



## Trump Drops the Mask - U.S. Bombs Iran

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**Dimitri Lascaris (DL):** Good day, this is Dimitri Lascaris coming to you from Tehran, Iran on July 7th, 2026 for a Reason2Resist. What you just saw was a little bit of footage of two women who were walking separately, not with each other, in this gorgeous park this morning. They were walking without a hijab and as you may have noticed, nobody was bothering them. I also saw moments ago a third woman who was walking without a hijab, but she was too far away from me to capture her on video. In any case, this is a very, very common sight in Iran. I've only been sitting here for ten minutes in this park this morning and I've already seen – even though there aren't many people here, as you can see – I've already seen three women walking without a hijab and nobody bothering them. I have seen this in every single city that I have visited in Iran over the past 14 months and I have been in seven major cities. So, Whatever the situation may have been in the early days of the Islamic Revolution, and I can't speak to that, I had never been to the country at that point in time, nor did I know any Iranians at that point in time, but whatever the situation might have been, it's very clear that today it is entirely possible for women to go out in public without a head covering and to be left alone, at peace. In any case, this park here is called Mellat Park. It's about a 15 minute walk from my hotel, which we are leaving today. I came here for the first time in May of last year on my very first visit to Iran and I was so enchanted with the park that I wanted to come back this morning to see it again before leaving for the city of Mashhad and I'll come back to that in just a second. It's really remarkable to think that the country is at war – it is – because it is so peaceful here today. Today is the fifth day of the seven-day funeral programme for the slain Supreme Leader of Iran, Imam Ali Khamenei. The proceedings of those parts of the funerary proceedings that were to take place in Tehran in the capital have now been completed and the body and the coffin of the Supreme Leader have been transported to the Iranian holy city of Qom, where the next day of proceedings will be held. And then tomorrow the coffin will be transported to Iraq and will be brought to the holy cities of Najaf and Karbala before being returned to Iran for the seventh and final day of the seven-day programme, which will take place in the city of Mashhad, which is where we're heading. And we'll be there for three days. Mashhad is the second largest city in Iran with a population of about 3.4 million. It is also a holy city and the birthplace of Ali Khamenei. And we will be taking a train there. I understand it's going to be a 12-hour train ride departing this afternoon

at 3.30 p.m. We'll arrive in the early hours of the morning. We were told not to take our suitcases, but rather to take as little as we could in a knapsack because for some reason, we may have to walk to our hotel from the train station. I imagine that's because the city is largely shut down. And the streets are blockaded in preparation for the final day of the Supreme Leader's funeral.

**DL:** Again, two women walking without a hijab and nobody is bothering them.

**DL:** Hi folks it's now about three in the afternoon and we have arrived our entourage of foreign journalists at the train station to grab a 12-hour train to Mashhad and I don't think I've been to this particular train station before I'll just show you what it looks like, it's right here behind me. And off in the distance there you can see the members of our entourage. We just spent several hours at a hotel facility, a different one from the hotel in which we have been staying these past several days, for an event where various journalists, including yours truly, were asked to speak to their experiences here in Tehran during the last four days and then we were afforded the opportunity to meet with and hear a speech from the spokesperson of the Iranian foreign ministry. You may have seen and heard from him in the past if you've been following what's going on in Iran. His name is Esmail Baghaei.

**Esmail Baghaei:** If we talk about sovereignty, he has been fighting in defence of Iran's sovereignty against interference; and sovereignty, respect for sovereignty is the most fundamental principle of the United Nations Charter and of international law. If you're talking about resistance, the axis of resistance, you're about the founding principles of the UN Charter again, you're talking about the right to self-determination. Defending the right of self-determination is a sacred cause. Defending against foreign occupation, foreign domination, apartheid and racism. Each and every member state is obligated by international law to assist liberation movements for the cause of self-determination under international law. So I can claim that our Supreme Leader was not only calling for the sovereignty of Iran as his nation, but also he was defending the most important principles of international law, of modern international law. We hear frequently that the Europeans, the Westerners, regard themselves as the self-proclaimed heroes of human rights and international law. That's not true, because they have been complicit in destroying those main principles. The principle of sovereignty was badly damaged when the United States and Israel attacked Iran, not only once, two times in less than nine months. And I think the Europeans owe us a lot because they had to stand up in defence of what they have been claiming to be their core values, the rule of law and international law, international humanitarian law. International humanitarian law was slaughtered during their imposed war against Iran. Look what they did in Minaab, in Lamerd. They massacred so many innocent Iranians. Their attack against our Supreme Leader's compound was a blatant war crime. Alongside our leader, four of his families were martyred; two women and one small girl.

So if they are truly advocating for international law, human rights, and the UN Charter, they had to refrain from being silent because indifference in the face of injustice makes you complicit in the crimes. What we are watching right now is the corrosion, the erosion of not only principles of international law, but also of human values, moral values, and that's where

we all should be united. What you call as new imperialism or new colonialism, you can watch it in occupied Palestine, in Lebanon, and the fact that the Zionist regime is being supported, is doing all his atrocities with complete impunity is a testament to the whole West's complicity in the crime. And I agree with Sheikh that we are not talking about the ordinary people in the West, in the streets of European cities and the United States, but at the same time, we should not forget the fact that if we want to see any change, if you want to see a stoppage of this very dangerous trend globally, we all as the people should rise up and should get united against this wave of lawless behaviour.

So again, thank you so much for being here. I think you have been part of history. Our Supreme Leader, said Ali Khamenei, doesn't belong only to Iran. He even doesn't belong to the region, to Shias or to the Muslims because he fought for human values. He fought for the freedom of the whole human being. That's why we can see so many people across the board rushing to pay respect to him. Despite the fact that the governments were bullied by the United States and others not to attend this funeral procession and you also watch the Iranian people; they pulled into the streets while they were sad, while they were angry, but at the same time, they showed unprecedented discipline and this is what a civilisation looks like. That's what and how a nation of historic origin looks like. We are proud of our nation, we are proud of our leaders, we're proud of the principles of the revolution that gave us such an inner confidence in ourselves that we have to stand by ourselves, that we have to be united in the face of such aggressions and unlawful acts of war. Thank you so much and I hope to see you again in Iran.

**DL:** In other news, two ultra-large tankers in the Strait of Hormuz have reportedly been struck, presumably by Iranian projectiles. One of them was associated with or flagged by Saudi Arabia, the other associated with their flag by Qatar, and reportedly they were both trying to use the Omani lane without the authorisation of the Iranian military. And following these attacks, the reports are that vessels which had been perhaps inclined to transit the Strait using the Omani lane shifted over to the Iranian lane. So even though the funeral of the Supreme Leader is ongoing, the Iranian military continues to exercise vigilance in maintaining control over the Strait of Hormuz. You can of course count on Trump to try to exploit the situation to subvert at any control of the Strait. Now as we were walking over here from the baggage check-in at the train station, I managed to have a few words with geopolitical analyst extraordinaire Patrick Henningsen as we were walking over to the waiting area for our train and here's what Patrick had to say.

**DL:** I'm here with the ever-estimable Patrick Henningsen, we're heading off to Mashhad. Patrick, any thoughts about what you've experienced thus far on this trip?

**Patrick Henningsen (PH):** To put into words, probably for the purposes of your video here, but we're all, I can speak for the rest of my colleagues, I'm sure, especially those of us from the Western countries, we're absolutely speechless and blown away by what we've experienced and witnessed over the last four days, and I've never seen anything like it. I've been to some of the biggest gatherings in the world, from you know the papal visits to even here in Iran the national day, Revolutionary Day in February where two million people are on

the streets of Tehran that was dwarfed by orders of magnitude by what we saw yesterday. Yeah, so I mean, it's hard to put into the level of energy, the human energy, that everyone felt and witnessed is – I've never seen anything like it.

**DL:** It kind of makes a packed Super Bowl Stadium look like a telephone booth.

**PH:** It's pretty insignificant, so yeah, this country, the human element here, there's all the focus on the leader, of course, and well it should be, he's a giant, significant personality, but what was he leading?

**DL:** Absolutely.

**PH:** The people, and we saw that, and that's just something that I wish more Westerners had a good grip on because if they did they probably would be in all the erroneous assumptions about Iran that they've been living with for the last 50 years.

**DL:** Thank you very much for sharing that with us, Patrick. I hope we'll have a chance for a real conversation later on.

**PH:** Definitely.

**DL:** Thank you. In yet other news, the psychopathic war criminal Donald Trump has yet again issued quasi-genocidal threats against the Islamic Republic. He told the media that he could finish the job if Iran didn't make the desired concessions, which undoubtedly amount to a total capitulation and that ain't gonna happen and the Donald said, well if they don't do the deal on the terms that we can accept, we are going to take out their bridges in an hour. Just imagine that this lunatic thinks that a country the size of Western Europe could lose all of its bridges within the space of an hour. They couldn't take out all of Iran's bridges in an hour using nuclear weapons, let alone using conventional weapons. And he also said that they would destroy all of Iran's power plants, and I think he claimed ludicrously that that could be done in the space of half a day or less. Again, that is sheer stupidity, nobody would take it seriously. But what really is incomprehensible about this character is he's made even more explicitly genocidal threats than that. On one occasion, for example, he said that he was going to wipe out Iranian civilization in the course of a night if Iran didn't play ball. And on none of these occasions did the Iranian military or political leadership capitulate. They've continued to be quite firm in their terms as they are today. They never seem to have wavered from their core demands. Why does he do it? Why does he continue to issue these threats, which by the way are a flagrant violation of Article 1 of the Memorandum of Understanding, which explicitly requires both sides to refrain from threats to use force against the other. But why would he do it, knowing that on all prior occasions, even when he's issued threats that are more genocidal in character, Iran has not capitulated? Well, I guess there are a couple of explanations. One possible explanation is that he's just insane, which I find entirely believable, and I'm sure many of you do. The other explanation is that he doesn't really expect this is going to affect Iran's behaviour. What he's simply doing is he's playing the tough guy for the more sadistic and supremacist part of his base. Maybe he thinks that kind of

language, you know, titillates them and makes it more likely that they'll support the Republicans in the upcoming midterms. I don't know. Or maybe he's just stupid enough to believe that this will ultimately cause Iran to capitulate.

But what's even more mind-boggling about all of this is that he made the threat at the time that the Iranian people were going out into the streets in absolutely enormous numbers not only to grieve the brazen murder of the Supreme Leader and his family members, including his granddaughter, but they were also calling for Trump's head over and over again, explicitly demanding vengeance against the Donald himself. So you think that a people who behave in this way, after having suffered the atrocities that the United States and the satanic Israeli entity inflicted upon them during not just several months, but several decades, really, you'd think that at this particular moment, of all other moments, he would realise that these people are not going to bend the knee to Washington, but again, that didn't seem to persuade him that the threat would be useless. So, I'll continue to report to you as we make our way to Mashhad, and I do intend, before we get there, if I can, in reasonable circumstances, with a suitably quiet corner and reasonable lighting, speak to a colleague here, an investigative journalist from Britain, who did an exhaustive investigation into the claims that Iranian security forces murdered thousands of unarmed protesters in January. I've spoken to her about this at some length and it was an impressive investigation. I think you'll be most interested to hear what she has to say.

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**Dimitri Lascaris (DL):** US President Donald Trump has just declared that the Memorandum of Understanding with the Islamic Republic of Iran is over and US military forces at his command are currently bombing the country. This is Dimitri Lascaris coming to you from the city of Mashhad in the northeast of Iran. I'm going to talk to you today from this location, the Imam Reza Shrine, about the dramatic developments of the last 24 hours. But before we get into it, please remember, if you find this video to be informative, like and share it please, and if you are not already a subscriber to Reason2Resist, we warmly encourage you to become one and help us to spread our unapologetic, on the ground, resistance journalism to as broad an audience as possible. So with that, let's get into it.

First of all, a few words about where I am currently situated. The Imam Reza Shrine is not only enormous, it is an architectural marvel. This is the first time I've seen it with my own eyes in my lifetime. And it would take days to truly appreciate the wonder of this place. It is the mausoleum of the 8th Imam of Shia Islam Ali Al Rida and it is visited every year by approximately 30 million pilgrims. It is the most visited pilgrimage site in Islam. So, a historically important and holy site for this important branch of Islam. Now, we have come here today because this will be the site of the final burial of the martyred supreme leader of Iran, Ali Khamenei. The authorities have been conducting, with impressive organizational skill, a seven-day funeral program spanning numerous cities in Iran and Iraq. And tomorrow

will be the seventh and final day of this funeral program in which, certainly well in excess of 10 million and possibly 20 million mourners will have participated by the time all is said and done. I understand the coffin of the martyred supreme leader and the coffins of his family members are in transit to Mashhad. They are coming here from Iraq where they were yesterday, where they were also received by large crowds of mourners, overwhelmingly of the Shia Muslim faith. And we are expecting tomorrow that there are going to be millions of people here and not simply from Mashhad, which is the second largest city in Iran, having a population of 3.4 million and not simply from Iran but from other countries around the world.

Now, what has happened in the last 24 hours or so? Well, it began with yet another attempt by ships associated with autocratic vassals of Washington to transit through the Strait of Hormuz without the permission of the Iranian military. Let me remind you that when the MOU was signed, the Iranian Military was firmly in control of the Strait of Hormuz and had made it crystal clear that no vessel was permitted to pass through the strait without the consent of the Iranian Military. That was the status quo. And the MOU explicitly requires that the parties to the MOU will maintain the status quo during the 60-day negotiation period. And I think we're about two or three weeks into that now, although precious little negotiation has actually transpired.

So in violation of the agreement – and these are by no means the only violations of the agreement by Washington, and I'll get back to that in a few minutes – the US military was trying to guide, not necessarily with naval escort, but with satellite positioning or intelligence, vessels from vassal states through the Strait of Hormuz. And so the Iranians, I think, were making an effort not to respond to the situation during the funeral of Imam Khamenei, but apparently they had enough about 36 hours ago and attacked several commercial vessels that were attempting to pass through the Strait of Hormuz through what has become known as the Omani lane, a sea lane that hugs the coast of Oman. And we are pretty certain that at least two vessels were struck by an Iranian projectile, one from Qatar, possibly an LNG tanker. And that would be the first time that an LNG tanker from Qatar was struck by Iran since the criminal war of aggression began, and another super-large tanker associated with Saudi Arabia. And it's possible that as many as five vessels were struck by Iran.

None of them suffered catastrophic damage. I have seen no reports of any casualties, any persons being wounded or killed on these vessels. But nonetheless, the United States decided to react with deadly force. It didn't simply attack Iranian ships. It attacked land-based targets, including the port of Bandar Abbas, where I was in March of this year during the hot phase of the war. And there are videos circulating of explosions at the port at Bandar Abbas. And although the US will invariably claim that they were military targets, the Iranians say that they are attacking fishing boats and civilian facilities. And I can tell you from having been in Bushehr, this is another Iranian port city on the Persian Gulf, during the hot phase of the war, that the US and Israel do strike civilian facilities at Iranian ports. I saw this with my own eyes. There were ships, commercial passenger ferries, five of them, if I recall correctly, at the maritime terminal in Bushehr that had been completely destroyed by attacks making it impossible for the authorities there to transport tourists to and from that port. It is normally,

as they explained to us, a very busy port facility for Iranian tourism, but it had been put completely out of action. So we don't know for sure what was struck at the port of Bandar Abbas.

Also in Sirik, another city in southern Iran, there were strikes. We don't exactly know what was struck there. The Americans say these were military facilities, over 80 targets, that's what CENTCOM has said, whereas the Iranians say that at least some of them were civilians. The Iranian military has stated, however, that one member of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps, the IRGC, was killed in these strikes and numerous other Iranians have been wounded. So whereas the Iranian attacks on these vessels killed no one, wounded no one and did no catastrophic damage, the US has responded after it violated the undertaking not to change the status quo. It has responded with deadly force and by striking land-based targets, allegedly a number of them civilian in nature. So this is a major escalation.

At the end of the day, this is going to precipitate a major retaliatory response by the Islamic Republic, and that is exactly what it has done. It has fired missiles and drones at the US naval base in Bahrain and at the US air base in Kuwait. They have not been kicked out of those countries, the Americans, and continue to pose a serious threat to the Islamic republic and the Iranian people, and almost certainly participated in some way or another in the criminal war of aggression on Iran. So they are, as the Iranian government rightly contends, legitimate targets for this type of retaliatory response. And then Donald Trump, while he was...

**Man:** Down with America. Thank you. Down with America. Tehran, Tehran, Tehran. Down with the Zionists. Thank you. Thank you.

**DL:** I thought I should allow that man to say his piece. In any case... So the United States is engaged in a major escalation. Now, to make matters even worse, Trump after declaring or around the time that he declared at the NATO summit another gathering with his vassals where they're plotting some insanely aggressive escalation in the Ukrainian proxy war on Russia, we learned that the United States has reimposed sanctions on Iranian oil. The sanctions had been temporarily lifted for only something like six or seven days. So that was extremely short-lived. And I must say that this virtually guarantees in my view that the MOU is in fact over.

And the reason that I say that is that the only benefit that Iran was getting out of this MOU was the ability to sell its oil because the blockade had been lifted and because the sanctions had been suspended. Now, if Iran doesn't have the ability to sell its oil, either because the blockade has been reimposed, and so far as far as we know, the US has not yet done that, although it may do so imminently, but even if it's just a matter of the sanctions being reimposed, that is going to impede its ability to sale its oil enormously. And so the one benefit it had under the agreement has been taken away.

In the meantime, the US is refusing to turn over any of Iran's frozen assets or I should say stolen assets. The US is doing nothing to force Israel to withdraw from Lebanon or from

occupied Palestinian territory in Gaza and in fact Israel continues to kill civilians both in occupied territories in Palestine and in south Lebanon. The US is continuously threatening Iran. Trump is using genocidal language, has done so on at least two occasions since the MOU was signed. And the MOU explicitly prohibits the threat of the use of force by either party to the Memorandum of Understanding. And so there is a whole litany of violations that have been committed by the Trump regime. And the one significant benefit that Iran had under this agreement, was actually receiving under this agreement, has now been taken away. So why would Iran at this stage continue to comply with its obligations under the MOU?

And I can tell you from having interacted with countless ordinary Iranians, interviewed a number of them in these gigantic processions in honor of the martyred supreme leader, there is very little appetite already, even before the events of the past 24 hours, there was extremely little appetite amongst, as far as I can tell, most Iranians for any kind of discussion with the Trump regime. Over and over again, I heard Iranians complain of the US government's arrogance and they referred to Donald Trump as a big liar. So I am increasingly of the view that what we're about to see is another closure of the Strait of Hormuz. Even if the current levels of traffic persist for some weeks in the Strait of Hormuz, which is about, let's say, 30 vessels a day – that is still less than 25% of the pre-war traffic at a time when oil inventories around the world are dangerously low. So this is, again, going to precipitate or exacerbate the looming global oil crisis.

And then, of course, there are other key commodities that come out of the Strait of Hormuz like sulfur and helium and fertilizer and sulfuric acid. So quite apart from the situation with the oil and gas markets, this just spells serious trouble for the global economy, a very fragile global economy and one that is characterized certainly in western stock markets by a massive bubble primarily driven by fantasies around artificial intelligence. But that's a whole other story, my friends. In any case, I would imagine that we are about to see a rapid deterioration of the situation in the Strait of Hormuz. And I don't think that this round of bombing is going to end quickly, I hope I'm wrong about that. And it may well expand to the interior of Iran. So far, as far as we can tell from CENTCOM's statements and from the press reports, the US strikes on land-based targets are confined to the southern coast of Iran.

Now, we are at the opposite end of Iran, whereas the violence perpetrated by the Trump regime and the US military is happening in the southwestern part of Iran, we are in the northeastern part of Iran. We are quite close to, relatively speaking, the border with Turkmenistan and with Afghanistan. This probably is a relatively difficult part of the country for the US military to strike without taking serious risk of having its aircraft taken out by Iranian air defenses. So I don't anticipate we're going to see any bombing in this particular area, although you never know. I wouldn't rule that out. Whatever may or may not happen in the days ahead in the area of Mashhad, I can tell you the mood here is not one of capitulation.

In fact, as I was walking in, I saw people chanting and I heard and recorded people chanting, "Death to America" and "Death to Israel". So I'm going to share with you the video of what I saw as I first entered. What you're going to see in this video is what I saw for the very first

time in my life – thank you very much – as I entered this marvelous shrine, it's truly something to behold. I'm now going to sign off again by sharing this video footage with you that I just took of this complex. I want to add that I've only seen a small portion of, I've been inside for about 45 minutes and I hope to be able to share with you more footage, particularly of the interior which I can only imagine is extraordinarily beautiful. For now, this is Dimitri Lascaris signing off on July 8th, 2026. But don't click that button just yet if you want to see some more of this wonderful shrine.

**END**

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