



Trump And Netanyahu Sink Deeper Into Defeat

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Dimitri Lascaris (DL): [00:00:05] Good day, this is Dimitri Lascaris coming to you from Kalamata, Greece for Reason2Resist on May 20th, 2026. The past few days have been an unmitigated disaster for the Trump and Netanyahu regimes. Militarily, politically, and economically a true disaster. Today in the first part of our report, we'll share with you the highlights from the avalanche of bad news that befell the Trump and Netanyahu regimes and in the second half of this report we will interview a member of the Iranian diaspora who now lives in Canada for the purpose of giving voice to people in the diaspora who are actually opposed to this criminal war of aggression on Iran, because far more often than not, the Western corporate media only wants you to hear from the few Iranians living in the West who actually support this criminal war of aggression on Iran. '

Now, before we get into it, I'd like to remind you that if you find this video to be informative, please like and share it. If you're not already a subscriber, please become one, help us to expand the reach of our unapologetic resistance journalism. We aim to surpass the threshold of 200,000 subscribers before the end of the summer, which is the two-year anniversary of the founding of Reason2Resist, and that you can certainly help us to get there. We're currently over 176,000 subscribers, so our goal is eminently attainable with your assistance. In that regard, I wanted to bring to your attention a post, a news item that came to our attention yesterday. A few days ago, Sky News, this was actually May 18th, posted on X a report by a correspondent of Sky News named Dominic Waghorne, an unfortunate name if ever there was one, who they claimed was the first international journalist to report from Minab, the town in the south of Iran, where the United States military carried out a heinous atrocity on the first day of this war of aggression, killing 168 school children and teachers in the destruction of a school and a school compound with multiple Tomahawk missiles. Now, for some reason, this Sky News post refers to the US airstrike as an alleged airstrike. Why do they say it's alleged when the US military has admitted that it in fact hit the school and hasn't really explained in any meaningful way how that happened? Your guess is as good as mine. It's not alleged, it actually was a US air strike on this school. But I also wanted to highlight for you that they claimed that Waghorn was the first international journalist to report from

Minab after the atrocity was carried out. That's actually patently false because as many of you who have been following Reason2Resist for months will know, I was on the ground at the Minab school in late March along with my friends and comrades, Ahmad from Propaganda and Co – he's based in the United States – and Tim Anderson, the author and activist who is based in Australia. And we published a lengthy report in which both Ahmad and Tim participated back in March. It was widely viewed, widely shared on social media. And I pointed this out to Sky News in a reply. You can see it at the bottom of this Sky News post. I informed them that we reported on this atrocity from Minab in March. We are from Canada and the United States, I said, doesn't that qualify us as international? And then I followed that up with another reply, you can see it at the top of the page, where I pointed out that the three of us were there reporting from Minab not only a couple of months before Waghorn showed up, but we were there while the bombs, the Israeli and US bombs were still dropping on Iran, whereas he came during the ceasefire, when there were no bombs falling on Iran.

And not only that, but as we reported at the time, ten minutes after the three of us and our Iranian colleagues left the site of the atrocity, it was struck by a drone, either a US or Israeli drone – ten minutes later, which in the context of everything that was happening at the time caused us to believe that it was possibly meant as a warning to us by the Israelis and or Americans to stop our reporting on their crimes. That too we reported at the time. Now in response to my having informed Sky News of these facts, Sky News as of an hour ago, I informed them of these facts last night, as of an hour ago they had not deleted this post, but in subsequent posts by Sky News where they refer to Waghorn's report from Minab, they no longer claim that he was the first international journalist to go there. The main point I want to make here is that despite the fact that Reason2Resist has so few resources relative to a massive corporation like Sky News, we oftentimes are the first on the scene and we get there before these corporate media outlets and more often than not they never show up at all. Not only do they not come weeks after fact, they ignore the sites of these Western atrocities entirely. And in order for us to continue to be able to get there and to be the first on the scene and report honestly what's happening there, we need your support and to all of those who have the many fine people who have provided support to us, however small it may have been during our nearly two years of existence, we want to express our profound appreciation.

Now, with that, I want to turn to the avalanche of bad news that the Trump and Netanyahu regimes have had to endure during the last few days. Let's begin with this report. The Congressional Research Service just listed the 42 US aircraft lost or damaged so far during the war with Iran. Four F-15E Strike Eagles destroyed. One F-35A was damaged by Iranian ground fire, and this is the first time that an F-35 was struck in combat in the lengthy and chequered history of this extraordinarily expensive fighter jet. One A-10 destroyed, seven KC-135 Stratotankers – two destroyed, five damaged – one E-3 Sentry AWACS damaged. This is an extremely expensive intelligence gathering aircraft. Two MC-130j destroyed, one HH-60W helicopter damaged, 24 MC-9 Reapers destroyed, and one MQ-4C Triton destroyed. That's what the US government is prepared to admit thus far, and that was only during approximately five to six weeks of warfare. You can imagine if this thing went on for years, for example, as the, you know, conflicts, the wars of aggression in Iraq or Afghanistan

or Vietnam went on, at this rate, the US, if it lasted for years, would suffer hundreds, if not in excess of a thousand, damaged or destroyed expensive and supposedly highly sophisticated military aircraft.

One thing I want to raise here, it's not something that I've seen anybody else talk about, there's been a good deal of coverage about the losses that the United States Air Force has sustained during this war, but we haven't heard a peep about losses by the Israeli Air Force, even though we were told they are partners in crime with the United States in this war of aggression. So why is that? Well, one possible explanation is that the Israeli pilots are much better than the American pilots, but there's really no reason to believe that that's the case, because Israeli pilots, their experience is overwhelmingly in attacking countries that do not have effective air defences or targets like those in Gaza, which has no air defences, or South Lebanon has very slight air defences. They have the ability to take down some drones, the Lebanese resistance, but they don't have the kind of air defence systems that are necessary to take down an advanced war plane. And they've been attacking Syria now ever since the fall of Bashar al-Assad. Syria today has no effective air defences, and it doesn't have a military that is willing to use them, even if it did have effective air defence. So there's no reason to believe that the Israelis would be more adept at evading the kind sophisticated air defences that Iran has than US pilots. So I think we can flush that possible explanation down the toilet.

Now there are two other possible explanations one is that the Israelis are being much less honest about their losses than the United States has been but while I certainly don't exclude that possibility you still would think that if the Israeli air force had suffered comparable losses there would be some video footage of this; the wreckage of aircraft or aircraft falling from the sky. In some cases, the Iranians produced video of their interceptor missiles actually striking the aircraft. So we have nothing like that with respect to the Israeli aircraft. So this leads me to the third possible explanation, which I regard as the most plausible under the circumstances. And that is that even though Rubio, Marco Rubio the US Secretary of State admitted it, that the reason why the US is fighting this war is because they knew, the Trump regime, that Israel was going to attack Iran, and they knew that Iran would retaliate by attacking US military bases. So they said, well, what the hell, we may as well attack Iran preemptively before it starts striking our military bases, and in effect, he was saying, we became involved in this war because Israel had decided it was going to attack Iran. Well, if that's what actually happened, you would expect Israel to be taking the lead in placing its military assets at risk and its military personnel at risk, or at least to be assuming as much risk as the US military, and in particular its Air Force, are assuming in the bombing campaign against the country. But I suspect what's going on here is that, in fact, the Trump regime did, or its military, to do all the heavy lifting. And that the Israeli military, those child murdering pilots in the Israeli military basically took a backseat. They did participate probably to a meaningful degree, but they really operated from a more safe distance and were less exposed in the way they handled this than the United States because that's what the United States does. It privileges the Israeli military and the genocidal entity over the interests of its own citizens. And I would also point out that we know the United States did mount a major ground operation. Well, maybe you won't call it major, but a significant one in Esfahan,

which turned out to be a complete meta-debacle. That's where a number of these aircraft were actually lost. There's no indication that the Israelis participated in that ground operation. Why not? These noble warriors from the genocidal forces of the Israeli military, these world-class soldiers we were told, why were they not directly involved in the ground operations? Why were they not put at risk alongside American soldiers? I'll leave that to our friends in the United States to put to their elected representatives. I think it's a very good question that they should be obliged to answer.

Now, at around the same time that the Congressional Research Services disclosed these significant losses, Trump took to Truth Social to explain why he had delayed, purportedly, an attack on Iran that was to begin yesterday, Tuesday, May 19th. And here is his post on Truth Social. He put this up, actually, I think, in the evening or the late afternoon Washington time on May 18th, and he said: "I've been asked by the Amir of Qatar and the crown prince of Saudi Arabia and the President of the UAE to hold off on our planned military attack on the Islamic Republic of Iran, which was scheduled for tomorrow, in that serious negotiations are now taking place in that, in their opinion, as great leaders and allies, a deal will be made, which will be very acceptable to the United States of America, as well as the countries in the Middle East and beyond. This deal will include, importantly, no nuclear weapons for Iran." Well, Iran has already committed decades ago to not developing nuclear weapons, but let's put that aside. And he goes on and says, "Based on my respect for the above-mentioned leaders, I have instructed Secretary of War Pete Hegseth, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Daniel Caine, and the US military that we will not be doing the scheduled attack on Iran tomorrow, but have further instructed them to be prepared to go forward with a full large-scale assault of Iran, on a moment's notice in the event that an acceptable deal is not reached."

Now, this hair-brained explanation for what happened yesterday didn't go down particularly well with these Gulf regimes. And you can see here that it was reported by the Wall Street Journal, no less, that officials from some of those countries said they were unaware that Donald Trump had intended to attack Iran again on May 19th yesterday. So if they weren't even aware that he had planned to do it obviously, they wouldn't have asked him to stand down. How could they ask him to stand down about something they didn't know he was planning to do. So that turned out to be yet another public relations debacle for the Donald. Now perhaps the Donald and we've seen plenty of evidence that during the course of this war, he was lying through his teeth for the purpose of talking down the price of oil. He wanted people in the oil markets to calm down and think that a deal was, yet again, convinced them that a deal was just around the corner, which would mean the opening of the Strait of Hormuz and free passage of oil tankers and cargo ships through the Strait, but that didn't seem to be particularly effective this time around. And you can see up here on the screen the price of oil. It has only gone down, I think it was up at around the Brent crude, futures price was up around a buck ten or a buck 11 before he made this announcement, and the last time I checked, it had gone down 2.47%. It was almost at \$109, far above the level it was at before this criminal war of aggression was launched. So it's only gone down a couple of percentage points. Despite Donald saying that not only he but allegedly the leaders of all of these great

Gulf autocracies believe that a deal was going to be made imminently. So it appears that the boy who has cried wolf has lost all credibility even in the all too gullible oil trading markets.

Now, it gets worse from there, my friends. The New York Times has just released a poll showing just how spectacularly unpopular Trump's war of aggression on Iran is. And here you can see the results of that poll. This was conducted from May 11th to May 15th, so it's quite recent. Only 30% believe that launching this war on Iran was the right decision. 64%, almost two-thirds of Americans disagree, less than one-third say it was the right decision. Almost two-thirds say it is the wrong decision. Almost nobody in the Democratic Party thinks it was the right decision, even 22% of Republicans now say it's the wrong decision and a little more than two third say it was the right decision. Independence, you can't see it up here on the screen, overwhelmingly believe that it was wrong decision So, it is quite clear that even though the US economy has not seen anywhere near the worst effects from the prolonged closure of the Strait of Hormuz, Donald Trump's war on Iran is proving to be spectacularly unpopular, and that at a time when the midterm elections are rapidly approaching. Meanwhile, Trump just suffered a setback in the United States Senate as well. And this is news that was published today: US Senate advanced a resolution to curb Trump's power to wage war on Iran. This is a report in Al Jazeera. "*Vote to advance war power's resolution, seen as a rare rebuke of the President's pressure grows to end US attacks on Iran.*" Now, this is just advancing the resolution for further debate and consideration by the Senate. It hasn't been adopted. And even if it is adopted, it'll be an interesting question whether it actually has the force of law and whether Trump will respect it and whether the Senate will use the resolution because just because they confer upon themselves the power, which they have under the constitution, not only the power but the obligation to decide when and under what circumstances the US goes to war, they may not use that power themselves. But this is at least a step in the right direction. It is more consistent with the US Constitution than the behaviour up until now of the US Senate. And it does have the potential to pose a serious problem for Trump's freedom of action when it comes to Iran. So how did Donald Trump respond to this news? Well, with the predictable bombast.

Donald Trump: With Iran and then you have the Democrats, I call them the Dummocrats putting in a bill that Trump should immediately stop. You know how it is to negotiate with a country where you're beating them badly, they come to the table, they're begging to make a deal – because they're begging to make the deal. I hope we don't have to do the war but we may have to give them another big hit. We may have to give them another big hit, I'm not sure yet. You'll know very soon. But how do you feel when you're negotiating, you're winning every point, and they say, but in Washington, they want to stop you from negotiating. They want to stop you, and it's only political. It's the Dummocrats. They're dumb. It is a new name. It is a very accurate name. So I'm in the middle of a negotiation, I'm saying you cannot have a nuclear weapon. And it comes over the wire that the Democrats want to stop Trump from further negotiations. They wanna stop Trump from, if he has to, giving them another slap. They wanna have a new nuclear weapon to blow up the Middle East and to blow up, frankly, the world, it's not gonna happen.

DL: This infant is so obsessed with his ballroom that he feels the need to do these interviews about matters of extraordinary importance right at the edge of the construction site, where he has to shout in order to be heard by the reporters. And by the way, it is absolutely false that this resolution would prevent him from negotiating. This has nothing to do with negotiating this has to do with launching a war. And it's not only, as I said, the right of the US Congress to decide when the country goes to war, it is the obligation of it to make that decision, that portentous decision. And of course, you heard him say throughout this tirade that he was potentially going to slap Iran here and slap Iran there, well, if that was intended to up the ante and place additional pressure on Iran, it spectacularly failed by all indications. I put up on the screen here the latest report from the Strait of Hormuz live tracker. This is as of about an hour ago. So I would say that's about 5 p.m. Athens time, 10 a.m., New York time. You can see it reports that during the last 24 hours, zero vessels passed through Strait of Hormuz. Last time, when I checked this last night, it also said that zero vessels had passed through the Strait of Hormuz, so it appears that during the past 48 hours or so, there has been no commercial traffic through the Strait of Hormuz, which is actually significantly less than the average level of commercial traffic we've seen during the war. Most days some vessels do get through. And there have been a number of days where more than ten got through. It's not been often that you've seen two straight days go by with no commercial vessels going through. So all of this bombast from Donald Trump doesn't appear to be having any intimidation effect on the Iranian leadership. With each passing day of delay, the economic situation is only becoming more and more dire. The US government is not working towards a more advantageous position with each passing day, its negotiating position actually becomes weaker because pressure on the global economy, and particularly the US economy, increases. But there are other downsides to delay for the United States government, and particularly, the military, and that is that the weather in the Persian Gulf is getting hotter by the day. It's only mid-May, as a matter of fact, and already there is an extreme heat warning in and around the Strait of Hormuz. This is the report just as of an hour or so ago for the weather in Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates. And you will see that at 6 pm the temperature is expected to be 37 degrees Celsius. And at the very bottom you can see excessive heat warning, severe heat is expected in this area. That's in mid-May. So you can only imagine what the heat is going to be in July and August, which are just around the corner.

Now think about what it's like, I've not served in the military, but even if you haven't, just try to imagine wearing combat fatigues and carrying all of that heavy equipment that you have to carry when you're in war, doing the kind of strenuous activities that soldiers, even soldiers who are just involved in loading bombs onto warplanes or repairing these things, filling them up with fuel, moving them in and out of hangers, doing that when the temperature is 40, 45 degrees Celsius, sometimes approaching 50 degrees Celsius, and that's the kind of temperatures you get in the Persian Gulf in the summer is extraordinarily taxing and downright dangerous to your health. So the situation again is becoming increasingly difficult for both the United States economy and the United States military with each passing day. So with that, let's turn now to the situation in the genocidal Israeli entity, which is arguably worse and truly catastrophic. On Saturday night, there was a massive mysterious explosion at a missile factory in Israel. And I'm going to show you a video that was shot by a bystander.

Bystander: What the f**k? What the f**k?!

DL: What the fuck indeed if you just take a look at here look at the size of that mushroom cloud towering above the factory and you can see there are a lot of flames you know maybe it's hard to say because of the distance but the flames are shooting up ten, 15 20 metres and that mushroom cloud seems to be you know more than 50 metres tall possibly more than 100 metres tall. This was a truly gigantic explosion. And it happened at a factory owned by a company called Tomer, which is owned by the genocidal Israeli state. Tomer develops engines for rockets and missiles, including the air defence system. This is reportedly the premier air defence system that Israel has, although I think it might be based more or less on the US Patriot air defence system, which is known to be quite deficient in many respects. But whatever the case may be, whatever the quality of the air defence system is, the fact is that Israel is already dangerously low on missile interceptors. And the last thing it needs is a catastrophic event at a factory that produces missile interceptor, especially when it claims to be on the verge of relaunching its war of aggression on Iran. Tomer, the company, claimed that the blast was, quote, "a pre-planned experiment that was carried out according to plan". However, as the Times of Israel noted in an article on that same day, residents in the area said they had no advance notice. And furthermore, why would they carry out a massive pre-planned explosion late on a Saturday night? Wouldn't you give the residents notice and do it during the daytime when people would not be sleeping and be shocked in the middle of their sleep to discover this gigantic mushroom cloud rising on the horizon. You know, when you're dealing with a country that has been as traumatised by the war, as I'm sure many people in Israel have, it doesn't make a lot of sense that you would carry out a, quote, preplanned explosion of such a gigantic nature without giving the local residents any kind of advance warning at all. Now, on top of that, another Israeli military base mysteriously went up in flames, or We should probably get this.

Bystander: What the f**k?

DL: It's interesting how, you know, whenever Israelis see their military assets going up in smoke, they like to say, what the fuck? That's not going to save you, I can assure you, Mr. and Mrs. Colonist. In any case, the reason we were given for this particular fire, and according to the Israelis, there were no injuries as a result of it, is that it was some kind of an electrical malfunction. And it seems like we're hearing that kind of excuse a lot nowadays when there is a serious technical problem, operational problem on some major military asset. For example, we were told that the crown jewel of the US Navy, the USS Gerald Ford aircraft carrier needed to be taken out of action for a significant period of time because of a laundry room fire, a laundry-room fire which apparently took many hours for them to put out. And we've heard similar things about toilets clogging up on the Gerald Ford. And, you know, I could go on and on. Whether this is accidental, this event, this fire event at this Tze'elim base in southern Israel, or whether it was a result of sabotage, the fact of the matter is it's more bad news for the Israeli military. But it gets worse than that. The Lebanese resistance has published a video showing that it has taken out yet another Iron Dome missile defence battery using a cheap resistance drone.

In addition, the Israeli media reported on Saturday night that four IDF troops were wounded, one severely by a roadside bomb in south Lebanon. And the subheading here in this Times of Israel article is: *Amid growing public anger over Hezbollah drone toll, Netanyahu claims he warned of the danger six years ago, but doesn't say why it wasn't addressed.* It's amazing that Israelis continue to put their confidence in this sadistic war criminal. And this is just one of numerous reports over the past few days, and notice this wasn't by the way a drone strike, this was a roadside bomb, which shows that the resistance is using a variety of tactics to inflict casualties on the Israelis. They also the other day killed an Israeli soldier using mortar fire. And of course they have missiles, which they will occasionally highlight in videos they publish on resistance channels. And there was also this report published yesterday by, I believe this was the Jerusalem Post, at least two people were lightly wounded in northern occupied Palestine following a drone explosion. And the key point here is that this strike occurred without there being any sirens, any air defence sirens going off. Now, if you follow the Israeli media closely, you'll know that there's tremendous displeasure in the Northern colonies with the conditions there and the catastrophic failure of the Israeli military to prevent attacks by the resistance on the Northern colonies. And when these strikes happen and they manage to inflict damage, without the sirens going off, this will only inflict considerably more stress upon the local population, those who have chosen to remain and not many of them have. And finally, before we turn to our guest, I just want to highlight the daily report of the Lebanese resistance published today. This relates to its military operations conducted yesterday. It publishes on resistance channels a summary of its daily military operations every morning. And here you'll see that they conducted 26 military operations yesterday. And this is consistent with the number of military operations they were conducting during the height of the war, from October 2023 to November 2024, when this fraudulent ceasefire went into effect in Lebanon. So it's quite clear that although it was recently announced by Trump that there had been an extension of the ceasefire in Lebanon, that this is nothing but a farce. The hostilities are as intense as they ever have been. Israel continues to slaughter huge numbers of Lebanese civilians. It took out an entire family, including several children, just within the past 48 hours. And so the fact that the media, anybody within the media, continues to lend credence to the claim that there's a ceasefire effect in Lebanon is, quite frankly, a disgrace.

END

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