

Alex Krainer: Desperate Measures: Israel and the US's Last-Ditch Bid as War Looms Again

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#Nima

We had, Alex, the second round of negotiations between Iran and the United States. The two sides came and talked to each other. One of the main issues was the case of Lebanon, between Israel and Lebanon. And what was so interesting was that at the same time as having this summit or these negotiations in Switzerland, you see something parallel happening in Cairo — foreign ministers of Turkey, Egypt, Pakistan, and Saudi Arabia coming together to talk about what's going on between Iran and the United States and the whole region. And we had Lavrov yesterday saying that Eurasia, we are not part of the West.

We are part of Eurasia, and Eurasia has to find itself as a center for global affairs. And that's why when we are talking about ourselves, it's not talking about the West, it's talking about the whole of Eurasia. I assume that what is happening in the Strait of Hormuz in West Asia is part of Eurasia, and it's important for the concept of Eurasia, for the security of whatever that would be for Iran, Russia, and China. But when it comes to the negotiations between Iran and the United States, what is your understanding of the current situation between the two?

#Guest

So my impression, Nima, is that the United States is doing their usual. You know, they're taking advantage of these negotiations to give themselves time to be in a better position for a future renewed assault on Iran, because this is basically the consistent policy that we've had for decades now. And I very much doubt that they will ever give up on this. I think that they've only learned that they cannot prevail militarily. And they particularly cannot even dream about assaulting Iran in the summer because, as we've learned, you can't change the regime from the air. You need the ground components. You need ground troops. And so they're furiously trying to organize their jihadist units, the Kurds.

And, you know, in the fall, the situation might be favorable for perhaps a ground invasion of Iran. In the meantime, they're still doing more of the usual where, you know, the terms that they agreed to, they're now trying to maneuver around. For example, you know, they're supposed to immediately release \$12 billion of Iranian frozen funds, which is the money that belongs to the Iranians. And rather than just giving them the money, they're like, oh, yeah, well, you know, you can spend it in the United States on things that we tell you you can spend it on. You can buy our genetically modified soybeans or our wonderful corn or whatever. And then they're talking about, well, this is going to be great because it's going to make American farmers rich.

Of course, it's not going to make American farmers rich. It's going to make Big Ag rich, the large agricultural corporations that the American state subsidizes and favors. And so we're getting more of the same. I think that the Iranians have been very wise to include Lebanon in their peace negotiations, because if Israel breaches the ceasefire, then that gives Iran the pretext to renew hostilities. And I think that for Iran, at this moment, it doesn't suit them to freeze the status quo, because the status quo is still dangerous for Iran and jeopardizes the government's stability going forward. So I think that Iran probably wants to completely evict Western colonial powers from the region. I think they want to give the coup de grâce to Israel.

And there has been subtle messaging from Iranian officials towards the axis of resistance and towards the Palestinian people, saying that now is the time to reclaim your lands, meaning we go all the way. And you can see that the other side is quite nervous about this because now they are very keen on trying to defeat and disarm Hezbollah. They want to isolate Ansarallah in Yemen. They want to spark a kind of civil war in Iraq to make sure that they can defeat the militias that are part of the axis of resistance. And so I think that this conflict is gathering. And I think that when the 60-day period of these negotiations expires, we're going to get a renewal of hostilities. And I think that a renewal of hostilities probably favors Iran much more than it favors Israel and the United States.

#Nima

You mentioned the case of Lebanon and Gaza. Recently, you see, I see on my channel, I see other friends as well, they see the same thing happening — it seems that the Israelis are so active. And here is what was reported by our friend Elijah Magnier. He's so familiar with the region and he knows what's going on there. I talked with him two, three times so far, and here is what he posted. He said the Israeli social media intelligence service primarily prefers the unit Hatzav — it reminds me of Azov — but the unit Hatzav, also known as an open-source intelligence or OSINT unit, a subordinate unit under the elite Unit 8200 in Israel, has been active on social media asking, "Why is Iran not defending Lebanon? Why is Iran not defending Gaza?" Accounts appearing to be from Indonesia, India, Latin America are all operating from Israel.

Many locals in Lebanon, Gaza, and the Middle East fall into this narrative and naively repeat the same question. Not all work for the 8200 unit. It seems they're basically active. I see them every

time I come to L.A. I see them coming to the comment section and asking this question. Maybe some of them are some of those people who are falling into the trap that these Israelis are making. The question is, when they ask, why is Iran not defending Gaza? Why is Iran not defending Lebanon? What else can they do? And the axis of resistance altogether, it's not just about Iran. All of them are together. Do you see any sort of sign, do you see any sort of crack in the axis of resistance? I'm talking about Yemen going to Iraq, Iran, and Lebanon. I see everything solidifying on their part, not weakening.

#Guest

Yes, I agree with you, Nima. Everything is solidifying on that side, but everything is disintegrating on the Israeli-U.S. side. Because now we have bitter recriminations between the Zionists and the Donald Trump administration because—well, you know, there was this JNS summit. I'm not sure where it was, whether it was in the UK or in the United States, where you had the festival of Zionist thought. They're absolutely hysterical. They're rabid. They're saying the United States must immediately stop negotiations and fight. They have to go with bombardments. They have to take control of the Strait of Hormuz. They have to go with ground troops.

And people, you know, voices from Israel are saying that if you're not fighting for us, then you're our enemy as well. On the other hand, you know, the Trump administration also has a military hierarchy to mind. And I think that in the military hierarchy, there's a lot of dissent. There are a lot of commanders and soldiers who are not thrilled to be sent to fight a war for Israel and to die there in Israel in the current miserable conditions. They've lost use of many of their air bases. I don't know to what extent they have been damaged, but at least some of them have been rendered completely unusable. And meanwhile, Iran is also preparing.

And so I think that, oh yeah, and also we have to mention that Israel's government is in trouble and that some people in the United States, possibly Trump included, think that it's time to effect a regime change in Israel. So there's internal political infighting going on in Israel. The IDF is suffering terribly in Lebanon, and they are deeply exhausted. There's a lot of resistance to the continuation of the war. There are a lot of soldiers going AWOL, absent without leave. Many are not reporting for duty, and they're taking heavy casualties. So I think that from the Iranian side, when they commit to something like a 60-day ceasefire, they tend to honor their commitments, unlike the U.S. and Israel.

And unless the talks completely break down, I think they will probably stick with this commitment. But at the same time, they're almost certainly preparing for the next phase of the war. As they said, you know, we're negotiating with our finger on the trigger. And when the talks complete, when the negotiations are over—and I have to assume that they will not reach a successful peace agreement—hostilities will resume. And then Iran will continue attacking Israel, most probably. In the meantime, I expect that they are providing certain kinds of support covertly, in whatever way they can, without overtly engaging in hostilities against Israel.

