

Iran Hits Trump HARD in Hormuz, Israel FORCED to Stand Down | Sadeqi

Dr. Setareh Sadeqi joins the show for the first time to discuss Iran's closure of the Strait of Hormuz and tensions rising as Tehran sends a delegation to Switzerland for delayed talks. Is Iran abandoning Lebanon and the resistance or is there something else going on? Why has Israel suddenly stopped attacking Lebanon following numerous MoU ceasefire violations? We discuss all this and more in this must watch show. <https://x.com/Leelako> LIKE the video and Subscribe for more in-depth geopolitical analysis Leave your thoughts in the comments below! Support the Channel: Patreon: <https://www.patreon.com/dannyhaiphong> SUBSCRIBE ON RUMBLE: Rumble: <https://rumble.com/c/DannyHaiphong> Follow Me on Social Media: Twitter: <https://twitter.com/DannyHaiphong> Telegram: <https://t.me/DannyHaiphong> Support the channel in other ways: <https://www.buymeacoffee.com/dannyhaiphong> Substack: chroniclesofhaiphong.substack.com Cashapp: \$Dhaiphong Venmo: @dannyH2020 Paypal: <https://paypal.me/spiritho> #iran #iranwar #trump

#Danny

Let's get started with the latest developments and your comments on it. So, for those who don't know, Dr. Siddiqui Shih is an associate professor in the Faculty of World Studies at the University of Tehran and a very prolific commentator. So I wanted your expertise on what you believe just happened with these negotiations. Iran has closed the Strait of Hormuz. According to Israel's Channel 12 and 13, they said that this caused massive U.S. pressure on Israel to halt its attacks on Lebanon, even if it's just been a few hours to a day. That led to Ghalibaf and the Iranian delegation going to Zurich. They supposedly met with J.D. Vance, and then suddenly threats were coming out of the mouth of Donald Trump. It seems like the negotiations are halted. It's unclear whether the Strait of Hormuz will be reopened. And I'm just wondering, what's going on here, Dr. Siddiqui? Help us understand this moment from your perspective.

#Setareh Sadeqi

Well, from the moment that the memorandum of understanding was finalized and announced by both countries, by the United States and Iran as having reached the final stage and then announced as having been successfully achieved, there were a lot of talks from inside Iran. There were concerns from different groups that there is no way we can trust the United States. We have negotiated with the United States previously, and we have been betrayed, and the United States has never, ever upheld its commitments. But at the same time, there were also, you know, I mean, within Iran, the dynamics, the power dynamics,

#Danny

It looks like, Dr. Siddiqui, we might have lost your connection.

#Setareh Sadeqi

The political spectrum is really diverse, and there are a lot of different ideas and opinions. Some also thought—oh, sorry about that.

#Danny

Yeah, there might be a little delay. Keep going with your thought. I apologize.

#Setareh Sadeqi

Okay, it's okay. So, but I think Iran went on with the memorandum of understanding, but being aware that the United States can breach its commitments and not uphold its commitments based on a memorandum of understanding. But we're going to try. We're going to help lift the blockade on Iran, and we're not going to lose anything based on the articles of the memorandum of understanding. We're taking actions in response to actions and commitments by the United States. And if any of the articles are not fulfilled, we're going to reverse the steps that we have taken within that framework. I think the first thing that is very important about the memorandum of understanding is that you see huge concessions given by the United States.

I know that people can interpret that in many different ways. A lot of people inside Iran were hoping that Iran would not open the Strait of Hormuz at this stage and would still wait for the economic pressure on the United States as well as Europe to go on, so it would give Iran more leverage to negotiate. But other people argued that the blockade is also putting a lot of pressure on Iran, and so this is going to create a different balance. But the most significant thing about the memorandum of understanding, in my view, is that it was mostly achieved within the framework that Iran determined rather than the U.S. For example, in the context of Iran's nuclear program, what we're seeing is that it's basically what Iran has already had as its doctrine, which is no nuclear weapon.

And Iran is a member of the NPT, which means it has already signed that it will never seek to develop nuclear weapons. So Iran is not giving a commitment beyond what it had already declared. But then when Israel breached the ceasefire, as they always do out of habit in Lebanon, there were a lot of talks inside Iran. And the other thing was also Trump's threatening rhetoric, but also saying that he's not going to give Iran even 10 cents, which basically means that at least two of the articles of the memorandum of understanding are already violated.

So there was a lot of disagreement inside Iran, and a lot of people said within the different political factions that this should be enough for us not to go to Geneva, not to go to Switzerland to continue

with the talks. But the team of negotiators' argument was that we're going to go there to negotiate about the ceasefire in Lebanon. And that is why they refused to take pictures with the delegation. That's why they said that until the issue of Lebanon is resolved and until Israel withdraws from Lebanon, we're not going to continue with the negotiations, because, as we know, the MOU was the initial step that was going to pave the ground for a 60-day ceasefire.

And then within, I mean, through these 60 days, the two countries were supposed to negotiate over other issues that Iran was not willing to talk about at this point. So that's basically what has happened. With Iran closing the Strait of Hormuz, there is more pressure from the United States put on Israel. And with Iran saying that if Israel does not withdraw from Lebanon, they're not going to continue the talks, I think there will be even more pressure on the United States and on Trump himself to convince Bibi that he needs to withdraw from South Lebanon, or the economic crisis that a lot of people were expecting to happen is going to resume, and it's going to be worse than before.

#Danny

Yeah, very well said, Dr. Siddiqui. And now I just want to share what Dropsite News had to say about the developments that occurred today. So here we have, during a phone interview—this is as negotiations were supposedly happening. I mean, they weren't. I don't think Iran viewed them so much as negotiations as an attempt to have a conversation to enforce those terms you just outlined. But in a phone interview with Fox News, Donald Trump said the U.S. could take control of the Strait of Hormuz and collect tolls if Iran attempts to close the waterway, which Iran has said it's already closed. Trump said the U.S. could become a guardian angel of the Strait and the Middle East, adding that Washington could take 20% of the oil passing through the Strait of Hormuz.

So, I guess Washington is going to take 20% of the 20% of global oil that goes through the Strait. He warned Iranian officials, "You close it and you won't have a country," adding, "They won't even make it back to their effing country." And he said that President Mossad Perseyshkin should better watch his mouth and better shape up on the issue of uranium enrichment. Iran has said, Dr. Siddiqui, that this is a breach of the memorandum of understanding and that they are going to calculate a response halting the talks. What do you make of these comments? Very interesting timing, given that they occurred right as the talks were supposed to be happening.

#Setareh Sadeqi

Well, I don't see anything surprising. I don't see a shift in rhetoric. I don't see a shift in policy coming from the United States. Since day one, when the two countries decided that there would be a ceasefire and they would negotiate or come to a memorandum of understanding in order to bring an end to this war, we have seen the same type of rhetoric—Trump saying that we're close to a deal, and then the next day threatening to bomb Iran, to, you know, continue the war, to go back to the war. But as we have seen, a lot of it is about manipulation of the market. That's exactly what he wants to do. And surprisingly, the market has not stopped reacting to his unreliable rhetoric.

And it still continues to react to what he says, even though it has been proven several times that they are empty words. So he can go from threatening Iran to then praising Iran the next day. He can go from "we're going to bomb Iran" to "we're going to have a deal with them" the next day. And still, the market is somehow reacting to that rhetoric. And I think most Iranians, I would say, would expect that to happen. Watching the pattern of his behavior, how he shifts that rhetoric, it's already a pattern that is very predictable, even though he wants to be unpredictable. And I think that's basically what we were expecting him to do. Even when the deal or the memorandum of understanding was reached, I think the majority inside Iran, including the officials, were expecting him to violate the articles of the memorandum of understanding.

But at the same time, I think what Iran is doing is first showing that the balance of power has shifted — like it is Iran that is deciding when to talk, how to talk, I mean, what framework to talk in — which is unprecedented. And it's also that Iran is not losing anything. They have said that our fingers are on the trigger. The Strait of Hormuz, as you can see, was closed immediately after the violation of the memorandum of understanding. And the armed forces of Iran are fully ready to go back to war. I mean, we fought for 40 days without losing an inch of our soil or our territory. And even though several commanders, the highest members of the Iranian political structure, were taken out, the country continues to defend its sovereignty without collapsing.

Iran has shown to its people and to the world that if we have to go back to war, we're ready to do that. And we know how to do that. And as you know, even American and Western journalists and reporters have indicated that Iran has regained its defense capabilities — more than 70% to 80% of its capabilities. And so even though the infrastructure was heavily damaged, Iran's capability to defend itself has not been damaged. And I think part of the blockade and the skirmishes that we were watching, when we were observing during the so-called ceasefire before the Memorandum of Understanding was reached, was to test Iran's capability — to see how ready the military is.

#Danny

Yeah, and I'm pulling up here the maritime data published by The Cradle from MarineTraffic, indicating that indeed, no, since Iran announced the closure of the Strait of Hormuz, there has not been a vessel that has crossed it. Since then, there was talk about maybe the Strait gradually opening up, as it was clear that Israel was not going to attack Lebanon during the meeting between Vance and the U.S. delegation and the Iranian delegation. But, of course, all of this has changed now very quickly with Trump's threats. And, you know, I'll just pull up for people to see how Mohammad Ghalibaf, the top negotiator, responded to these threats, saying, don't they... And, um...

#Danny

Your reaction to this, especially in the context of how Iranians are feeling about the MOU and the broader situation, because there's been a lot of talk about there being disagreements among ordinary Iranians about the particular direction that this is all going.

#Setareh Sadeqi

Yeah, as I said, when it was announced that the Memorandum of Understanding was reached, there was a lot of disagreement inside Iran, but also particularly after the leader's message, which made it clear that he did not, based on principles, agree with negotiating with the United States because, you know, the country has had experiences and it has never actually brought about more economic ease or solved our problems, and the U.S. has never upheld its commitments. But another point that a lot of people miss about the Iranian political structure is that there is space for different actors within the Iranian political structure to act based on their understanding of what is better for the country or how to protect national interests.

So Pezeshkian, as the president, is allowed to continue carrying out the negotiations because he's elected by the people directly, and that is the policy that he and his cabinet are holding. But he also sets the red lines. So yes, you are allowed to negotiate with the United States, but I'm also going to put out a framework, and I'm expecting that to be because he is also the commander-in-chief of the country and he wants to protect Iran's sovereignty. That message, as well as how the team of negotiators decided to still go to Switzerland after everything that was happening, created a lot of controversy inside Iran, and a lot of people—political commentators, but also ordinary people on the streets—were very unhappy with what was happening. But I think after Iran announced that they closed the Strait of Hormuz, and after Iran announced that they're not going to continue the talks until Israel withdraws from Lebanon, this calmed down a little bit.

But for a couple of days, there were intense discussions on national TV. People were, you know, criticized, there were resignations, and on the streets there was this vibe that we were giving up on what we were insisting on, especially on the issue of the Strait of Hormuz. Because many commentators inside Iran thought that if Iran continued, as I said, to exercise its leverage over the Strait of Hormuz for a few more months, then Iran would be able to have more leverage in the negotiations and get more concessions from the United States. But anyway, because that card is still there and Iran is back to exercising that card, I think we're going to see, you know, more unity and fewer disagreements in the upcoming hours, depending on how the team in Geneva will act. Because one of the concerns among the public was also that we're not going to shake hands with the killers of our leader and our people.

So if the Iranian delegation went on to the first floor for a photo shoot with the US representatives and shaking hands, that would be a big problem. A lot of us were hoping that would not happen, and we're happy that this did not happen. At least we haven't seen anything coming out yet.

#Danny

You know, I mean, we're talking about the same people who were present or ordered, especially that initial strike on the Manbij school. I mean, it's, you know, and the delegation took the Mahan 168 jet. And of course, the delegations, any time Iranian delegations have been talking and meeting for talks, they've been upholding this as bringing their spirit to the negotiation. So yeah, that would be a big problem if that had occurred. But it didn't. One thing that did occur, though, at the talks is this: not only did they refuse to shake hands, but the delegation did not even take a photo with the United States delegation. And, you know, your comments on that fact too, that, you know, I feel like a lot of the reasons why Iran even engages in these talks is because of the mediators of Pakistan and wanting to, you know, be in good faith, not necessarily with the U.S., but with, you know, a very important regional partner whose relationship has not always been 100 percent great.

So, you know, I think the fact that Iran is taking these steps to be respectful toward the Pakistani mediation has been a huge part of why talks even happen at all. But here you see the Iranian delegation, the audience that they just walked by. They did not engage in any photo op with the United States. But yeah, your thoughts on this, because yeah, it's still a very strong statement. But there are some I see on social media who are very concerned about Iran, people on the outside especially, who say, you know, is even just talking to the United States right now a signal of potential betrayal? To me, that's not my take, but what's yours and what's your reaction to it?

#Setareh Sadeqi

Well, I totally understand that, and I know where it comes from. It's like you're feeling that Iran is coming to finalize a pact with the devil. But the truth, the reality is that Iran is a very—I would say they're a very sophisticated actor. And they're very patient with how they're, you know, it's like a chess game that they're playing. They're very careful. They put a lot of thought into how to move their pieces. It does not mean that they're always right. I personally have criticism. I was really not happy that the team decided to go to Switzerland. I did not think that was necessary because we have already, you know, signed the memorandum of understanding. I don't see how Iran's presence there would help.

But I think these are the same people that have been negotiating and that have been trying to protect Iran's national interests. And so there should be criticism. I agree with, you know, the criticism that comes particularly, I would say, with the trip to Switzerland. I also think that was probably not necessary. I don't know what the justification is, and I hope the representatives will have some justification for the people. But I think the way they have managed it so far is within the red lines that we have known about and within the expectations that the people had. But I mean, this criticism comes because I think Iran appeared very strong and the expectations are now very high.

Nobody would have imagined that a country under four or five decades of the most crippling sanctions, a country that has been demonized and dehumanized for decades, that, you know, anti-Iran propaganda—I don't think there is any other country in the entire world that has been subject to massive propaganda campaigns in their language to brainwash the population, to manufacture consent for attacks, sanctions, support for terrorism, and everything against them. And then this country appears to be the only one, and the first probably in decades, to significantly challenge this idea of an invincible army, or the most powerful army in the world image that we have known of the United States.

Even Europe does not dare challenge United States policies, or, I mean, you would say the majority of the world. There are just a few, maybe it's China, Russia, and a few other countries that are trying to challenge. Even with BRICS, you're seeing infiltrations into BRICS. The idea and the ideal of having a multipolar world is still kind of far, or appears far-fetched, but with Iran emerging as this powerful nation that was, you know, usually at best portrayed as an underdog, it gave people a lot of hope and expectations. But the realities on the ground are sometimes more difficult to manage, particularly with what was happening in Lebanon and seeing the images and the massacre that is happening at the hands of Israel and the United States. I don't think it can detach itself.

I mean, we see how there are talks about the United States and Israel decoupling. But I think at this point, it's still a dream that has not been realized, and the two are working together, even though we sometimes see rhetoric that suggests otherwise. So, it is really heartbreaking what we're seeing in Lebanon. But Iran—I think we should have realized by now that if Iran was, for example, scared of taking action or did not care about taking action, they would not have supported Palestine for so many years, supported Lebanon, or all these non-state partners as resistance groups in the region. They would have tried to... You know, some people talk about how Iran used Lebanon as a card in the negotiations, and I always say, like, you don't understand the definition of cards. It is complicating the situation for Iran. It is not helping Iran reach a ceasefire with the United States.

It is because Iran is a loyal ally and wants to actually challenge the genocidal entity's actions in the region that they are focusing on Lebanon. But you cannot expect them to do that overnight. This is a long process. They have to take into account a lot of things, and I think, I mean, yes, all of us would want to see a faster response or stronger action, but Iran has to think in the long term and how to protect its national sovereignty, how to protect its economy, because I don't think a lot of people understand the economic pressure that Iranians are going through. This is not a joke. This is very difficult for the country. And so Iran has to think about all of these things. And yet it is very willing to protect its allies, particularly Hezbollah and other resistance groups in the region.

#Danny

Yeah, that's such an important point. Number one, at the top of the MOU, which, as you said, these are basically Iranian demands—you say requests, you know, terms—and that's unprecedented in a

lot of ways. And Iran has to contend with not only the fact that—and I always say, I've said ever since Iran has ever engaged in talks with the United States since I've been doing this—you know, Iran has every right to try to stop, get rid of sanctions, whether you trust the United States or not. I mean, nobody trusts the U.S. empire. I mean, at least anyone who's paying attention can't trust the U.S. empire.

But at the same time, if you can even get some relief, any relief from sanctions, depending on why that happens and how that happens, that's a worthwhile goal. And the fact that Iran put Lebanon at the top of its agenda when all of that is on the line, which really, truthfully, makes it much harder for any of those other things to occur, regardless of Iran's position of strength—that's quite historic in a lot of ways. But I understand the criticisms of... given the historical nature of this and how historic it is, I can understand why some people would be like, well, why not more? Why not harder actions? It's understandable, but yes, it does have a long-term view. Your thoughts?

#Setareh Sadeqi

Yeah, I think, I mean, just think about how Iran managed to pass its oil tankers through the Strait of Hormuz and out of the Sea of Oman after the U.S. blockade was lifted. Just within these couple of days, Iran managed to, you know, like, multiple Iranian oil tankers managed to depart from the region. And this is like Iran going to sell its oil after a long time. So this is hopefully going to help with the economy. And so I think this was a very calculated move on how to reach a memorandum of understanding, but also within Iran's terms, and the cards are still there. Like, immediately after that, Iran closed their trade and ports.

So, I mean, all of us, I think the world would want to—even JD Vance now admits that the United States is the only ally of the Israeli regime and the only government that approves of it, and they happen to be the superpower. But still, the United States cannot—I mean, they want to help Israel even more, and that's their goal and everything—but they cannot manage to go through the economic pressure that the closure of the Strait of Hormuz would have on them and still protect. They have to choose between the two. And that is Iran putting the United States into that position.

You have to either control this unleashed dog that you have in the region, which is the Zionist regime, or think about your economy being under pressure and the need to try to open the Strait of Hormuz. And just think about it. I mean, of course, Trump is going to say that the Iranians were desperate for this deal. But if you look at the evidence and the facts, you can see that Iran was actually not desperate for the deal. The fact that it took a long time for Iran to come to agree with this memorandum of understanding, the fact that Iran managed to exercise its leverage, as I said, to reach a memorandum of understanding within Iran's terms, is indicative of who was desperate for this deal.

Because for Iran, it was that even if we reach a deal with you, there is no guarantee that you're not going to attack us, because that's exactly what you did previously. So we're going to try, but we're

always going to be ready to defend ourselves too. And, you know, as a rational actor, you would expect Iran not to repeat the same mistake. We negotiated with the United States over the nuclear issue two times, and we came under attack both times. And both times, everybody thought that we were very close to getting a deal. So Iran made the nuclear issue, but also the Strait of Hormuz, a red line that they're not going to be willing to negotiate until a memorandum of understanding is reached.

But then when the memorandum of understanding came out, one of the criticisms that people inside Iran had toward Iran was that we were supposed to keep the Strait of Hormuz closed. Coming from the administration was that then there would be no way to lift the blockade, and we needed that. I personally think it would have probably been better for Iran to continue closing the Strait of Hormuz, as I said, because, you know, the summertime is actually vacation time and there would be more people driving in the United States. That's when people would start feeling the pressure, the fuel prices and everything.

And if Iran had given a couple more months until the economic pressure would actually become more significant, inside the US but also in Europe, then Iran would probably get more concessions. But again, I'm not... I'm a professor. I'm an academic. I do not work in diplomacy and what pressure the army is under, what pressure the economy is under. So I think I trust the decisions that they make, despite the criticism that I might have on certain points. But in general, I trust the decision-making because I think these are the same people who managed to protect this country for 40 days or more—40 days. Actually, you can argue for 47 years, because any other country would have collapsed by now under so much pressure.

#Danny

Yeah. Uh, there are only a few countries that have dealt with such enormous pressure, and maybe, uh, no other country that has the regional dynamics that are, uh, so much more challenging, I believe, than even, uh, you know, others who have withstood sanctions, for example. So, so that's definitely a point. And, you know, uh, there's also this reality too. You mentioned, uh, Israel earlier. Uh, you know, Iran—no one, including the so-called, what did J.D. Vance call them, the senior partner, right? The U.S. is the senior partner and Israel is the junior partner. He recently told the media this. Despite this, the U.S. basically acts like it has no control over Israel. And so, you know, a lot of people I've noticed wanted Iran to continue onward and maybe, you know, in defense of Lebanon and Gaza, what have you, like completely smash Israel.

And now I've made the point, and I wonder your thoughts on this, that I think Iran has the capabilities to do that. But Israel happens to be a colony. And so if you smash Israel, you have to be very careful about how you use big, damaging weapons when, you know, if the main goal is to support Palestinian liberation. Indeed, Iran likely has an arsenal that could just wipe everything away. But why would that even come into the thoughts of anyone rational who's thinking about what's best for Iran, what's best for Palestine? It's a lot more complicated. What are your thoughts

on this? Because there are some who are angry, for example, that Iran didn't explicitly mention also Gaza, the West Bank, and other fronts. Explicitly, it does say "end war on all fronts," but it doesn't say specifically these areas.

#Setareh Sadeqi

Well, I think, first of all, the irony is that whenever Iran—I mean, probably not among your viewers, but in general—whenever Iran does something for Lebanon or for Palestine, everyone is like, why are you interfering in Lebanon's affairs or Palestine's affairs? When they don't do something, why are you not doing enough for Palestine and for Lebanon? Well, I think one thing is that Iran has always cooperated with its allies and acts based on what they want and how much they want Iran to get involved. It's not like Iran decides for itself and goes ahead without cooperation and coordination with them.

All of these actors have their own sphere of action. And for example, just look at Hezbollah. Hezbollah alone has managed to really and significantly challenge the Zionist army with its drones, despite all the pressure that they have been under. And the same is true for Palestine. I think Iran understands that. And when we're talking about Palestine, we also should remember, what part of Palestine are we talking about? Are we talking about the PA, the Palestinian Authority? Are we talking about Gaza, where Hamas is?

So I think it's a lot more complicated for Iran to get more directly involved in that. And they have to think about, they have to consider a lot of other things before taking action. But I understand, I think everyone wants to see the end of this settler-colonial project that has been, you know, affecting not only the people in this region, but I think even Americans have been suffering from, you know, this entity and how it has an influence in internal American politics. But yeah, I mean, I think sometimes we think that we're just, you know, watching the missiles fall on us in occupied territories is really fun and we really want Iran to do that. But it's not as simple. There are a lot of things that Iran needs to take into account. But also, you know that for Iranian missiles to hit their targets in Israel, they have to go through several defense systems.

Unfortunately, a lot of them are hosted by the so-called Arab states and Muslim states in the region. So it's a very complicated situation. And I think when Iran—this is, you know, Iran has always been accused of wanting to wipe Israel off the map—when in fact, I think the view from inside Iran is that when you practice such atrocity, genocide, and massacre, you are going to bring about your end yourself. People from outside don't really need... I mean, yes, the missiles help because you have been acting with absolute impunity, and Iran happens to be the only state, the only entity in the entire world to actually punish Israel for what it has been doing. And again, we cannot really have high expectations because we're talking about a country that is under a lot of pressure and has to protect its borders at the same time.

But I think Iran, it's effectively fighting the Zionist entity, for example, through Kurdistan, where it has Iraqi Kurdistan, where the Mossad and the Israeli entity have a lot of influence, through attacks on, for example, technology hubs in Dubai or in the UAE, where the Zionist entity has a lot of influence, but also through the occupied territories, also through assisting and helping Hezbollah. Because I think Iran also takes into account the public opinion of the region, but they have their own limits, they have their own calculations. I think it's always been everybody's dream that we can somehow bring about, you know, a Palestinian state, a unified Palestinian state, and end this colonial project in the region. This has been a dream for everyone, both inside and outside Iran. But I mean, this is not very easy to achieve, but Iran is working towards that.

#Danny

Yeah, I mean, I think within those limitations too, sometimes it's hard to appreciate the opportunities that have already arisen. The fact that, you know, you mentioned Hezbollah. I mean, any victory, any success for Hezbollah is indeed going to reverberate to Palestine. I believe the same goes for Iran. And I think this is where people get tied up.

Like the resistance in the region, from what I've studied and just from the outside looking in, they view it as not, you know, one thing, you know, all for one, but really like one for all. Like everyone is in it for the same reasons, and if anyone can score successes on the battlefield, diplomatically, economically, militarily, all of it, then that leads to strength for everybody that is in the same. And what you mentioned with Iraq and the Kurdistan region, the Kurdish region, very unspoken about, but it seems like over this entire period, even before the strikes came, especially since before the strikes came when there were the horrific proxy attacks inside of Iran, it seems like Iran has been slowly but surely and gradually eliminating that problem, which is a huge deal, which is a huge deal.

I mean, that is the crux of U.S. interventionism, and war really relies on a force that can fight, you know, come in and cause instability or regime change, or both. And that seems to be farther and farther from a possibility now. But, uh, your reactions to this? And then I have one final thing to show before we head out.

#Danny

I'm sorry, did you... Can you hear me okay? I don't know if you can.

#Setareh Sadeqi

Yes.

#Danny

Oh, I said your thoughts on this, and then I have one thing I want to show you. Okay, sorry about that.

#Setareh Sadeqi

Oh, I thought you were going to show it, and then I'm... Well, yeah, I mean, exactly. I think many people might not really understand how these armed terrorist organizations, but also the massive Israeli and American influence in Iraqi Kurdistan, which is at the border with Iran, was putting a lot of pressure. In fact, that's when and how a lot of weapons were delivered to the so-called protesters that we called rioters throughout different protests that have happened in Iran, and they were hijacked by these armed elements that were actually mostly armed through these Kurdish areas, through Iraqi Kurdistan. And even recently, Iran has been fighting and targeting those bases, those terrorist hubs, and Israeli, you know, bases that have been used.

And as you said, a lot of people might not consider that a fight against the Zionist entity, when in fact it is. And Iran needs to start at its borders, and it's, you know, just across the border with the Israeli bases, and then proceed to other places where it can target. And that's basically what they have been working on. So, like I said, it's not going to happen overnight, but Iran is working on that.

#Danny

Well, I think, you know, it's in the United States and maybe other parts of the world, it's Father's Day. So I think, you know, and it wasn't Mother's Day too long ago, just a month ago. So I wanted to play, because there are, you know, unsung heroes in all this. We often talk about the officials, the military, but even just things like this. I can't play it because of the audio sharing issues, but you had an Iranian reporter who was at the Zurich Summit today, and she called out the United States' support for Israel's actions and called it a genocide, asking what are they going to do to make sure that this stops for good.

And his response was so panicked. All he could say was, "I think Trump and America have done more than any other government in the world to stop the conflict in Lebanon." It almost felt like a stock answer. Don't acknowledge the fact that this reporter just literally called you out on genocide and Israel out on genocide. Ignore that, which a lot of people saw as a big deal because you used that G word. It can cause a lot of problems PR-wise for the advances of the world. But yeah, your thoughts on this, on maybe the unsung heroes of this overall resistance that Iran has put up to U.S. and Israeli aggression and beyond.

#Setareh Sadeqi

Well, I think to me, one of the most significant parts of Iranian society that has actively engaged in different forms, being involved in resistance against imperialism and, you know, contributing to the

fighters that the country has been, you know, carrying on against imperialism and against what we call in our political terminology the arrogance, or the front of arrogance, because that's what the United States stands for. You see, the hubris, the imperialist hubris that Iran is fighting against, is the working-class Iranians that have been taking the most economic pressure, but still, part of them, or a lot of them, are the ones that are taking to the streets every night and asking the country to keep fighting.

They know that it's going to be painful for them. They know many of these people have lost their homes, have lost their loved ones. They know that the economic pressure could get even worse for some time if we keep fighting, but still they are willing to give up their comforts and continue tolerating and, you know, withstanding the pressure, but support their country in the fight against imperialism. And we don't really hear many stories from the Iranian workers, but I think they are the unheard heroes of Iran's fight against imperialism.

#Danny

Yeah, no, definitely. And I guess just also to say that, you know, on a day like this, Dr. Siddiqui, you know, we have to think about the amount of courage and, you know, the kind of pain that we've seen in Iran and across the region. I mean, we're talking about fathers who have lost their children. I mean, think about the downing of Flight 168 — like, that in and of itself is one of the most disgusting war crimes that has occurred in recent history. But that's just a blip compared to all the parents, all the fathers that have been lost and killed from Palestine and Lebanon and Iran, to the children who have been killed, whose fathers mourn today.

I think it's one of these moments in history where we truly have to appreciate what people can do despite all that has happened to them. And I hope that people can kind of take away some of that from this process that's happening right now, because it was Iran that stood up to the United States, that stood up to Israel, and finds itself in the position it is now, regardless of disagreements and, you know, tactics and methods and whether, you know, it's all going exactly how people would want it to go. I think there's this bigger—I hope that people take away this bigger point. But Dr. Siddiqui, your comments on this, and then I think we can close out here.

#Setareh Sadeqi

Yeah, I mean, you mentioned Iranian fathers that have lost their loved ones, or fathers that were martyred during those fights — a lot of fathers. We know about this very young, early-20s Iranian father who died, lost both arms and both legs while operating one of these missile launchers. And this happened while his wife was expecting a baby.

And this is how he has prioritized the sovereignty of his country, his homeland, over his own life. And his wife, being very young, feels very proud of him and how they set an example. He's not the only one — we know that there are a lot of fathers who have sacrificed their lives, have given up

their own comfort, the comfort of their families, because they wanted to fight this battle against the United States, not only for Iran but also for Palestine, for Lebanon, for the entire humanity. Because, as I said, Iran is the only state in the entire world that has been punishing the United States and Israel for their crimes against humanity. And I think that's very important. But also, on Father's Day, I would say that a lot of people — I would say maybe, yeah, a lot of Iranians — thought of Ayatollah Khamenei as the father of the nation.

And he indeed acted as a father. A lot of us miss his speeches. Whenever there is turmoil and conflict inside the country, we really miss his speeches because they gave us a lot of hope. He usually settled down the conflicts and disagreements, and he acted as the father of the nation, and we remember him. Iranians celebrate Father's Day on a different day, which is the birthday of Imam Ali, but this is a good time and a good occasion to remember all the fathers we can think of who have given their lives and their comfort in order to fight this battle.

#Danny

Beautifully said, beautifully said. And, you know, in the U.S. and the West, it's often looked down upon for, you know, societies and large numbers, masses of people, to revere one person in any kind of way, in the ways that Iranians have revered their Supreme Leader, or, you know, in different contexts, you know, DPRK, North Korea often gets this, China, all these places get these, like, cults of personality and all this stuff. But, you know, how I view it is, you know, get yourself a person that you can revere in such a way because they've actually served a large number of people in a beneficial way.

Unfortunately, we are kind of stripped of that because the leaders that take most prominence in the United States and in much of the collective West, they tend to do very bad things to people, and they tend to be complicit in or commit some of the worst crimes against humanity. You just outlined, it's hard to revere someone like a Trump. It's hard to revere someone like any U.S. president or any U.S. political leader for these reasons. So that's kind of my two cents on that. It's like, you know, don't judge people who may be revering their leaders for good reasons. But Dr. Siddiqui, you know, any final words to the audience? Yes, please, final word.

#Setareh Sadeqi

Yeah, I think it's great and a blessing to have a political, spiritual leader that you can respect and admire so much. This is exactly what you said, that a lot of societies have been stripped of. But at the same time, we see the entertainment industry replacing those idols. You know, people are admiring one person, but it's in the entertainment industry that promotes that and contributes to capitalism and the market. But when it comes to a man who has served his country, who has given his life and the lives of his family in order to protect his nation, then it becomes somehow

dehumanized and demonized by the propaganda. But I think the reality is being gradually unfolded before the eyes of humanity, and a lot more people are opening their eyes. And that is exactly why Iran has been becoming popular in the world for this fight.

#Danny

Indeed, yeah. As we were talking before, I said that Iran's achievements here could be the most important success in the 21st century for the anti-colonial movements historically, which is a huge deal in my book. But Dr. Siddiqui, we have one shout-out to you from Gaza West. Thanks so much for that super chat and for shouting out Dr. Satera Siddiqui, who joined for the first time, everyone. Hit the like button so more people can hear her voice. I'm going to definitely edit that out if I can get to it quick enough so not too many people see it.

Those ridiculous audio issues, because I think people should be able to watch it from the beginning without any hassle. But nonetheless, if you do come on and you hear that and you rewind back, just make sure for the first two and a half minutes, for the initial time being, just fast forward through that. All right, everybody. Dr. Siddiqui, thanks so much. We're going to head out together. Hit the like button, everyone. You can support the channel in the links below. Dr. Siddiqui, is there anywhere people can find your work or anything you'd like to plug?

#Setareh Sadeqi

On X, or Twitter, people can follow me, and my handle is @L-E-E-L-A-K-O.

#Danny

Oh, okay. Yeah, let me put that in the video description below. That will be there right now. Okay. So everyone, check that out. Check Dr. Siddiqui out on Twitter. I'll have to have you back on as soon as possible because this was a great conversation. Everyone, thanks so much. Hit the like button. Check out her X below. Links in the video description to support the show. And I'll see you tomorrow with Ben Norton. Bye-bye.