



FROM IRAN: US ballistic missile hits children – was that the target?

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Dimitri Lascaris (DL): Good day everybody, this is Dimitri Lascaris coming to you from Iran on March 31st, 2026 for Reason2Resist. As you probably have gathered, I am on a train. I'm somewhere between the cities of Esfahan and Tehran. Our journey, however, started on the Strait of Hormuz in the city of Bushehr, where we spent the last two days. This train is going all the way from Bushehr to Tehran, and so far we've been on it for about 20 hours. I wanted to take just a couple of minutes to introduce the subject of this, my next report. And by way of background, when I came to Iran, I accepted the invitation to come, my overarching objective, not my only one, was to give voice to the victims of the US-Israeli aggression because they have been heard from so little in the Western corporate media. And you're about to hear from two of those voices. The first is a young 12-year-old boy by the name of Salah. His dream was to be a footballer. And he had the misfortune of being at the site of a vicious, catastrophic attack at the very outset of this war on a sports complex in elementary school in a city by the name of Lamerd which is close to the larger Iranian city of Shiraz. That attack killed 21 people at least, maimed many more, and the weapon that was used as has been now reported by the New York Times very recently by the US military had been untested in combat. It was called the Precision Strike Missile, or PrSM, and it is designed to explode above the surface and it is packed full of tungsten pellets which blaze outward at extremely high speeds as a result of the explosion of the warhead. And the obvious purpose of those tungsten pellets is to kill and maim as many people within the blast radius as possible. And that's precisely what happened here. You would think that a weapon of that name, Precision Strike Missile, would be precise. That then raises the question, was that the intended target? The elementary school and the sports complex?. The claim has been made that there was a military facility adjacent to those two facilities. I have not had an opportunity to verify that. What I can say is that the same claim was made in the case of the Minab school. And after spending hours there just a couple of days ago, I came to the conclusion there's absolutely no evidence that there was a military facility adjacent to that

school. The atrocity at Lamerd was largely overshadowed by Minab because they happened on the same day and the victim count in the Minab case was much higher. 168 students and teachers killed, whereas 21 persons were killed in the Lamerd atrocity, but nonetheless their voices deserve just as much to be heard obviously as the victims of Minab and so with no further redo, here's our discussion, our chat with Salah, a 12-year old boy who was grievously injured in that criminal attack and afterwards we spoke to a street sweeper who was in the same hospital but who was injured in a separate drone attack. Again his crime being nothing other than the fact that he was an Iranian who was at the wrong place at the right time. And you'll also see in our discussion with the parents of this 12-year-old boy, Salah, that at the time we met with him, he had not yet been told about the fact that his coach and a close friend of his, who also dreamt of being a footballer one day, were killed in this atrocity.

Alireza Akbari (AA): Guys, we will have a very brief introduction about this hospital. Then we will visit some of those victims of the US-Israeli war crimes.

AA: The name of this hospital is Nemazee, the name of the hospital is Nemazee. Which is the polar and one of the main basis of treatment and medical centres not only in Iran but also in West Asia. There are some active 1,100 beds here. These services are provided within 80 different specialised units and sections. And I can say Shiraz in the field of medical services has a very high ranking in the world.

AA: The first liver transplant in the world was carried out here in this hospital. And this hospital is one of the centres for medical services for people in West Asia, they come here in the fields such as liver transplant, for beauty, for hair, for eye, and operations for beauty and general operations. People from West Asia come here. This was the general introduction of Nemazee hospital and this is a charity-based hospital. It is made by charity and Mila told me that it has two other branches that are under construction here in this province. It needs roughly one week, if we want to show you the medical capabilities of our province, in both the fields of science, knowledge and operations. Let's visit some of the victims.

AA: The teenage boy who's here has shrapnels on his body. He was playing in Lamerd, in a city. His body got hit from three different parts, and he's injured. And he's one of the talents, sport talents. He was a soccer player of that city. And now he is here to be treated. And let's see him. Mirsalah Khosravi.

DL: That's his name? Just one question. Was he wounded at the site of the emergency centre? Was this another attack?

AA: It is in a Lamerd city. Another location, Lamerd.

DL: Okay, can you just tell us briefly what happened in that attack?

AA: And we also visit Lamerd, separately and on the scene, on the field, we will provide you with information at Lamerd. There was a complex that was hit, many people got injured and killed.

DL: A sports complex?

AA: Yes. And the origins of missiles that targeted Lamerd were from Bahrain. Salam, salam, Salam.

AA: Guys, can you stay there?

AA: “My name is Mirsalah Khosravi. I'm 12 years old. I'm a soccer player. I love football and I started playing football when I was four. I'm a member of a football club and I'm also a member of a football team at our school. And we got a second rank in the province this year. We were in the football class, then they fired the missile, the missile hit the location. Then I laid down in the field. Then the coach told us, run. He says that the US fired that missile. My knee got injured.”

AA: What is your message for the Iranian people?

AA: “Support each other and be united.”

AA: And what is your message for who carried out this crime?

AA: “I don't know.”

AA: Any questions?

AA: Do you like to play football? “Yes.” Dimitri, ask your question.

DL: What is your favourite football club?

AA: “Real Madrid.”

DL: You know Barcelona is going to win the Champions League.

AA: “Barcelona couldn't win for several years.”

DL: You know Lamine Yamal is the best player in the world.

AA: “After Mbappé.”

DL: It's a close call. Will you be able to play football again?

AA: Yes. So far, he just witnessed three operations until the final and the good situation he needs some work. She is a nurse.

AA: “My name is Azita Tabatabaei. She's the head of nurses. At the time of the incident, six teenagers came here. He was one of them. He was in ICU at first, after some operations, now he came here to the operations section. His right leg got injured. Both bones and both the tissues fortunately, our experts successfully carried out the operation. Now he's in good health, but under close observation here. And we are hopeful that his process will be in a

good way. According to the experts, we can decide whether he can play football or not.” Any questions? Yes, Dimitri, go.

DL: So I just want to say that I too was a footballer and I have no doubt you'll be a great footballer one day.

AA: “Thank you.” Questions?

AA: Can I ask about his favourite footballer, Iranian?

AA: “Mehdi Taremi, striker, he's in Turkey, Turkish club, he is playing. Messi, Lionel Messi.”

DL: Are his parents here? Mother or father here?

AA: His mother and father.

DL: And their names? Where were you when your son was injured?

AA: “I am Saeedeh Taghizadeh, mother of Salah, 42 years old.” Ask your question.

DL: Where were they when their son was injured?

AA: “I was at home. I heard the explosion. Then after the father, he went to the roof and noticed that there was an explosion. Then they noticed that Salah was doing sport and the area that was exploded and the explosion took place was very close to the club.”

DL: And what happened then?

AA: He went after his son, the father. And if you want any word from the father? How old are you? “I am Samad Khosravi. I am 49 years old. He noticed that the explosion was close to the club. Then, very fast, I got in my car, I arrived at the club, I parked my car, then, because it was very compact and heavy traffic, a motorcycle gave me a ride and I arrived at the club. There was no one inside the club, everyone was in the hospital. Then I went to the hospital, Mahmoud Haydar hospital, and it was full of people injured. Many people there, many people. A lot of people were killed and injured. From children to elderly people, men and women. And sportsmen with their sports clothes. And also some girls, sport girls, athletes from twelve to 14 years old.” He says, in the same explosion that took place, over 20 people were injured, just athletes, and 21 people were killed. Five of them, five to six of them athletes.

DL: So, I have one other question. The three of us, Tim, Ahmad, myself, we live in Western countries and we are being told by our governments that the United States and Israel are trying to liberate the people of Iran. How do you respond to that claim?

AA: “What can I say? I hope the freedom and liberation to be for everyone. But this freedom and Liberation by the enemy, from an outsider, is out of our mind, we cannot imagine it. We

hope for freedom and liberation to be everywhere, especially for children. Whenever there is war, there is no freedom.”

AA: His coach and his friend are Martyr, but he does not know.

AA: One of the locations that today we will see, it is on Qasr-o-Dasht Street, where a car was targeted there. It was the 19th of Esfand, where that target and that explosion took place. As a result of that explosion he got two shrapnels, one in the stomach and one in the left arm. The first operation was carried out on him, and he is preparing for the second operation.

Qasr-o-Dasht is one of the main streets in Shiraz, one of the main streets and so crowded. Without any military or even semi-military location close to that part. It is totally residential. And in that attack, in that bombing, three people were killed. You will see that part. Three killed and five injured. He says out of the explosion, there are some over thousands of shrapnels that even asphalt, even cement, steel, everything was affected. His name is Yousef Nasiri. “I am 47 years old. I have not eaten breakfast. I have to go to the operation room. “

DL: He's a street sweeper, right? Was he working at the time of the strike? I have some questions, but if you want to continue...

AA: Go on.

DL: So it looks like he suffered internal injuries as well.

AA: Yes.

DL: So is that the operation going to be on his internal organs?

AA: He says, “because of my left arm, that they cannot use stitches. So they will take some meat from my food and put it there. The operation will be on the left arm.”

DL: Does he expect full recovery based on the doctors?

AA: “They say that your left arm should be open for 7 months. But I cannot use my fingers. They do not move.” They have told him that after your arm improves, then you will experience another operation for your fingers.

DL: And the goal is to give him full recovery on his arm?

AA: “I don't know. Even still, I don't know. I cannot move my fingers.”

DL: In this attack were any of his colleagues or friends injured?

AA: “No, no, no one. Just me.” Guys, if there is no question, let's go.

AA: He says, “I was on one side of the street, the explosion took place on the other. And at the time the explosion took place, I saw that my arm was just circulating, it was moving.

Then my colleague hugged me and we laid down on the street. They put me beside a car, then brought me to a hospital. I don't remember anything more.” Thank you.

END

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