



Israel threatens 'naked' Iran, but strikes Yemen instead

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Dimitri Lascaris (DL): Good day, this is Dimitri Lascaris coming to you from Tehran, Iran, on May 6th, 2025 for Reason2Resist. This is my third report from Iran since arriving in Tehran late in the evening on Friday, May 2nd. It's now early in the morning on May 6th. In about an hour, I'll be meeting with a senior official from Iran's nuclear program and I'll be meeting with him as part of an international delegation. Now, for security reasons, I'm told, we will not be permitted to take electronic devices into the meeting with the senior official from the nuclear program, but I'll report to you as best as I can afterwards following the meeting. Now, before I talk to you about what happened yesterday, I wanted to discuss some late breaking news. On Sunday, a missile fired by Ansar Allah from Yemen landed on the grounds of Ben Gurion Airport in Tel Aviv. The Israeli media reported that six people were injured, but none of them seriously. Numerous international airlines responded to the attack by canceling flights to Tel Aviv. Predictably, the war criminal Benjamin Netanyahu immediately threatened retaliation against Yemen and Iran. In issuing the threat, Netanyahu referred to threats that had been leveled by Donald Trump against Iran in March of this year. In Trump's threatening statement back from March, he acknowledged that Iran had very sophisticated weapons and said that if the Ansar Allah movement had continued or would continue to attack Israel, the United States government would hold Iran responsible and inflict upon it dire consequences. Now it was interesting that Netanyahu decided to refer in his post threatening Yemen to statements that had been made by Donald Trump back in March. Why did he do that? My guess is that the Netanyahu regime, and this has been confirmed by various media reports out of Israel, is very unhappy about the fact that the Trump administration is engaged in negotiations with the government of the Islamic Republic that are ostensibly designed to avoid war. And so he was not so subtly reminding Donald Trump of the threats that he had made in March and suggesting to him that the reason why Israel continued to be subjected to attacks by Ansar Allah was that the Trump administration had not carried out its threats against Iran.

Now, the other notable aspect, of course, of this attack on the Ben Gurion Airport is that it demonstrates yet again the vulnerability of Israel's air defenses. If Ansar Allah is capable of penetrating them from Yemen, then certainly the aerospace forces of the Islamic Republic are

capable of doing so, and to a far greater degree, as has already been demonstrated in the course of Iran's retaliatory attacks on the genocidal entity in 2024. In any event, today Israel did strike back for the attack on Ben Gurion, but not against Iran. It struck Yemen, yet again. Of course, Yemen does not possess the caliber of air defense systems that Iran has, and therefore it's not surprising that the Netanyahu regime decided to focus its ire exclusively upon Yemen. According to Israel's genocidal military, 20 Israeli fighter jets dropped 50 munitions on infrastructure in the Yemeni port of Hodeidah. The infrastructure included, according to the statement from Israel's military, a concrete factory. Israel's military did not say that it struck any ammunition depots or any missile launchers. Therefore, this attack by Israel simply highlights again the abject inability of the US and Israeli militaries to stop the attacks from Yemen. Israel previously claimed that when it last struck Iran in October of last year, it destroyed Iran's primary air defenses and left Iran 'essentially naked'. Those were the words that it used. Well, if that is true, and if Israel blames Iran for the latest attacks by Ansar Allah, then why has Israel refrained since last October from conducting further airstrikes against the Islamic Republic, particularly following the attack on Ben Gurion? One thing we can say with virtual certainty is that Israel's strikes on Yemen today will not stop the attacks from Yemen. The only thing that will stop those attacks is an end to Israel's genocidal rampage against the Palestinian people. But neither Israel nor its Western backers have shown any inclination to stop their live stream genocide. Yesterday, the Sobh Media Festival held its award ceremony for the Palestine section. I was at the ceremony with dozens of other journalists and dignitaries from around the world. The ceremony lasted for about three hours and I wanted to share with you a few of the highlights from that event. First, the award for best music video went to "Palestinians" performed by the band SOL and directed by Hosam Abu Dan. After the MC announced the winner of the award, he revealed that the leader of the band had been martyred in Gaza. Here's the announcement that "Palestinians" had won Best Music Video and afterwards you'll see the actual music video.

Announcement: "Palestinians", Hosam Abu Dan; "Strengthen Your Roots", Pir Ebrahim.

MC: In the Palestine section of the Palestinian category, the jury awards the music video prize to the group SOL song for "Palestinians". Let us now watch that beautiful music video they made.

DL: Another highlight from the Sobh Festival ceremony yesterday was an award honoring Ahmed Sahmoud. Ahmed is a journalist from Gaza who managed to escape Gaza several months ago and when he received his award he was moved to tears for the colleagues he had left behind in Gaza and the colleagues that he has lost to Israel's genocide machine. Israel's slaughter of Palestinian journalists has continued since Ahmed Sahmoud left Gaza. Last month Palestinian journalist Hilmi al-Faqaawi was burned to death when Israel's genocidal military bombed a media tent in Gaza. After the Sobh Festival honored Ahmed Sahmoud, it gave awards to several dignitaries who have a long and distinguished record of defending Palestinian human rights. One of them was George Galloway, former member of the British Parliament and now the host of the widely watched Mother of All Talk Shows. Here's what George had to say upon receiving his award.

George Galloway: Distinguished elders, brothers, and sisters, Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh. I am honored to receive this award. You have thanked us, but we would like to thank you, the revolutionary people of Iran, your leadership, your heroes and your martyrs, for their steadfastness in support of the Palestinian people. No country on earth, with Yemen coming a close second, no country on earth has done more to help to free the people of Palestine from bondage and suffering and endless sacrifice than the Islamic Republic of Iran. This is simply a matter of fact. And though some useful idiots try to cloud that matter, and our enemies decry us, the truth is when Palestine is finally free, Iran will be able to take its place in the panoply of heroes who made it possible. Thank you for this award.

MC: Thank you, everybody. Thank you.

DL: Another Foreign dignitary who was honored at the Sobh Festival's awards was Mick Wallace from Ireland. Mick is a Foreign Member of the European Parliament whom I've interviewed before on Reason2Resist. Here's what Mick had to say upon receiving his award.

Mick Wallace: We don't really deserve this. We don't do near enough. Clare pointed out that we vote in the European Parliament but it's really a parliament of hypocrisy. They say they have European values, but they have proved that they don't. They have interests. And sadly, they're very much tied to the interests of the US empire. They're tied to interests of Western imperialism. But things would change when they allowed Yemen to be bombed back to the stone age, starting in March 2015, even with the complicity of the UN. We didn't see any of it. It was a blackout. But we've just watched a genocide on our telephones from Gaza for over 18 months. A genocide on our telephones. The world will not be the same again. There's no going back. Western imperialism has been exposed for what it is. The political class have been exposed for who they are. The mainstream media have been exposed for who they are. And the people are seeing through it. Things are not going to be the same. Zionism is finished. And there's no beating the Palestinians. Thank you.

DL: Finally, on Sunday, when I toured the National Aerospace Park of the Islamic Republic, I had the opportunity to interview Professor David Miller from Britain, former member of European Parliament Clare Daly from Ireland, and Professor Glenn Diesen from Norway. Those three interviews were included in my report from the National AeroSpace Park, which we published yesterday, but in case you haven't seen that report, I recommend you have a look at the report if you're interested in learning about Iran's missiles and drone capabilities. I'm including those interviews in this particular report. By way of background, by the way, David Miller, a professor of political sociology, was sacked by the University of Bristol in 2021 for alleged antisemitic remarks. He then brought a wrongful dismissal action before Britain's employment tribunal, arguing that he had been discriminated against by the university for his anti-Zionist beliefs. Last year, in a landmark ruling, the Employment Tribunal agreed with Professor Miller. Apparently, by the way, this was the first time that Britain's Employment Tribunal had held that anti-Zionism was a protected form of speech in

the workplace. Here's my interview with David. And after you see David's interview, you can watch my interviews with Clare Daly and Professor Glenn Diesen.

I'm now speaking with Professor David Miller from the United Kingdom. Members of our audience may recall that I had the opportunity to visit the Lebanese border village of Kfarkela with Professor Miller and Laith Marouf, back in February at the time of the funeral of Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah. My first question to you, well first of all, is this your first trip to Iran? Is that correct? Or your second? It's your second.

David Miller (DM): It's not my first trip. It's my second trip.

DL: So what are your impressions of the country based on the time that you've spent here and how that compares to the narrative that we hear about Iran in the West?

DM: Well, it bears no relationship at all to the narrative. That was an obvious question. But I mean, I came here first in 2023, and I spent, I think, five nights. We've traveled around Tehran quite a lot. But the first thing I would mention is that I went to see the Museum of Holy Defense, which is what they call the Iran-Iraq War, which has huge sets of displays about what happened during the Iran-Iraq War, and the extent to which Iran came to the precipice of extinction. It was supported, Iraq was supported in its attack on Iraq by 87 countries. And they had four countries helping them, including North Korea. And as a result of that experience they have built themselves up to be the most formidable military actor in the whole of the area, the region, much more significant actually than the Israelis, although you wouldn't know that. We stand here just now in a place I didn't come to last time, which is a quite sensitive place. It's the IRGC's Aerospace Center. Behind me you can probably see the various missiles which are on display here. These missiles are – we just had a wee talk about them – these missiles are really very interesting because they show on the one hand some of the missiles which were used in True Promise 1 when Iran responded to Israel's attack on its consulate in Syria. Some of the big ballistic missiles that they used, some of Shahed drones, some of cruise missiles, you can see one behind me, which were used in True Promise 1 which of course hit their targets.

But we also see here, the one behind me, the green one there, that's the Fatah-II hypersonic missile. That was the only one out of all the ones that they showed us which was used in True Promise 2 and which enabled them to penetrate the Israelis most advanced air defenses and indeed the air defenses of surrounding Arab countries and indeed the British military and the American military on the ocean. And this is a hypersonic missile which was able to penetrate through to hit the unit 8200 intelligence base in the Golan Heights and penetrate through to the Naqab, or Negev desert as the Israelis call it. And so what we see here is an extraordinary array of weaponry which has been extremely successful. They were used in True Promise 2 to almost exactly pinpoint hits on every target that they tried to go for. But the most extraordinary thing here is that the weaponry we see here is weaponry that is four or five years behind the curve of their development of weaponry and there are even two large ballistic missiles here just behind you just now.

DL: Could you point those out to us?

DM: Yeah so they are the purple one here and the green one at the end. The one in the middle which was used in True Promise 1, it's a ballistic missile. And the other two – the green one and the purple one – have never been used by the Iranians. So although this is four or five years out of date, there's weaponry here which has still never been used, which has a power which is unimaginable given what we've already seen. So that's an interesting thing. I mean, I kind of knew this in the abstract, but when you see it, when you see it – the thing which strikes me about the hypersonic missiles though, Fattah-II for example, is how small they are. I mean I should have known maybe, but they are really very small. These were the missiles which penetrated all of the Israelis' air defenses and they could do so again. We've just been told by a senior IRGC officer about True Promise 3. He was questioned about whether True Promise 3, why it hadn't been executed, why they hadn't done it, and he was very clear that True Promise 3 remains on the books, it remains ready to go, all we need is an order to carry it out and that will be much more significant than True Promise 2 was. So we see a really very significant armory here, and an indication that the Iranians are serious. Of course, that's in the context of the leadership of the Iranian government, which looks a bit reformist at present, so there's a power balance there, too.

DL: So this brings me to my other question for you, David, and that is that we're getting conflicting reports about what the objectives of the Trump administration are in these negotiations. Most of the time we're told it's about the enrichment of uranium by the Iranian authorities, but I'm sure you know that in the 2025 intelligence assessment of the US intelligence agencies, they expressed the view that Iran is not in fact trying to develop a nuclear weapon. Iran was complying with the JCPOA which set a fairly strict limit of 3.67% enrichment, and yet Trump pulled out. And then you see other indications that it's about more than this. And one subject that has come up is this impressive ballistic conventional missile capability that Iran possesses now. And also its drone capability. Now I realize this is difficult for anybody standing on the outside who's not in the negotiations, but do you think based on everything you've heard and seen from the Trump administration in Israel, that they would be prepared to refrain from waging war on Iran, if Iran insisted upon the retention of this missile capability? Or do you think they're going to go to the wall on that issue based on what you've seen and heard?

DM: I think it's too difficult to call. As you say, you've outlined some of the differences, different sorts of factors that are here. We've just been at a lecture where we heard about the response of the Iranians to a threatened attack by Trump back in 2019, I think, it was. Trump threatened to take out IRGC bases, and the IRGC told him what the response would be, and he didn't do it. And there's more evidence in the current period that Trump is amenable to that kind of last-minute brinkmanship. So I'm not putting it beyond the bounds of possibility that some kind of settlement will come out of this. For the Iranians to do that would need to play hardball and perhaps more hardball than they're playing at present. On the other hand, Trump so far has a record of stacking every single possible appointment with crazy hard-line

Zionists, you know, really, really crazy hard-line Zionists. And they, of course, are pushing for the support for Netanyahu's attack on Iran. So it has been the case so far, for example, that even one of his officials, a Christian Zionist, who was amenable to rationality in these questions has been forced out. So there's a sort of force field of pressure there. Netanyahu is pressuring them very, very hard, and he knows how to pressure them. He has a long experience with that. So I think it's too close to call, but there are signs on both sides that either outcome could be possible.

DL: Well, thank you very much for speaking with us today, David. We'll be talking some more. Take care.

So I'm here now speaking with Clare Daly, former member of the European Parliament from Ireland. Thank you so much for speaking with me today.

Clare Daly (CD): My pleasure.

DL: So, first of all, could you tell us, Clare, why you've decided to join the international delegation of journalists at the Sobh Media Festival at this particular time?

CD: Yeah, well, I was honored to be able to have the opportunity. This is actually my second visit to Iran. I was at a conference on Palestine in 2017, I think, so when the opportunity came up to engage again, I mean, I was definitely going to take it because it's only by exchanging views and meeting people in different countries that we can develop our humanity. So, yeah.

DL: So this brings me to the question of European foreign policy, with respect to which you've been a very outspoken critic, and understandably so. What do you think the policies of the EU ought to be with respect to Iran?

CD: Well, they should develop absolute fraternal relations with Iran. I mean, this Iranian exceptionalism is constantly harping on about human rights in Iran when there's massive human rights violations all across Europe now with people being arrested and detained for pro-Palestine activity, not to mention both, but one is just total hypocrisy. Like, why would and should Iran be any different? This is an amazing country with an incredible history, great scientific advancement and have always been the forerunners of that. And for Europe to sanction these people is absolutely abhorrent. We should be linking in, developing, trading and doing business with Iran and when we were in the Irish Parliament we long sought for Ireland to reopen its embassy here and to develop good relations. And there traditionally has been in the past and there should be again in the future.

DL: So that brings me precisely to the question of Irish government foreign policy. You know, it's well known to people in the Palestinian solidarity community that the people of Ireland are great friends of the Palestinians. But the policies of the Irish government don't seem to be entirely consistent with popular sentiment in Ireland. What's your take on how the

Irish Government should be dealing with Israel and Palestine, and in what particular chagrins you the most?

CD: It's a very good question because people across the world think that everybody, including our government in Ireland, is pro-Palestine. And it's very important to say that they deliver rhetoric and they have to because they couldn't get away with that so their rhetoric is a little bit more radical. We recognize the state of Palestine, brilliant, about the 150th country to do it when Gaza is disappearing. So they're good on lip service but in terms of actions they have been as complicit, almost, as the rest of the European Union, which has been exposed now, as to have actively and is actively enabling that genocide. So, in Ireland, we have them being a member of the European Union, failing to advance the call to end the favorable EU-Israel association agreement which Israel still benefits from. It still benefits from European taxpayers' money for education programs in Israel when they're annihilating education in Gaza and Palestine. Ireland has done nothing about these things. And at home, we've actually increased our dual-use goods exports to Israel massively since the genocide started. The Irish Central Bank sells Israeli bombs. So in other words, we're facilitating the war effort in Israel. We allow our civilian airport to channel and be used by the US military. It's an issue. We've highlighted for a long time, including en route to assist the Israelis.

So the Irish establishment has been absolutely complicit. They just dress it up differently. And that's very important for people to realize that. They bend the knee to European imperialism. They want to be part of the European camp. But really what we're seeing emerging is European colonialism back in the way it always was, that the pretense of a world order and international law is over now. And what they get away with in Gaza has been replicated elsewhere. We see it already in Yemen. These people think they have the right to go anywhere they like, whenever they like, against whoever they like, target civilians. And, you know, somebody here made the point and it's true this morning – we're looking at the devastation caused here in some of the scenes and the footage from the Iran-Iraq war that obviously devastated this country. But looking at some of their reenactions, when we see it every day now in Gaza and we know people are being starved. We're almost being acclimatized. This has been normalized now that civilians are targeted. And Ireland hasn't done anything about that. I mean, we're uniquely placed as being a former colony – we're still a colonized country. Part of our country is under British occupation still, but we are very much in the Western camp. So we get it with the global South, but we are in the global North camp. That's a unique position to be in. And previously in our history we used it as that. Little Ireland was the first country that moved the first anti-nuclear proliferation treaty and it got passed. Nobody else could do that and we had a really great name internationally, but sadly our government now seems to be hell bent on eliminating that because they're attacking what's left of our neutrality. They always debased it anyway, but now they're going for a full frontal assault. Now they have moved to remove the safeguards upon which Irish troops go abroad currently. It can only happen, more than 12 people can only go abroad with the approval of the parliament, the government and a UN mandate. And the reason why they're changing it is they want to go on missions that don't have a UN mandate. Now, what in the name of God, would a country like Ireland have anything to do with that – go and helping

Germany and France rape Africa or exploit Africa for some energy policy? Come on. And having Irish men and women being killed in the service of somebody else's empire? No, people don't want that. And all of the opinion polls show that the people don't want that, but like a lot of other countries in the so-called democratic West, what the people want and what the governments are doing are going in completely different directions. So it will lie on the ordinary people to struggle to change that, unfortunately. And they are. They're beginning, maybe not quick enough, but they're beginning. So we all have to do what we can and fight where we stand.

DL: I very much hope we'll see you back in the European Parliament one day soon, Clare.

CD: Let's see.

DL: You're greatly missed.

CD: Well, thank you so much.

DL: This is Glenn Diesen, Professor of Political Science at the University of Norway. Could you remind me of the name of the university?

Glenn Diesen (GD): The University of South-Eastern Norway.

DL: Right. And I've had the privilege of interviewing Glenn previously on Reason2Resist. So this is your first trip to Iran, Glenn?

GD: Yeah, that's correct. I had some plans before, but yeah, this was the first.

DL: What are your impressions thus far?

GD: That's a great question. Well, it's interesting, it is one of those countries people have a lot of strong opinions about, but most people do not know much about it. Now I would put myself in that same category. If you see the policies or the tensions between the West and Iran, especially since the 1950s, and how this has been reduced to simply a conflict between radical fundamentalists versus liberal democracies it is quite a troubling dishonest portrayal which also prevents us from actually finding the real solutions. But what's also interesting is the security approach here because they obviously see deterrence as being important. This is something that the Brigadier General made clear before that unless they show willingness to strike back and not just at American proxies but directly at American bases, then they would be targeted. So this is the only thing that's keeping them out from being destroyed. Yet I noticed that all peace agreements appear to be premised around the idea that Iran should to some extent demilitarize. Yet, this is still the thing that is keeping them alive. So it's fascinating. So yes, a lot of impressions in a relatively short time.

DL: So I have one other question for you, Glenn. I've always been amazed because you are from the EU where the kinds of opinions and analysis that you've offered are not particularly popular with the political elite and the corporate media. And now you've come to Iran. Are you concerned given the current political climate in Europe and the attitude towards dissenting opinions and criticism of European foreign policy, that coming here could create some issues for you with respect to the European authorities or is that something you're not particularly concerned about?

GD: Well, we're not the European Union though, we are almost de facto, but it is a wider problem at the moment I think, the idea that if you go and try to learn a bit about the history and security concerns of what your government defines as opponents, you do – there's little recognition that there's a need to know this in order to reduce the security competition. But sadly, it's often portrayed and perceived as simply being, well, now you're backing this side against us, which is a problem. I think the main problem is not that Iran has to be such a threat to the West. I think war with Iran is a threat. And it seems quite easy to avoid a war. But again, look at where we are at now. The United States and Israel might be going to war with Iran. The European leaders are dead silent. Everyone has to conform to this narrative around its radical mullahs wanting to get nuclear weapons and destroy Israel. This is their only motivation, taking out the whole history. I think we are deluding ourselves and we're also depriving ourselves of important opportunities to actually end this conflict, because a lot of the key security concerns of the Iranians are quite reasonable and they can be met, but there's no discussion.

DL: Well, thank you. You're always a voice of reason and courage. And I know that the people who watch our program really appreciate your analysis. Thank you very much.

That's my report from Tehran on May 6th, 2025. If you like this report, if you found it informative, please click the like button. Please share the video. And if you're not a subscriber, I encourage you to become one. And thank you very much for joining me today on Reason2Resist.

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