that dictates who and what can go through and when, but it's not closed. So the Strait of Hormuz wasn't closed. It's controlled. And Donald Trump just can't get over the fact that it's not controlled by him or the United States, that it's controlled by Iran.

And that's a fact. So, you know, the releasing of, you know, Donald Trump can proclaim to the U.S. Navy all he wants, "Release the outer cordon, the outer blockade." Okay, sure, got it. That does not impact the actual functioning of the Strait of Hormuz until Iran is ready and willing. Iran's not ready. That tweet was just an absolute waste of digital ink and only for domestic consumption, as the United States sits around and focuses on these big UFC fights today on the White House lawn and Donald Trump's birthday being celebrated in the Capitol. He wants a great victory to commemorate his 80th birthday, and that's for domestic consumption. It's not true. It certainly is not grounded in reality. The best thing that the inner circle of Trump's cabinet could have done for his birthday is take away his cell phone.

#Nima

I think Netanyahu just gave him his birthday gift, and that was the attack on Lebanon. And we're going to see an Iranian attack on Israel, then an Israeli response to Iran. And is that going to continue to escalate, or is the United States going to enter, as we've seen lately? You know, in the last attack, we had two Iranian attacks on Israel, one Israeli attack on Iran, and then the United States responded to the second Iranian attack on Israel. I don't know if Netanyahu is trapping Iran again, trapping the United States again in that equation, because we know the capabilities of Israel.

When it comes to the air defense system, when it comes to their offensive capabilities, fighter jets—without the United States, they're not going to be able to get to the borders of Iran, close to the borders of Iran, to hit the targets, because their fighter jets should be refueled, you know, on the way, close to the Iranian border. If they're going to use, I don't know—in my opinion, Saudi Arabia is not going to let them use their airspace. They're going to go from Iraq, Syria, Iraq, then close to Iran. But they need the United States to help them achieve the attack, to get there and to target some points, maybe in the Persian Gulf. Your understanding of that, because Donald Trump now has

an option, in my opinion: if Iran attacks Israel, Israel just gave him his birthday gift, and does he really want to continue this cycle of tit-for-tat and let Israel attack Iran or attack Lebanon? That's a trap for Donald Trump himself. Your understanding of that—what do you make of it?

#Anthony

Well, the word trap, I wouldn't disagree with. I think saying to be trapped would be giving the Israeli government or giving Israel too much credit and giving the United States too much leeway. The setting of a trap, when it's so—I mean, this trap is like something you would see in the Roadrunner-Coyote old cartoons where, you know, there's like a stick holding up a rock, and underneath it there's birdseed, and it says "free birdseed." Anybody can look at that and say, well, that's a trap. The United States is continually willing to walk into that trap, whether that's of Donald Trump's choosing. Again, this is no longer up to Donald Trump. When Donald Trump sold our country through the election process to Mario Madison and to the Rothschilds and to the Zionist lobby, Donald Trump's just a puppet.

Donald Trump is just the figurehead. Donald Trump is just the talking mouthpiece. He has no authority in this. When you look at who wants to continue drawing us back into conflict, regardless of what Donald Trump thinks he wants—which I don't think he even knows what he wants—but the military-industrial complex and the powers that be outside of Donald Trump's authority and actual real power are what's going to continue to draw us back into this. Do you think the military-industrial complex wants to walk away from a money machine of military production like Israel? My God, Israel is like a drug addict with their dad's credit card, and the military-industrial complex is the drug dealer.

The military-industrial complex is never going to allow any U.S. administration that has already bought into them, that's already compromised through their money, to walk away from the gift that keeps on giving—the drug addict with endless funds. Um, so yeah, the military-industrial complex is not going to walk away from Israel. Why would the military-industrial complex walk away from this? Interrupting you—endless funds from the American taxpayers. Yeah, exactly, exactly, that's what I'm saying. It's like Israel's the drug dealer, or the addict, the uncontrollable, spoiled, horrible child of the United States that now is a grown adult with a drug problem and has daddy's credit card, which is the U.S. taxpayer.

And do you think that the military-industrial complex is going to walk away from that cash cow, is going to walk away from that gift that keeps on giving? No, no. Peace in the Middle East would be horrible for the military-industrial complex. So this is now beyond Donald Trump's authority and decision. This is beyond what Donald Trump thinks he can control. And here's the thing—here's how we could get to a peace agreement, or the facade of peace, right? If Iran chooses to do nothing, if Iran chooses to say, okay, all is great, we'll figure it out. Uranium, we'll figure it out. Have some funds released to us, we'll figure all this out.

The attacks in Lebanon, they're limited. That's not really the start of the war. Iran could go along with this narrative. Iran could go along with this narrative, and there could be this fabricated peace, and most of the world would be none the wiser. How do I know that would work? Because it's exactly what we did in Gaza. We abandoned Palestinians again with this whole idea of a peace agreement, of the "road to peace." And yet since the ceasefire—which has never been, it's the ceasefire that never ceased or the ceasefire that never began—in Gaza, it's a lie. And since that time of the peace agreement and the ceasefire and the road to peace, where do we stand now?

Israel now controls 80% of Gaza, whereas on the day that this peace agreement was signed and everybody's like, oh, there's peace in Gaza now, they controlled maybe about 53%. Now they control 80% of the territory, physically control it. And as of right now, aid once again is 100% completely shut off from going into Gaza at all. And yet the reason the world still thinks there's this peace agreement is because the powers that be continue to say it, and the powers that oppose it don't have a voice. So Iran could capitulate to this and just pretend that there's a peace deal. Strait of Hormuz is open. We're working out a nuclear deal. We got our frozen assets back.

There are sanctions, but we're agreeing to it. Everything's great. And as soon as anybody brings up, "But what about the fact that Israel is still in Lebanon and is still attacking north of the Litani?" Well, their attacks have become less. They don't seem to be offensive. And they're in southern Lebanon, but they've promised that they're going to leave. Iran could capitulate to that narrative and just join the lie like everybody else. But Iran refuses to. And that is what Donald Trump didn't bank on when he started this war. He thought that would decapitate the government, would cause, would inflict immeasurable pain.

And that's why I don't think that the strike on the Manab school was an accident. It was not an accident. It was not the fog and friction of war. The United States intended to do that as part of the greater plan to bring great pain upon Iran, to get Iran to step away from this and accept any agreement and agree to it at face value. And Iran refuses to. And that is what Israel and the United States did not calculate in their equation of how this ends, of the normal way things end. Here's this peace deal, right? Everybody's happy. We've inflicted maximum pain on Iran, so they're going to agree to it in principle, and no one will be the wiser.

Well, what they didn't account for is that Iran is not going to agree to it in principle, and Iran is not going to go along with it when it's obvious that one of the critical aspects of Iran supporting the resistance, and honestly, the sovereignty of Lebanon—the Lebanese government isn't defending the sovereignty of Lebanon. I mean, obviously not, right? In all of these strikes in Beirut and all of these strikes north of the Litani, in all of these strikes—I mean, Israel assassinated a senior officer in the Lebanese army. Not Hezbollah, the Lebanese army. Israel assassinated him in a car, driving to work. And what has Lebanon done? Zero. Not a thing. So Iran is defending Lebanese sovereignty, not the government of Lebanon.

And if the resistance is that mechanism, then they will continue to be supported. And what Donald Trump, Israel, and others didn't calculate—or maybe they did calculate, but they didn't give it the amount of gravity, of gravitas in this—is that Iran's not going to walk away. Iran's not going to accept another lie of a peace deal like other nations have, or just accept this facade of peace like Western Europe has when it comes to Gaza, or like the United States has when it comes to Palestine. Iran's not going to do that. Iran's not going to give them that satisfaction. Is there a peace deal? No, there's not. Is there an agreement? No. Is it signed? No. Now we're talking about next Friday. Do we get to next Friday with this intact? We don't. Because Iran will respond.

#Nima

Here's what the New York Times reported: Iran called off its planned retaliatory strike against Israel after Donald Trump, through intermediaries, urged Tehran to exercise restraint. But the real story is here, what we've learned from the Iranians, Tony, that you hear from the Iranian sources—that some Iranian sources say the United States was forced to issue new and serious concessions regarding Lebanon in exchange for not responding to the attack on Beirut. What would that be? It seems that the United States—apparently Iran forced the withdrawal of all Israeli forces from Lebanese territory. Once again, we are waiting for confirmation. It seems that Iran said, if you want us not to attack Israel, then Israel must withdraw totally from Lebanon. This is just getting so...

#Anthony

It's bizarre.

#Nima

Unrealistic.

#Anthony

It's bizarre. It's as if... you know, I wouldn't be surprised if tonight Donald Trump tweets out that he wishes the Knicks luck in Monday night's game. And the rest of the world is like, it's over. The Knicks already won. Like, what are you talking about? What are you talking about? But somebody tells Donald Trump, hey, the Knicks are really popular right now. And so Donald Trump is like tonight, like, oh, the NBA Finals? Oh, I hope the Knicks win tomorrow night. And the rest of the world is like, the Finals are over. The Knicks already won. But you're still going to have people that would say, hey, I'm going to watch the Knicks-Spurs game tonight. And rational people are like, the series is over.

It's already been done. It's won. Well, no, Donald Trump said that there's a game tonight, so I'm going to watch it. And they're going to even buy tickets on their Trump phone. And they show up to the game, and there's no game, and their Trump phone doesn't work, but they're still going to

believe it. So we are now entering a whole new world of absurdity, to where, I mean, just what I would say to the American people and anyone in the world: we don't even have to reach back into the annals of ancient history. Let's just reach back to Friday. Can we just reach back to two days ago, when the weekend started—Friday—when this thing's over? It's signed. It's a done deal. We're good to go to where we are.

Can we just, can we just look back to 48 hours ago and look at then to now, and think that all of the conditions today are worse than they were Thursday? When there were questions about this deal, which didn't get signed on Friday, which didn't get signed on Saturday, which isn't yet signed today, which now Pakistan, the primary interlocutor, is saying is not going to come until Friday the 19th. They didn't even sugarcoat it. They didn't say, hey, we still got some I's to dot, some T's to cross. We're going to have this cleaned up and we're going to sign it Monday at the G7 summit. We'll make it a big deal. No. They're not even sure. They're like, hey, let's just push this to next Friday. Let's just push this to next Friday.

#Nima

It's like, what? Tony, something just came out from the Iranian media, an official media in Iran, Fars News, which is close to the IRGC. It says Iran forced the United States to accept a complete withdrawal of Israeli forces from Lebanon as an additional concession instead of carrying out an attack. So they have added a new point to the agreement that Israel is going to withdraw totally from Lebanon. I think if they could do that, if this report, if this news is right, and if Fars is not— I believe whatever Fars says because they're so close to the IRGC. I believe because they're so close to the IRGC and they reflect the position of the IRGC. If they say that, they could have achieved something on that front. I think that's going to be huge.

#Anthony

And that would be very logical. And for a moment, I think when we all look at this collectively as human beings, when we look at this situation, it becomes very easy to attach emotion to the pragmatism of the reality of this, to say that, oh, it shouldn't be believed because this said it or because that said it. But let's just for a minute look at things from a common-sense perspective of, is there a conflict going on? Yes. Are there two sides of this conflict? Is there a country A and a country B? Yes. The conditions that stand right now going towards any type of agreement or negotiation of how this ends, is that ongoing?

Well, we've been told it is. And in any type of negotiation, unless there's been some type of complete surrender or complete military defeat of the other to capitulate them to all conditions, which isn't the case, then there's going to be a, well, I'll give you this for that or this for that, depending on who holds leverage in which area, right? And the fact is, going into this, is that

country B, which is Iran in this case, but just in a nondescript sense so we take emotion out of it, country B has more leverage, right? Country B has more leverage in each of the components of the deal than country A, which is the United States.

So in this particular aspect, country B is willing to cede some of its leverage. Strait of Hormuz—hey, United States, if we wanted to make this hurt real bad, not only would we cut it off completely, we'd also activate our forces in the Red Sea to cut off Bab al-Mandab. Then we'll make it real painful. So when you think about all of the leverage that Iran has, that Iran is willing to soften up a bit, over what? The one thing that they're willing to give some of their leverage toward, the thing that they're not—and that is the question of Lebanon.

So what you see right now is, in those negotiations, in Iran's most important part of this deal, they're even willing to accept some maneuver space of, okay, perhaps at this stage of the deal, Israel does not leave Lebanon entirely, but leaves south of the Litani River—do not step foot or send a bullet or a bomb or even a bad look north of the Litani toward Beirut. Don't do it. And then we'll talk about the south and you eventually leaving. But for now, for the sake of this deal, don't do it. And then you see, what does Israel do today? Sends bombs into southern Beirut. And so if you're Iran, you're saying, okay, we had this deal. We were willing to give some of our leverage for this. You spat in our face and stomped all over that.

So now, now you're going to have to give us more. Now you're going to have to give us more. You've shown us that you won't even give this. So now I trust you even less. So now you're going to have to give me this before I trust you even this much. So yeah, it's a logical step in Iran's approach to, okay, okay, check it out. We said don't do it. They did it. We said if they did, we would strike. United States, now you're scared this will derail the whole thing? Okay, that's a legitimate concern. So here's our counteroffer. Our counteroffer: you get two options. Pick your own adventure. We strike back and we hit hard. Or the deal is now a new deal. Get out of Lebanon completely. All of it. Get out all the way right now. Get out. That's the new deal.

So the United States' bargaining position in just the last 12 hours has changed yet again to a level of weakness in the position. And I ask everybody to look at this from an objective sense of the conflict, the reality, and the fact that there are numerous countries, sovereign countries with their own interests involved in this. And if you look at it from only a U.S. perspective or only an Israeli perspective or only an Iranian perspective, then you start to say, well, see, they can't be trusted. It's like, well, okay, let's break that down. What would you expect a sovereign nation with its own interests and the interests of its negotiation position at hand to do? If I go into a deal with somebody and they promise me, hey, on this date, I'm going to have this product for you...

I'm going to make it for you. Okay, what do you need from me? Well, I need half up front. I need 50% of it up front. Okay, here's half up front. On Monday, I'm going to get my amount, I'm going to get the thing you're going to make, and then I'll pay you the rest, right? That's a deal. You don't pay them the whole amount up front, or they give you the thing without paying. There's an agreement.

And let's say that Monday they owed you all that, and they come in, "Hey, had a problem, bad weekend. Things got messed up, and I'm not going to have it for you by Monday." Well, your response is, "Well, I've already paid you. I've paid you half up front. So here's the deal. Either we cut out of this completely, you pay me back the money that I gave you."

I don't want your product anymore. I'll go elsewhere. And if not, I'll sue you. Or the person that screwed up sweetens the pot with, "Check it out, I'm sorry. We made a deal. You paid me this money. I was going to have you this. You give me the rest of the money, you have your thing. That's the deal. I messed up. So what we're going to do is, because we value your side of this agreement, we value you as a customer, we're going to throw in some more for free. We're going to give you some extra." "OK, you know what? I can. Yes, let's proceed." That's where we are right now. We had a deal. You were going to do this. We were going to do this. You didn't deliver, America. You didn't deliver. You couldn't even keep Israel from bombing Beirut for even a day.

#Nima

You couldn't even do it for a day.

#Anthony

Why would we expect that you could keep Israel from reigniting this conflict over 60 days of this MOU if you can't even do it for an afternoon? So if you want to continue along this deal, you got to sweeten the pot, America. Israel, America, one and the same. You got to sweeten the pot. Now, it's not okay to just stop bombing north of the Litani, because you can't do that. You need to get out completely. Is the US or Israel going to accept that?

#Nima

No.

#Anthony

So what do we now face in the next 12 to 24 hours? A response from Iran, a renewal of hostilities, and a restart of whatever this negotiation is. But until the United States realizes that Iran is not playing around, Iran is not pussyfooting when it comes to Lebanon. The United States—if the United States doesn't realize that—then this is gonna go on and on and on. And is there capacity in this world that we live in for a conflict to go on for 10, 20 years? If you haven't been alive or awake in the last two decades, then I hate to break it to you: Iraq, Afghanistan, Syria. There's plenty of historic anecdote to say that yes, if no deal is reached, this can go on in its current state for 10 or 20 years.

#Nima

I think the situation is getting so complicated. Let's see what happens, Tony. I think there's a lot to be learned as time goes by. And I don't see that, you know, it's going to be that easy to put—oh no—and the occupation of Lebanon is not an easy task.

#Anthony

Bad situations. Bad situations. And I've learned this through, you know, in war, like when we were trying to negotiate with Turkey to not invade Syria and wipe out our partner in the fight against ISIS, the Syrian Democratic Forces, who were inherently just the PKK thrown in a new uniform. Here we are. And Turkey was like, they look a lot like the PKK. And we're like, oh, not the same. And then we had to negotiate with Turkey: please don't destroy our partnered force. And when we did that negotiation, one of the things that I've learned is that seldom can you make the situation better, but you can sure as hell make it a lot worse.

#Nima

Exactly. Exactly. Thank you so much, Tony, for being with us today. Thank you.

#Anthony

As always, we'll see what comes of this. Thank you.

#Nima

See you soon. Maybe tomorrow night.

#Anthony

Of course. We'll see what happens. Thank you.

#Nima

Bye-bye.