



Tulsi Gabbard speaks at Rage Against the War Machine

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Tulsi Gabbard (TG): Aloha. Early one morning, on a Saturday, on a beautiful day like today in January of 2018, over a million people all across the state of Hawaii woke to their cell phones buzzing and ringing. Radio alerts blaring with a message that read 'ballistic missile threat inbound to Hawaii, seek immediate shelter, this is not a drill'. I and so many others, I happened to be here that morning. I started calling my friends and calling my family concerned for them and where they were. But just as you might imagine, if we all got that alert at this moment, so too did people all across Hawaii start to ask themselves the question: Where is their shelter? Where do I go? Where do I take my children to be safe? Knowing that there is an inbound missile to Hawaii. With a nuclear warhead and we have just minutes to live. We had college students at the University of Hawaii sprinting across campus, trying to figure out where they could possibly go to get shelter. A father who lowered his little girl down a manhole thinking that may be the only place she may be safe and telling her 'goodbye, I might not see you again.' I heard from a father who had one kid in town on the island of Oahu and another child on the other side of the island and himself in the middle, trying to decide which of his children he might spend the last of his minutes with. An impossible decision for any parent to make. Countless others shared their stories of their panic, cowering in the bathtub with their kids, trying to understand. They're telling us to seek immediate shelter. Where do we go? And experiencing that harsh reality that was true for us there in Hawaii in 2018, as it is for us here today. There is no shelter. Our leaders failed us then and they continue to fail us now. Those people who work in our nation's capital eagerly continue to escalate tensions, eagerly wage new cold wars, understanding that if there is a nuclear attack, yes, they will be okay in their bunkers where they literally have plans to be able to continue to wage wars from their bunkers without any consideration for the rest of us and the destruction and incineration that their wars will cause. This was ultimately the thing that caused me to run for president in 2020 because I saw where our leaders were taking us. I saw the dangers of where this new Cold War and nuclear arms race would eventually lead. Whether intentional or accidental, there is only one destination for such wars, and that is a nuclear holocaust. I made it clear, then, that this is a central issue of our time, the most important issue facing us in the 21st century, and that there was a clear choice in that election. We're either going to work towards peace, de-escalate tensions, move away from this new

Cold War, or we will continue to race rapidly towards nuclear brink. Toward a new Cold War with Russia, a new Cold war with China, and therefore racing towards nuclear war. Now, for those of you who remember that election, this issue was not important to the media. They refused to talk about it. They refused to raise the question of debates. There was no other candidate willing to talk about this issue. It was not important to them then, and it's not important to them now. And so here we are. Two short years later. What I warned about then is now our reality. This proxy war that we're fighting against Russia right now could turn at any moment into a direct conflict between the United States NATO and Russia. A country that has more nuclear weapons than any other in the world. Now, anyone with a little bit of common sense knows that a Cold War can very quickly turn to a hot war. And then when you're waging a hot war against a nuclear armed country, it's just a matter of time before it leads to the use of nuclear weapons at any moment. And here is the insanity of it all. We have talking heads on TV. We have politicians. We have very powerful people here in the United States and all around the world speaking with a straight face: 'Well, you know, if we start World War Three or when World War Three starts, here's how we're going to fight and win. That if Putin decides to use tactical nuclear weapons, here's what we're going to do'. As though such a war could ever be won! It cannot be won. World War Three cannot be won. They're living in this archaic mindset of World War One and World War Two and not facing the realities that we have today. There is no way to win a nuclear war. There is only one end. And that is a nuclear holocaust. So we're gathered here today because we know that it doesn't have to be this way. We know that there is a better way and that the task before us is urgent and necessary. We have people gathered here from all over the country. People, who are gathered here from all ends of the political spectrum. And if we were to have a conversation my guess is there may be other things we don't agree on. But the truth is that we could disagree about everything else. Everything else. But the one thing that we do agree on that brings us together here today is that we value life. We want to live. We want our loved ones to live and thrive. We want to be able to go out on a day like today and walk in the trees and hear the birds chirping with the sun shining down on our face. We understand that whatever our differences may be, that we must stand together as people who cherish peace, security and freedom. We must set aside our differences, work together to fire those warmongering politicians from both political parties who serve their masters in the military industrial complex instead of serving the people. Those warmongers who carelessly and thoughtlessly are sending us hurtling towards a nuclear holocaust that would destroy all life and the world as we know it. The only way we can stop them is when we stand together and lift our voices in unity, telling them, 'No, we will not let you destroy us. We will not let you destroy our loved ones, our communities, our country here in the United States. And around the world.' If we stand together on this one issue, we will be able to wrest the power away from those who don't care about us. Those who bend the knee to their overlords in the military industrial complex. Take back that power and ensure that we take those trillions of dollars they are feeding into the war machine and instead dedicate those resources towards peace, prosperity and freedom. We cannot be free and prosperous or safe unless we are at peace. We are the spark that has the power to light that fire to bring about change. So let that spark of love that

exists in every single one of our hearts, that aloha, be that inspiration and that fuel that provides us with the courage to fight against these powerful entities, knowing that our cause is just. It is right. And it is necessary. We must work together towards this future and fulfil and accomplish this mission of peace. Thank you very much. Aloha.

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