

Iran DESTROYS Gulf Oil & Israel, Trump BACKS DOWN! | Seyed M. Marandi

Prof. Mohammad Marandi joins from Iran to discuss the blistering developments in the war including Iran's powerful response to Trump's attack threat which has the US and Israel backing down from the edge of catastrophic war. 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

Welcome back to the show, everyone. As you can see, I have Professor Mohamed Marandi on to break down the latest developments. And first, I just want to get to Trump backing down. The United States has backed down from strikes on Iran, and a big reason for this appears to be Iran's planned response to U.S. and Israeli aggression. I'm pulling it up here. This was released by Iranian sources. Israel, Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, UAE, Saudi Arabia—their oil and gas fields were all on the table to be struck should the U.S. and Israel have attacked. Iran is still actually striking back in Iraq, the border area where the Kurdish proxies the U.S. has trained are formed and organized.

Those forces are said to be incredibly weak at this moment, and Iran is not relenting. Now, here is the notice that Trump gave on Truth Social, announcing that the strikes were off, saying that the U. S. is locked and loaded, ready to go against Iran at levels of military terror, strength, and power not seen since World War II. But we've been asked by Iran—this is a key point here—and other Middle Eastern countries to hold off any attack, in that the perimeters of a deal—not parameters, but the perimeters of a deal—have been agreed to. This would include total opening of the Strait of Hormuz and an end to Iran's nuclear threat.

And based on this request, for the benefit of the world and likewise the survival of a successful and prosperous Iran, to cancel the attack. Channel 12 Israeli media said that this was true. They said that Qatar brokered a compromise that Iran had agreed to. Saudi Arabia was reported to have been deeply involved in pressuring Donald Trump, or maybe begging Donald Trump, not to go through with this joint U.S.-Israeli strike. Iran has rejected all claims that they have agreed to some kind of compromise. So, Professor Mohamed Marandi, maybe you can help us understand what just happened. Is this TACO served on Tuesday? I mean, on Sunday, I should say. Usually it is on Tuesday, but it seems like Donald Trump is backing down for now. What do you make of it?

#Seyed M. Marandi

Yes, for now he's backed down. There's no agreement with Iran. There are no negotiations with Iran. Nothing has changed. What caused him to change his position is probably a combination of what you pointed out first, the fact that Iran said it's going to strike back very hard. If you go back to the letter he wrote, he spoke of terror, which is, I thought, an interesting word for him to use, basically saying that the United States Armed Forces is out there to terrorize Iranians. So I guess he's basically accepting that he is a terrorist. But the Iranians made no request. It had nothing to do with Iran. One of the reasons was probably Iran's planned retaliation. The second was, I would assume, the contacts that the Saudis and others, Qatar probably and the rest, made to Washington, begging them not to choose this course of action.

The real reason, of course, is unknown. I don't know what goes on in the White House, but I think that the first reason, Iran's threat, was first and foremost something that deeply concerned Trump. And then other forces at play perhaps helped convince him that this was a foolish act because ultimately, if the United States had attacked and then Iran had attacked Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar, the Emirates, and Kuwait and destroyed their critical infrastructure, that would send a message to markets across the world that there will be no more energy coming from, or refined goods, or helium, or fertilizer coming from the Persian Gulf anymore. It doesn't matter if there's a deal after that or not, because there'll be no facilities left working to produce anything.

So if there were scenes viewed across the world of plants on fire across the region, then no amount of manipulation or propaganda of the Israeli regime. But even there, they have not been safe from Iranian strikes. And so they're gathering increasingly in smaller places, and that would make any Iranian strike against them more devastating in the future. So I think there are a host of different things that worry him as we approach the midterms. I think that's about three months, literally now three months, three months and a day left till the midterms. And I don't think things are looking good for him anyway, let alone with this sort of, with some sort of renewed war that would have devastating consequences for the world. However, as I was telling you, as we were discussing before the show, that doesn't mean it's not going to happen. He could strike tonight. He could strike next week.

We're talking about Trump, someone who is completely unpredictable, someone who is easily swayed in different directions. We know that the Zionists are desperate to have this war. We know that Zionists, influential Zionists in the United States, are desperate to have this assault on Iran take place. So anything is possible in the days and weeks ahead. But from now on, for the time being, the Strait of Hormuz is closed, except for very few ships that are allowed through. And as we all know, the Red Sea is closed. Its southern Bab al-Mandeb Strait is closed to Saudi shipping, and that, I think, is going to intensify the energy crisis even more in the days and weeks ahead. So things are

not looking good, and especially now Saudi Arabia, by bombing Iraq and murdering members of the Iraqi armed forces—they bombed military bases that belonged to the Iraqi armed forces and called them Iranian militias.

But these are people who work for the Iraqi army. These are people who are paid by the Iraqi government. And by murdering these people, especially now, right before Arbäeen, the 40th day after the anniversary of the martyrdom of Imam Hussein, the grandson of the Prophet, who is the symbol of resistance in Iraq, the Islamic world, and especially the Shia world, resistance against oppression and injustice, the hegemon, and the symbol for supporting the marginalized and the victims of deprivation, at this particular time, it created enormous outrage among Iraqis and Iranians because five Iranian trainers were also murdered in the Saudi-American airstrikes. And of course, in Yemen, the Saudis bombed the ports and the international airport. So things are heating up.

And Iran's allies in the Axis of Resistance in the days and weeks ahead are probably going to play a much more important role in this growing conflict, because we're not moving towards peace. The region is highly— the tensions are very high, and there's a very high chance for a regional war breaking out. And of course, as we speak, the root of the problem, the Israeli regime, they're killing people every day in Gaza. Today, 18 people, including entire families, were murdered. I mean, we should always remember Gaza. Eighteen people so far have been murdered today, entire families wiped out. And this is supposedly a ceasefire. And so all of this conflict between the Axis of Resistance and the United States, it's all about Palestine. It's all about Gaza. It's all about ethnic supremacism and genocide, the resistance against genocide. It's basically the Axis of Resistance against the axis of genocide.

#Danny

What I find really interesting, Professor Morandi, is Saudi Arabia. Saudi Arabia has entangled itself, has gone headfirst into war, not just with Yemen, but also the Iraqi resistance, and then somehow, some way, is begging on its knees for Trump and Israel not to strike Iran. And what you just mentioned—Gaza—we also have Lebanon. Israel continues to strike and terrorize. This is literally MOU point number one. The idea that somehow threats on Iranian infrastructure was the reason that strikes didn't happen last night seems very far-fetched, since Iran never budged on any of these points, especially MOU point number one, which said, end the aggression and the war on all fronts. That hasn't happened at all, and yet we have Donald Trump talking about how Iran is the one that has come to some kind of compromise. What do you think is the reason why the United States and Israel are playing this? It feels like a game, almost. It felt like this weekend was some kind of gamble that just didn't come into being. What do you make of it?

#Seyed M. Marandi

Well, I think Trump has trapped himself. He has obeyed the Zionist lobby. He has obeyed the Israeli regime. He's gone into a war that he thought he would win. He should have known. He should have

known after the 12-day war. But I believe that U.S. intelligence is deeply flawed. I don't think it's just the Israeli regime giving false intelligence or fake intelligence. I think U.S. intelligence is probably deeply embedded, or deeply—they believe very much in these narratives on Iran about it being brittle and falling apart. I really don't think Western intelligence agencies know much about Iran. I think they mostly believe what they want to believe. But in any case, he went into war, which failed, and then he restarted a much bigger war, failed again.

And I think he's desperate for some sort of victory. So perhaps—I'm guessing, total guess—that maybe last night the intention wasn't to attack, and he was hoping that the Iranians would capitulate. I don't know. But that's just not going to happen. We know that that's not going to happen. The Iranians are not going to budge from their conditions, to name a few. And if at some point there is an agreement, the Iranians are going to be demanding more, and they're going to be demanding certain things upfront because it's obvious that the United States is completely unreliable and untrustworthy. It was like that before Trump, but under Trump, it's just completely unreliable.

Trump's signature means absolutely nothing to anyone. So in future, if there's an agreement, Iran is going to be demanding about the siege on Yemen. For years, they've imposed a siege on women and children in Yemen. That's no longer acceptable. Iran is going to be demanding about Gaza. True, it is implied in the agreement, in the MOU, but I don't think—I think after this, there's going to be much more focus on this. Of course, the problem with Gaza, as we discussed before together, is the fact that leaders of our region really betrayed the Palestinian cause and went to Egypt and signed that document, basically giving full support to Trump and whitewashing his genocide.

And these countries were guarantors. They were supposed to be guarantors, these leaders, these regional and global leaders who went to Sharm el-Sheikh. And yet, ever since then, the Israelis have been slaughtering Palestinians on a daily basis. And now, during the past few days and weeks, it's becoming much worse. And today, it's been mass slaughter. It's getting worse by the day. And the starvation is increasing. They're bombing medical supplies in Gaza in order to make people die of disease and make children die of illness. They're not allowing food to get in in adequate amounts. And also, those who have special needs are potentially preventing those foods and those medicines to get in so that those children will die because they want to cut the population.

They want to decrease the population, whether it's by bombing them or sniping them or starving them or killing them by disease. All of these methods are being used by the Israeli regime to bring down the Palestinian population. I mean, it's genocide that is taking place in front of our eyes, but Western media has walked away. They've always been trying to look away. But now they know that the Zionist regime has no legitimacy. They can no longer pretend that it's legitimate. So instead of reporting it and lying and twisting the reports to the benefit of the Israeli regime, they know that's not going to work anymore, so they just don't report.

They just look away. They look somewhere else and try to make us forget what's going on in Gaza. But that makes us more responsible than ever before to, you know, whatever we're talking about, to

go back to Gaza. If we're talking about the criminal activities that are being carried out on a daily basis in Lebanon against the people of Lebanon because of Hezbollah's support for the Palestinians, we still have to go back to Gaza and remind people about that. If we're talking about Yemen, where there's a siege imposed against women and children in Yemen, still we have to go back to Gaza.

When they bomb Iran, we have to also remind people about Gaza because that is the focus of their criminal behavior. And it's also the reason why Iran, Hezbollah, and Yemen are being attacked, is because of their support for the Palestinian people, the fact that they cannot accept genocide. But in any case, those countries that went to Egypt for that betrayal, they are fully responsible for what's going on. They do nothing. And they make it more difficult for Iran to negotiate over Gaza because Trump and his henchmen say that, well, we've already negotiated Gaza and we have an agreement. So even though that agreement is not being— they're not committing themselves to the agreement.

Just one thing before we continue, because you mentioned Saudi Arabia. Saudi Arabia is quite extraordinary. I mean, its leader, Mohammed bin Salman, we know what his history is like. He once beat up the former prime minister of Lebanon, Hariri. He murdered a journalist, Jamal Khashoggi, someone who I knew. We disagreed on many things, not everything, but he still killed him and got rid of his body in Turkey. He waged this genocidal war against Yemen with Obama green-lighting it. And then he besieged Qatar, which they were cooperating together with in Syria, in the genocide in Yemen, in Libya. But the Saudis and the Emiratis turned against Qatar, and then Turkey and Qatar filtered away from them and away from cooperating over the genocide in Yemen. So this is a person who just is not exactly an ideal leader.

And now he provoked this war with Yemen and bombed the international airport as an Iranian passenger plane with a crew of men and women was about to land, enraging Iranians and carrying out an act of war against Yemen. So he provoked Yemen. And then, when Yemen struck at Saudi Arabia's oil installations in retaliation, he was too cowardly, or the Saudis were too cowardly, to acknowledge that Yemen did it because they didn't want to confront it. They blamed the Iraqis. Yemen took responsibility. Iraq said nothing happened, and they bombed Iraq and enraged Iraqis, killing both Iraqis and Iranians. So Saudi Arabia is turning this into a regional war, with Americans, by the way, because the Americans bombed Iraq with the Saudis. The Americans played the primary role.

And in Yemen, it is believed that the Americans pushed Saudi Arabia to bomb the airport and then later the port of Hodeidah. So the Saudis are bringing catastrophe upon themselves by provoking Yemen and Iraq and angering Iran even further. And then when the Americans want to strike, they call the Americans and say, "We're in trouble, don't strike." So it's quite amazing what sort of position the Saudis take. And then the Saudis try to create a coalition against Yemen. And then they claim—I don't know, we'll have to see—but they claim that certain countries have joined this coalition. So instead of these countries joining a coalition to help Gaza, they join a coalition led by Saudi Arabia against the people of Yemen, who the Saudis have imposed a siege upon for well over a decade. I mean, it's the upside— we live in an upside-down world void of any morality.

#Danny

Indeed. And what Saudi Arabia is demonstrating is that the leadership of the region in these so-called Arab states are nothing but misleadership. And now there are reports that—first of all, Ronnie—that the UAE, in that Wall Street Journal report on the United States backing down, was said to be the one country in the region that was demanding Trump take more decisive action on Iran. So they were backing Trump on the strikes that the U.S. and Israel eventually backed down on. And then another report that has just come in from the Wall Street Journal as well, acting, I guess, as—taking, I guess—the reins from Barak Ravid today from Axios. They say that Iran is considering a preemptive strike or preemptive strikes, as Iran is now aware of Trump's political vulnerability too and are looking to exploit it. What do you make of these reports, Professor Morandi? Maybe you can start with the UAE, on down to the idea that Iran now is going to conduct strikes preemptively.

#Seyed M. Marandi

Well, with regards to the UAE, I can't say this is true or false. The Wall Street Journal is not known to be being honest, and they could be putting out propaganda to create a wedge between the UAE and Iran. The UAE officials, after the fighting, like a couple of months ago, when they were negotiating with the Iranians, the UAE officials told Iran that the Israelis were working hard to create divisions between Iran and the UAE. And whether that's true or not, that's debatable. The Iranians will figure out what role the UAE plays in all this. It has more than enough connections across the region and beyond, and intelligence to figure this out.

So it's possible, but again, I don't trust the Wall Street Journal. I don't trust any mainstream Western media outlet. But with regards to Iran carrying out preemptive strikes, I'm not quite even sure what that means. I mean, Iran did not start the war. Iran did not restart the war. As we speak, the United States is carrying out war against Iran. The siege on Iranian ports is an act of war, and it's targeting ordinary Iranians. That's to hurt ordinary Iranians. So they're waging war. And last night they were, at least hypothetically speaking, they were prepared to carry out an all-out assault on Iranian power plants and civilian targets. War crime after war crime after war crime.

No condemnation from the European-funded NGOs, no condemnation from Canada or Australia or New Zealand or European parliaments, no condemnation from any of the mainstream Western media, nothing. Which I think says more than enough about whether these are credible institutions and whether they ever really cared about human rights and dignity and justice and that sort of thing at all in the past or in the present, let alone in the present. So there's no such thing as a preemptive Iranian attack. There is no ceasefire, as we speak. When the Iranians struck American positions in Kuwait and, of course, in Jordan after the Americans halted their 13 days of attack, that's not preemptive.

Just because America stopped bombing, that doesn't mean Iran is going to accept a ceasefire. Iran didn't accept a ceasefire. As I said, we have a siege on our ports. So if Iran carried out a strike, there was nothing preemptive about it. And if Iran tonight, let's say, carries out a strike on American positions, which is possible—they did that in Jordan and in Kuwait—that wouldn't be preemptive. That would be a continuation of the war. When Americans launch war against the Iranian people, they can't complain about any Iranian retaliation, and they cannot complain about Iran striking them in order to prevent their gathered forces from being a threat to the country. So there's nothing really preemptive about it.

But, you know, that's the narrative that we see. Just like the renewal of the fighting. In the Western media, they say, well, Iran struck tankers in the Persian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz, and that's what restarted the war, whereas Iran violated the deal, the MOU, which we all know, that's just fake. The Americans violated the deal, not the Iranians. The Iranians opened the strait. Business was picking up. The number of ships passing through were increasing. Meanwhile, the Americans, they refused to force the Israelis to leave Lebanon. They refused to hand over Iranian stolen assets.

They lifted the sanctions on Iranian oil exports and then reversed it after a few days. They expanded the sanctions regime, a violation of the deal. They continued to threaten Iranian leaders and Iranian people in public statements, a violation of the deal. They opened a corridor in violation of Article Five in the Strait of Hormuz. And the Saudis and Emiratis and the Kuwaitis collaborated with them to get ships to go through that, despite the fact that the MOU said during the period when the MOU is valid, it is Iran that manages and normalizes trade through the Strait. So the Americans were violating it with the collaboration of these countries.

And all of its commitments, literally. And then, of course, when Iran, after days of warning the Saudis and the others and the Americans and the Kuwaitis and the Emiratis not to use that corridor and to use the Iranian corridor, after they ignored Iran for days, then Iran struck those ships because it's a part of the deal. So the Americans wanted to violate all of their commitments and then to undermine Iran in the Strait of Hormuz and take over the Strait of Hormuz and win the war, win a war that they lost on the battlefield during siege warfare. It wasn't going to happen. So they brought this, and then they renewed the fighting. So it was the Americans who did this.

It's clear as day. But since Western media is obedient to power, they'll just repeat nonsense. And so right now, when they say the Emirates wanted war, I can't say. I can't say it's true or I can't say it's false, because I don't know if there's an agenda there. Or when they say that Iran may carry out a preemptive attack, when they use the word "preemptive," it's obviously a loaded word. But of course Iran may carry out an attack because Iran is at war with the United States. And of course this issue about Trump's vulnerabilities—Iran discovered Trump's vulnerability—as if, like, we've been, you and I and others have been, many of you.

#Danny

We've discovered it, audience members.

#Seyed M. Marandi

Yes, we've been talking—everyone has been talking about it for months. As if, like, this was something that they figured out, my thing.

#Danny

Yeah. All you have to do is follow the events of this weekend and conclude that indeed, Trump is vulnerable. There's a report, actually, a new poll, I think. And give Danny a like so that he could—yeah, yeah, hit the like button because that will help illuminate more people in understanding just how vulnerable this administration is.

#Seyed M. Marandi

Maybe it's because they watch the Iranian—maybe enough people liked your show so that the Iranian leaders last night saw whoever was on your show, and then that caused them to recognize that Trump is in a vulnerable position. So you need more likes.

#Danny

Yeah, exactly. So, but, you know, a new poll says that 67% of those polled now in the United States believe that Trump's actions against Iran have been harmful to the United States. So vulnerability doesn't even begin to describe the situation, especially domestically, but globally too. Professor Rondi, this was reported in the Financial Times as this strike was supposedly about to gear up, even though it didn't really get off the ground so much this weekend.

But the Financial Times is confirming that the U.S. is now withdrawing and has withdrawn most of its presence, if not all, from Kuwait and Bahrain after Iranian attacks. So again, vulnerability, I don't think, is the right word for us, Marty. What word would you use to describe this? It's very bad. Kuwait is incredibly important. Bahrain is incredibly important. A lot of people have been downplaying the U.S.'s military posture and whether it's important to the Epstein class or not. But nonetheless, these are two major military strongholds that are supposed to be used against Iran.

#Seyed M. Marandi

I don't think that the Americans have fully withdrawn from northern Iraq, Kuwait, or Bahrain. They may have moved around forces. They have removed some assets and taken them to Jordan, which the Iranians struck and surprised them with great precision. Some of those assets were destroyed. But they haven't emptied these bases, and they haven't emptied these countries. And they've moved from bases to hotels and other buildings. So the forces are in, you know, they're embedded in

civilian neighborhoods, and they're making civilians targets. Just a few days ago, I think a week or so ago, maybe a bit longer, the Iranians warned that the Americans were now using buildings outside of their bases to hide and to carry out their work, and that these places are no longer safe. So, yeah, they haven't left Kuwait.

They haven't left northern Iraq. They are assisting proxy groups in northern Iraq. They're trying to organize them to carry out an assault. An Iranian soldier was murdered today in the clashes. And they're also working in Pakistan, the no-man's land in Pakistan, where it's not well-governed. They are supporting these Takfiri groups, these Wahhabi groups, the Salafi groups. And over the past two, three weeks, I think a couple of Iranian police officers and soldiers were murdered by these people. Of course, they take lots of casualties themselves. And the Iranians, as you know, have been bombing northern Iraq day and night for weeks now. But in any case, I'm sure that there is an American presence. There is an American military presence in Kuwait, and there is an American military presence in Bahrain.

#Danny

Yeah, in the report, it specifically says reposition a lot of these troops and equipment to, as you said, Jordan, and also to Israel, and in hotels.

#Seyed M. Marandi

Yes, hotels.

#Danny

Well, right.

#Seyed M. Marandi

And other buildings. French buildings.

#Danny

And that was a big sticking point during the—it was something that came up during the initial February 28th onward, 40 or so days.

#Seyed M. Marandi

But remember what they would do in Gaza in order to carry out genocide. They would say they're, like, under hospitals, or they're in schools, or any excuse, of course, and the Western media would just run with it because they were helping them carry out genocide. But I guess here, they can go into hotels. They can go into other buildings. They can hide among civilians. It's okay. And no one in

the West is going to complain. And have no doubt that if Iran starts striking those hotels, which they probably will at some point if this continues, then they'll be screaming about Iran targeting civilians.

#Danny

They will. And Iran, during the, as I was mentioning before, the initial U.S.-Israeli aggression, those 39, 40 days or so, this was happening. Iran was saying they were very aware, for example, in Bahrain and Manama and other areas, parts of the Gulf, UAE and Dubai, that there were U.S. forces holding themselves up in civilian hotels, warning the civilians there and other non-combatant forces to get out and get as far away as possible because it's a huge risk, and that, that—

#Seyed M. Marandi

And that's what's happening.

#Danny

And I wanted your comment on the Israel situation in this, because you mentioned Gaza. We've talked about Lebanon. You know, Israel is still on a rampage. But one really interesting thing: the European Command said that they don't have the ability to protect Israel. I guess they've been supplying the destroyers assigned to them to protect Israel, and they're saying that they don't have the ability to do this. And this came right as this strike was supposed to happen, and then the strike didn't happen. So I'm curious whether you believe this might have played a role in the fact that, even before this talk of a major strike on Iranian power facilities, energy infrastructure, Israel has been staying back and, you know, of course, doing what it does more on its periphery: genocide. So what are your thoughts on this? What do you make of those reports that Israel is also finding itself vulnerable as it moves through this war?

#Seyed M. Marandi

It could have played a role, but I mean, they were incapable of protecting the regime. And of course, which begs the question: why is the United States always focusing on protecting the Zionist regime? But I mean, every day they sacrifice Kuwait, the Emirates, Saudi Arabia by striking Iran, and then Iran retaliates. Just like last night, they were threatening to destroy Iran, and Iran said that we will retaliate if you do so. And this, by the way, shows the difference between Iran and the United States. Iran does not intend to destroy anything. The only reason why they said they'd do it was in retaliation to American attacks.

And the reason why Iran would do it if the Americans attack is that these countries are collaborating with the United States against Iran: Kuwait, the Emirates, Bahrain, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, increasingly Oman, and of course Jordan, and of course the Israeli regime. All of them are collaborating with the United States, these regional regimes. But when the United States doesn't attack, Iran doesn't

retaliate. Iran does not strike. For Iran, it's deterrence. It should prevent the United States from carrying out these atrocities. And as we discussed before, during the war itself, the United States and Israeli regime murdered 3,500 people with the help of these regimes.

And these regimes, when they—after the war, they only had a handful of people killed. Only a handful, despite all the drones and missiles that the Iranians fired, all the damage that Iran caused. Why? Because Iran was careful not to strike civilians. Yet you still see people from these regimes saying, "Why is Iran bombing us?" Or Western think tankers who obviously get their funding from these people, some of them. They say, "Why is Iran targeting these countries, which have nothing to do with the war?" Of course they did. They're the key to the war. Without these countries, this war could not have been waged. But in any case, it is interesting that this was said about not being able to protect the Israelis.

But it's a bit odd, too, that this would be said in public. I would imagine that a person of that stature would be in trouble for saying it in public. But it may have played a role, or maybe they allowed him to say that to give them a means to back down or to change their posture, to not carry out the attack. I don't know. But it is strange. I mean, I would like to figure out why he was allowed to say that, because that's not the norm. Military officers usually do not go out in public and say, "We can't do this," or, "We can't do that," right before major military operations, unless it's like in their parliament or the United States in a hearing committee or something like that. It's bizarre. It's strange. Hmm.

#Danny

Yeah, it is strange. And some have surmised that the United States, especially the military brass, are trying to find some way to create an off-ramp because of the massive damage that they've sustained.

#Seyed M. Marandi

Yes, but why would such a high-ranking officer say that in public?

#Danny

Yeah.

#Seyed M. Marandi

I mean, have any of your guests speculated on the reasons?

#Danny

No, no, no. Oh, it looks like we might have lost you for a second. Professor Morandi, if you do end up regaining connection, just come right back. Oh no, you're back. So after you asked that question, you had cut out. And then I think you were going to respond after you said, "Does it have any..."

#Seyed M. Marandi

Yeah, I was just saying that someone of that stature would be punished or reprimanded or removed for saying that in public right before an operation. I don't understand why he said it, unless he was told that he can say that for whatever reason.

#Danny

Yeah, yeah. I mean, I guess the question now is, Professor Morandi, what next? Because some have said that this canceling of the attack is like a 48-hour period where Trump is giving a fig leaf to Iran and everybody involved to get the deal done, as he said in his post. But it doesn't look like there's any deal. It doesn't look like there's any talks. Iran is rejecting all of this. Israel is still wreaking havoc in the region. Saudi Arabia is now entangled further and deeper into war in the United States.

And that point about preemptive strikes earlier, it's really important to remember that the United States started using this term ad nauseam when they declared the war on terror after 9/11. And it was just an excuse to attack other countries, to destroy Afghanistan, Iraq, and, of course, the rest of the region through military means, out of the justification that if it didn't happen, then the consequences for the U.S. would be worse. Now, Iran is actually at war, and there's no ceasefire, there's nothing on the table. So any Iranian military operation is within the confines and bounds of an actual war, and one that is not a war of aggression, obviously, if anyone's been paying attention. But your thoughts and comments on these two fronts.

#Seyed M. Marandi

Well, first of all, Danny, if the United States does launch an attack on Iran's civilian infrastructure, the Iranians have said that they're going to go all out in destroying the civilian infrastructure of the countries in the region that assisted the United States in this war. That means all these countries in the Persian Gulf, and it would probably include Oman too, after what they've done in this last phase. And what would that mean? That would mean that these countries, which are desert regimes, they have nothing but oil and gas. If the electricity goes out, if the water desalination plants go out—and these are small countries, and all of their assets are gathered together and close by, close to each other. And they don't—for example, in Iran, you have many power plants across the country. It's a huge country.

So you'd have to bomb and bomb and bomb day after day after day. In these countries, everything is centralized, and so it's very easy to destroy their critical infrastructure. So these desalination

plants, these electrical power plants, the oil facilities, the refineries—it's very simple for Iran. And if Iran destroys them, the countries fall apart. They just collapse. Because these, as I said, you don't have farmers or you don't have different... These countries are completely dependent on oil and gas. They don't have natural—you know, they don't have water, they don't have farming, they have nothing. And what would happen? That would lead to collapse of the stock market because people, as I said earlier, would recognize that the talk, you know, Trump talking down the market or talking up the market or talking down the price of—well, that's not going to work anymore.

People will know that it's finished at a time when the shortages are already there. Until the MOU was signed, we had shortages growing. During the period when the MOU was being implemented, halfway, we had—let's say, let's say that the shortage of oil didn't increase, but it remained. The shortages remained. They weren't able to decrease the shortages. And other shortages continued to grow because the focus of the United States was getting oil out of the Persian Gulf, not other goods. And then after the United States restarted, the world shut down again. So the shortages are growing rapidly. And of course, the Red Sea added to these problems. So with this situation, if we suddenly see all these assets being destroyed, there is no room for maneuver anymore.

So that would bring about a collapse, and that would end Trump's presidency. But another thing that I think is important is that the Iranian strategy, as far— I mean, it's not the Iranian strategy, but I think that the Iranians do have an eye on this. It's not a strategy, but the Iranians have an eye on this. The next two, three months are very difficult for Trump and Netanyahu because Trump has elections at the beginning of November. Netanyahu has elections in October. And the internal strife in Israeli politics is very serious. In Hebrew media, they even talk of civil war. I'm not saying it's going to happen, but that's how serious it is. And so the Iranians don't want to disturb the crisis.

They don't want to bomb Israel right now because they don't want anyone to rally around Netanyahu or anything like that. I mean, his opponents are genocidal. But right now the Iranians want to see this crisis play out. The same is for the United States. The Iranians want Trump to feel the heat. And so unless the United States backs down and implements the MOU—and as I said, the MOU, the Iranians will be more demanding than before on Gaza and Yemen, and they will want things upfront because the United States has no credibility—unless the United States backs down and implements the MOU in full, the way Iran wants it, then the pressure will continue to build on Trump until November.

And the Iranians believe that if he loses in November, then it will be increasingly difficult for him because the United States population has turned against him, and then he'll have problems with the Senate and the House. Not that the Democrats are not genocidal—they are—but there is a sort of civil war going on among Democrats, among the base and, of course, the elites. We'll have to see how that plays out. And, of course, among the Republicans, you see a civil war sort of playing out in a different way. So the Iranians want to put pressure on the war party to weaken them.

So October and November, I think, are two important events. There will be two important events that the Iranians will be looking at. That's why Iran doesn't strike Israel now. Of course, if Israel strikes, Iran will hit very hard, harder than during the 12-day war. Because if Netanyahu strikes, that gives Iran an opportunity to hurt the regime and hurt Netanyahu and make people turn further against them. But in the case of Trump, Iran will, if he does not go back. So when Trump says a deal or whatever, he's talking nonsense. The Iranians will only accept an implemented MOU, and Article 1 will be more stressed upon beyond Lebanon, Gaza, and Yemen.

#Danny

Yep. Hell, even Donald Trump mentioned Yemen when there were talks of so-called renewed discussions between Iran and the United States around the MOU not too long ago. So, yeah, that seems 100% the case. Professor Moradi, another point I wanted your thoughts on is, you know, as all this is going on, I mentioned the CNN poll that says that 67 percent of Americans are very unhappy with the harm that the war on Iran is doing to them, to the United States. There's also a poll that says, for the first time in the United States, more people are sympathetic toward Palestinians than Israel.

And that over half of people in the United States polled now believe that the U.S. is too supportive of Israel. So these are, I think, big numbers in the sense of, well, of course, the Epstein class doesn't really do partisanship, actually. It's a bipartisan consensus on war and genocide. At the same time, they care about their seats, and they care about, you know, when midterms come along, they do want to sit in the halls of power. They don't like to be voted out. So these are big numbers. What do you make of them?

#Seyed M. Marandi

If anything, Danny, and I—I don't have any evidence for this, but based on what I see from afar—if anything, these numbers are being manipulated in favor of the Israelis. All of these institutions, they're linked to power. I would say it's probably a bit worse than that for the Israelis. I mean, again, this is anecdotal, but I was on a debate a couple of days ago here on Piers Morgan's show, and you can see from the responses that it's almost universally hostile towards the Israeli regime. And this is not your show. This is not some alternative media outlet where, you know, this—he is very mainstream, very pro-Zionist, very pro-genocide, in my view.

I would say he manufactures consent for war against Iran. That's something I witnessed when the 12-day war began. He had me on and started saying all sorts of lies about Iran. And I mean, all sorts of lies. And again, I asked him to read the book *Going to Tehran* by the Leveretts. And then he got really angry, as if, like, just advising him to read this book was, like, an outrageous proposal. But

in any case, the point is that the feed, what you see in the comments, again, that's not scientific, it's not a poll, but it does make me wonder if it's really, like, more than half, or maybe even, I would imagine that's probably a few percentage points worse than what they're saying, I would guess.

#Danny

Yeah, well, certainly it doesn't take into account what, you know, the deeper questions. A lot of these questions are very broad, and often, I mean, polls have a lot of problems with them and generally tend to be designed to diminish or maybe water down the extent and gravity of crises like the one that you are referencing now. And it's a big crisis, even if it wasn't— even if the numbers were just firmly there. The fact is, is that you have also more and more people, not just in numbers and volume, opposing Israel in record numbers, but you also have, in terms of how vocal they are, how energetic they are, what they're willing to do to respond to their sentiments.

#Seyed M. Marandi

Sorry for interrupting, but again, another thing that sort of makes me think about this is that both in 2016 and in 2024, the polls, I recall, none of them really predicted that Trump would win the election. I mean, some were saying that the polls in 2016, they were national polls and that he didn't win the majority. But I'm sure they took these things into account. I mean, it's not that these people who carry out polls don't know what they're doing. There was no prediction of Trump winning.

And then in the recent election, this landslide of Trump again, I don't think they were saying that he was going to win in a landslide, and the landslide beforehand. So I think that most of these polling agencies, since they were hostile to Trump, they were able to sort of tilt the numbers or play with the numbers a bit. And I think that when it comes to Israel, I'm pretty sure they do the same thing, and probably even worse when it comes to Palestine. I'm just guessing. Again, this is not based on any evidence that I have. I'm just guessing.

#Danny

Well, I mean, the sentiments are likely to get far worse because, you know, regardless of how we frame it, whether we frame it as U.S. and Israel together, U.S. doing Israel's bidding, Israel as a tool of the United States, you know, there's all kinds of arguments about that. But the fact is that the United States and Israel are engaging in a massively unpopular war on Iran that has no prospect of ending on terms that are favorable to them. And they seem to have no desire or capacity to come to some kind of settlement that will actually end the war.

So that means this is likely to go on a lot longer. And that means also the behavior of the Israeli regime and the U.S. regime is likely also to get more volatile, and therefore affect the harm that

people in the United States are facing. So this is like a cycle, it seems like, President Rodney, that isn't set to necessarily change dramatically in the coming days and weeks. But any final thoughts you have in the last five or so minutes we have on the program about where we are?

#Seyed M. Marandi

Well, first of all, I think that this shift in public opinion in the United States will continue because, obviously, we know that young people are opposed to genocide and Zionism in huge numbers, and it's among older people, like above the age of 60 and so on, 65, where there's larger support for this genocidal regime. Of course, you know, as this genocide continues and time goes by, this shift will continue. And the longer the genocide continues, the more entrenched the hostility will be. And when younger people grow older, the teenagers right now, they're growing at a time when this genocide is ongoing.

So they're going to be like the 20-year-olds and 25-year-olds are going to be supporting Palestine. And then, as the Israeli regime and the United States drag the global economy down, it's going to get worse. There's no doubt about that. All the experts that I read, whose materials I read or who I watch, are saying it's going to get worse. People are going to blame Trump, Netanyahu, and the Zionist lobby and the Zionist regime for the economic woes. So you'll have genocide, economic woes, and people will be seeing both of these. It's all downhill for the regime. And Iran is not going to lose this war.

I mean, the smart thing for the United States to do is just to back off and to accept the MOU, an MOU+, because Iran is not going to, as I said, allow it to be played around with like before. But even if they do accept the MOU and walk away, this is still going to go downhill for them because this is the beginning of a crisis. And there are so many other problems with the economy that this is just going to make all of it a lot worse. But I don't see them walking away. I don't see the Zionists allowing the United States to walk away. And so we may have a continuation of this situation. We may have escalation.

If there is escalation, as I said twice already, it's going to lead to collapse, in my opinion. At the end of the day, Iran is still going to win, and Iran's allies are going to win. The only thing that would happen is that if the United States escalates, those regimes, those family dictatorships of the Persian Gulf, I don't think they'll last. If the United States really escalates, I don't think they'll last. And they're already in economic trouble. They're facing grave economic difficulty. They have to spend money. Where is that money going to come from? It's going to come from U.S. stocks.

The money that they've invested in the States, in U.S. bonds. So they're going to have to withdraw more and more money from the United States. And then you have the situation in Japan, which I'm sure you're covering elsewhere. I'm not an expert, so I can't comment on it. But, you know, this

intensifies all those problems. So, you know, I don't see the situation ending well. But the more the United States and Trump push, and the Zionists push, for this crisis, this military confrontation to continue, the loser is the people of the world, but it's going to be Zionism as well.

And on a final note, I just want to remind everyone again that we have to keep reminding people of what's going on in Gaza and in the West Bank. Outrageous what they're doing in the West Bank. You don't see any Europeans saying anything, European politicians or European Parliament. Instead, what they do is they, you know, condemn Iran for whatever it is they want to condemn Iran for. I mean, the British government has stated that Iranian armed forces, the guards, are a terrorist organization while genocide is taking place in Gaza. You know, it's sort of like the Saudi coalition. It's just like, it's like we're living in this upside-down world. But in any case, I advise your viewers to press the like button.

#Danny

That's very much appreciated. Yeah, well, what you said about the Gulf countries, I think, in this conversation, being able to connect how the Gulf countries have behaved around Gaza, Palestine, Lebanon as a whole versus how they're behaving around Iran, I think really speaks to exactly why it's so important to continue talking about all of this. Because, yeah, we have Gulf countries—this is like a pattern now. I think they realize that, yeah, existentially, they are in major trouble if the United States and Israel restart war on the basis that they were saying it was going to restart. And that's why every time Trump threatens some massive strike on Iran, you have reports that the Gulf countries are the ones getting on the phone, begging, pleading, "Oh no, don't do this."

But at the same time, these same countries—the UAE, Saudi, all this—they're not doing a damn thing about Gaza, Palestine, Lebanon. They're organizing coalitions against Yemen, while Gaza, Palestine, Lebanon—people who should be their brothers, their sisters, their allies, people who share a lot of history likely with them—they're disregarded. If not in the case of the UAE, in the case of Saudi and so many others, they're actively working with Israel in underhanded ways that we don't always get to see or talk about. So it's disgusting. But yeah, Professor Morandi, any final words for the audience before we hit end stream here?

#Seyed M. Marandi

No, just once again, I advise people to read more about Iran: the book *Going to Tehran*, Alastair Crooke's book *Resistance*. These are good for people to read and have others read because now is the time to create greater awareness. The propaganda machine is falling apart, but the military machine is still very much in place.

#Danny

Yes. Everybody hit the like button, as Professor Morandi said earlier. That will help more people see our conversation in YouTube's algorithm. In the video description, you can find all the places to support this channel: Patreon, Substack, and more. I want to thank everyone who gave a Super Chat, who became a new member. I appreciate it. I put you all up on the screen. Tomorrow, I'm on with Patrick Henningsen, August 3rd, 1 p.m. Eastern Time, I believe. 1 p.m. Eastern Time tomorrow, August 3rd. All right, everybody. He's a really good guy. Yeah, he's an amazing guy. He's, you know, if you want to know someone who's very serious and also just an immense pleasure to work with, similar to Professor Morandi here, it's Patrick Henningsen. Great guy, and I love working with him. So, all right.