



F-15 Downed in Yemen – Saudis and U.S. in Crisis

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Dimitri Lascaris: Good day, this is Dimitri Lascaris coming to you for Reason2Resist from Kalamata, Greece on September 16th, 2026. Just minutes ago, Ansar Allah published a video of its air defense systems shooting out of the sky, a US-made F-15 evidently operated by a pilot from the criminal Saudi Air Force. And we are going to share that video with you today, talk about other dramatic developments on the battlefield in Yemen, the Strait of Hormuz, further damage and further evidence of enormous damage being done to the Saudi oil infrastructure and we'll talk also about the turmoil in the global oil markets and a slew of reports out of the US corporate media of the last 48 hours about the lamentable condition of the US military. It's been quite an eventful 48 hours I must say. Now before I begin please do like and share this video if you find it to be informative and please help us to reach a broader audience with our unapologetic resistance journalism by subscribing to Reason2Resist if you are not already a subscriber. So with that let's get into it.

Citing Yemeni sources Iranian media outlet Tasnim reports heavy casualties among the Saudi-backed mercenaries on the Al Jawf front in Yemen. Just to orient us, I'm going to briefly share with you a map of western Yemen. And you can see the Al Jawf governorate there in light pink. You can also see that it borders on Saudi Arabia, and it's just to the northeast of Sana'a, the capital of Yemen which is the center of power of the Ansar Allah movement and governorate. And this has been a major theater of warfare since major fighting broke out between Saudi-backed mercenaries and Ansar Allah at the beginning of September. And there have been a number of videos, combat footage videos, that have been published by Ansar Allah during this period of fighting with the Saudi-backed mercenaries. Here's a video of a close combat between Ansar Allah forces, who shot the video apparently, and the Saudi back mercenaries in the desert of the Al Jawf governorate.

Now, Ansar Allah has also published a lengthy 26-minute video of other scenes of combat in the Al-Jawf governorate. In the interest of brevity, I have excerpted a small portion of that video and here's some of what it displayed. .

We're almost at the end of this clip, but I just want to remark here, and you can see that in broad daylight, there are large numbers of enemy vehicles in the desert, flatland desert, and there's no cover, obviously, no natural cover, no artificial cover. And when you're going up against an enemy as capable and as well-equipped as Ansar Allah is with drones and missiles, you're just asking, in my view, to be obliterated. Now this same 26-minute video shows what appear to be enemy warplanes in the sky over the Al Jawf governorate and also appears to show airstrikes they launched against Ansar Allah positions or perhaps civilian targets or maybe that was even friendly fire, who knows. I can't tell from the video what was struck, if anything, but these do appear to be Saudi warplanes and here's what the 26-minutes video showed in that regard. And just judging from the size of that explosion, I imagine that that was a very large bomb that was dropped by the Saudi aircraft, again, possibly on enemy positions. Now, I just want to pause there. You can see the aircraft apparently with the naked eye. There's no cloud cover at all. And I have been to South Lebanon six times during Israel's genocidal rampage. I lost count of the number of times I heard Israeli warplanes overhead. But there was only one time that I ever actually saw them, and that was when I attended the funeral of Hassan Nasrallah and this was in a large open-air stadium, and twice during the funeral Israeli warplanes flew low overhead in formation in order to terrorize those who had gathered to mourn the passing of Hassan Nasrallah. Other than that I've never actually seen them and I've always imagined that the reason why the Israelis are relatively prudent in terms of exposing their aircraft to view from the ground is that that would make it easier for them to be shot down. Well, apparently, there are no such precautions being taken by the Saudi pilots over the skies of Yemen, and unsurprisingly, we are getting the report, which I mentioned off the top of this episode of Reason2Resist, that Ansar Allah has today shot down an F-15. And I'm going to share with you now the footage that they have published in support of that claim. And you can see there it appears that there was a considerable explosion. Hard to imagine that the pilot survived that strike, but I have no verification at this stage in time to offer about whether or not the pilot is alive. What we have been told by Ansar Allah is that subsequent to this taking out of this F-15 other Saudi aircraft, also apparently F-15s, flew into Yemeni airspace in search of the downed pilot, and they were forced to flee when these same air defense weapons were deployed against them.

Another interesting aspect of this report is that apparently the fighter jet was shot down over Ma'rib governorate. That is, as we've previously explained, the governorate in which Yemen's significant oil and gas assets are situated. So if that warplane was operating in the skies over Ma'rib, it would suggest that Ansar Allah's forces have entered the government and the Saudi air force is being deployed to try to stop them from seizing it entirely. And I'll come back to that whole question of further advances by Ansar Allah a little later in this report. But this is really quite a dramatic development because the Saudis and their mercenaries on the ground in Yemen have proven themselves utterly incapable of holding ground during this offensive. The speed and depth of the Ansar Allah advances have been quite stunning. And the only weapon that really remained to the Saudis at this stage, the only effective weapon potentially, at least to the extent of blunting the advances of Ansar Allah, was its air force. Now, if it is true, and I think it is likely to be proven to be true ultimately, that Ansar Allah has managed to shoot down an F-15, this is going to probably constrain considerably the ability of the

Saudi Air Force to operate in the skies over Yemen. And what then will be left in terms of the Saudi military's ability to impede further advances by Ansar Allah.

Now, there are reports that the Saudis are begging for help from others, principally the government of Britain, but the government of Britain, its military is frankly a paper tiger. Like the Saudis, the only real capability the military of Britain has demonstrated over the last 20 years is enabling terrorist attacks by Israel, by Ukrainian nationalists, by the United States itself, the United State's military. It does not have a sizable ground force. Apparently you can fit its entire army into a football stadium and it isn't going to want to commit ground troops anyways. So what is it going to do that the Saudis cannot do? If the Ansar Allah forces have demonstrated their ability to shoot down advanced warplanes operated by Western military forces and their proxies in the region, I would suggest that the Brits are powerless to do anything effectively, and that would be true of any others whose assistance is sought in this region. Unless somebody is willing to insert a large amount of combat-ready ground troops into Yemen to take on Ansar Allah, it is hard to imagine that this sweeping offensive is not going to continue to earn considerable victories on the battlefield.

Now, also the latest satellite imagery of Saudi oil facilities reveals more damage to the strategic east-west pipeline in Saudi Arabia. The images you're about to see show damage at three pumping stations along the 1,200 kilometer length of this very important pipeline. So as you can see from the three red squares, there have been three points that have been struck. Along the 1200 kilometer length of this pipeline. This is one pumping station that is nearest to Yanbu, the Red Sea port at which the pipeline terminates. You can see the damage there is enormous. This apparently is pumping station number nine. I believe it was this pumping station for which we had satellite imagery yesterday showing very extensive damage there as well. And here is pumping station number eight. Also, it appears based on this satellite imagery to have suffered significant damage. The bottom line here, folks, is that any claim that this is a short-term suspension of the pipeline's usage is lacking in credibility, to put it mildly. It is probably going to take weeks and quite possibly months for this to get anywhere close to normal operating capacity. And that means that the global supply of oil is going to be reduced for an indeterminate period of time by approximately 4 % because that's the amount of oil that is being pumped on a daily basis from eastern Saudi Arabia to the Red Sea port of Yanbu.

In addition to this, and in retaliation for the airstrikes on Yemen, Ansar Allah has apparently struck the oil facilities at the Red Sea port of Yanbu with a swarm of drones and possibly missiles as well. And we have a satellite image here which shows a number of points at which there are fire anomalies there at the oil facility at this Red Sea Port. So in essence, the oil infrastructure of Saudi Arabia is being absolutely ravaged and it appears that its allies and the Saudi military are completely incapable of protecting this geo-strategically important oil infrastructure. Now, despite the wars raging in this region, Ansar Allah has issued its terms for peace and here is a summary of its position, which was put out, published by Tasnim News, the Iranian news agency – according to a spokesperson for Ansar Allah, it's ready for peace if Saudi Arabia halts airstrikes, lifts its blockade of Yemen and stops backing rival

militias, senior official Mohammed Al-Bukhaiti told Sky News. And by the way, we've had the privilege of interviewing Al-Bukhaiti. He's an eloquent man, very soft spoken, but extremely determined. And he's a quite effective spokesperson for Ansar Allah. According to Al-Bukhaiti, the current dynamic is a blockade for a blockade, an aggression for an aggression. The Houthis have no plans to seize further territory, advancing along Yemen's western coast with the consequence of Saudis moving their mercenaries inside Yemen to fight them. The Ansar Allah movement, Bab al-Mandab Strait is open to international shipping with the exception of Saudi vessels. The official dismissed Trump's claims of direct talks, clarifying that any communication runs through Oman. These core demands, by the way, that the Saudis stop arming militias inside Yemen, that they lift the blockade and that they stop bombing the country – this is simply compliance with international law. That is all that Ansar Allah is demanding as a condition of ceasing the hostilities against Saudi Arabia. It boggles the mind that the Saudis have not readily accepted these terms. But when you consider the gigantic ego, the irrationality, and the stunning incompetence of Mohammed bin Salman, and also that he's an abject vassal of Washington, and was, as we've pointed out on numerous occasions, a bosom buddy of Jeffrey Epstein, the notorious Zionist pedophile. When you consider all of that, I suppose it's not too surprising, that even now with Saudi oil infrastructure completely vulnerable and aflame, that the so-called crown prince refuses to exceed any of these conditions. There's no indication whatsoever that he's prepared to meet any of the core three demands of Ansar Allah.

Now with that, I'd like to turn to the Strait of Hormuz. Another vessel has been struck there. This is a report that was put out by the UK Maritime Transportation Authority: "On the 14th of September, Iran hit a vessel in the Strait of Hormuz while it was transitioning through an unauthorized route. The vessel was hit despite heavy air coverage by the United States", so reports Fotros resistance, a telegram channel that I follow for some time. According to maritime transportation data from Kepler, vessel transits through the Strait of Hormuz dropped to four on Tuesday down from seven a day earlier and the 10 day average of 18. Four vessels is a tiny fraction of pre-war traffic in the Strait of Hormuz. On an average day before the war was launched on February 28th of this year, between 125 and 138 large commercial vessels passed through the Strait of Hormuz. So, for all intents and purposes, it is closed. And now the Ansar Allah forces have an iron grip over the Bab al-Mandab Strait. And there is no evident means by which the forces of Western governments and its proxies, their proxies in the region, are going to divest them of control anytime soon, if ever.

In addition to this, the IRGC reports that it has shot down the fourth MQ-1 drone since last week, and here is the report published by Fotros resistance. The shoot down of this particular drone was apparently done again with a newer air defense system that has recently been deployed by the IRGC and an MQ-1 drone with a full operational system costs between 20 and 40 million dollars so within the past week or so the US has lost 80 to 160 million worth of MQ-1 drones. In addition, Iranian media report that the Iranian military has shot down its 52nd US MQ-9 drone. And here you can see the report on Tasnim News this morning. The 52nd MQ9 drone of the American terrorist army was intercepted and destroyed in the sky of Qeshm Island, this is in the Strait of Hormuz, at 2.29 a.m. Today by the fire of the new

advanced air defense system of the IRGC and under the control of the unified air defense network of the country. Each of these drones reportedly cost between 30 and 50 million. Therefore the estimated cost of 52 MQ-9 drones is from 1.6 billion to 2.6 billion.

Now, in related news, an Iranian civil aircraft has flown to Riyadh. This was reported today by Geopolitics Prime, citing publicly available sources. The Iranian government flight Iran 06 arrived in Riyadh directly from Tehran. And who is aboard remains unconfirmed, but with Saudi cities under fresh missile and drone attacks, the timing is doing plenty of talking. Riyadh may be discovering that Tehran is rather difficult to ignore. And as I mentioned, Bin Salman is reaching out to a lot of parties at this moment, doesn't seem to be making much headway in terms of gaining on the ground military support from Saudi Arabia's sponsors and so-called allies and therefore, they may well ultimately be required, the dictatorial Saudi regime, to make substantial concessions to the resistance. And I think this is at least a slightly hopeful sign that the lines of communication do appear to remain open between the government of Iran and Saudi Arabia. But the problem here, folks, and it's really what ultimately matters, is based on the record statements of the Saudis, they are not willing to make any concessions whatsoever to the resistance. Maybe privately they have indicated that they are, but their public statements have been maximalist, just like the public statements of the United States government, of Israel, of European powers in their dealings with Russia. They always assume maximalist positions in these so-called negotiations, and the inevitable consequence of this is escalation. And I remain convinced that that's exactly where this is going to head in the weeks and months ahead and there isn't going to be any meaningful and durable respite in the oil markets for quite some time, probably not until next year and maybe even later than that.

Now with that let's turn to the lamentable condition of the United States military. In the past few days the US corporate media have published a slew of reports on the sorry-ass-condition of U.S. Forces, let's start with today's report from The Wall Street Journal that the US Military is burning through its already depleted supplies of interceptor missiles. According to certain sources who spoke to the Wall Street Journal, "the US military fired up to 70 or more of its high end Patriot air defense interceptors last week when Iran launched a missile attack on the US base in Jordan." 70. "The US also fired more than a dozen THAAD interceptors. In 2025, Lockheed Martin, which makes the Patriots, produced a record 620 of these interceptors". In other words, the US military used up in one day the equivalent of five weeks of production during the record year that Lockheed Martin had in 2025 for PAC-3 production. The price tag of these Patriot interceptors is about four million bucks a piece. Each THAAD interceptor costs an amazing 12 to 15 million. So the total cost of the interceptors used to defend against the Iranian attack in Jordan last week on one day was nearly half a billion dollars. The Wall Street Journal explained as follows: "The nature of the attack made it more difficult to counter. Iran targeted American troops with warheads that separate into more numerous projectiles as they close in on their target, the official said". By the way, we showed footage of this cluster munition being used in that attack in Jordan. And the Wall Street journal goes on and says, "the defenses didn't stop everything". That's an understatement. "While no troops were killed", at least that's what we're told, "Iran managed

to hit jet fighters and other aircraft at the Muwaffaq Salti Air Base in Jordan, one of the officials said". So even using dozens and dozens of these highly priced interceptors, they weren't able to protect their military aircraft on the ground. And the Wall Street Journal then writes, throughout the war, Iran's attacks have grown increasingly complex, with the regime using different missile varieties, trajectories, maneuvers and warheads to try to overwhelm US defenses, officials say.

Separately, The Intercept reported yesterday that the US military is on the brink of a breakdown. According to two US officials familiar with operations in the Middle East, the US military is straining under the pressure of the Iran War. One cautioned that this stress could lead to a breakdown in the military's ability to effectively continue war on Iran. And I'm quoting now: "As the conflict has engulfed the region, the military has grappled with a growing list of challenges, Iranian attacks on US bases and warships in the Middle East, depleted stockpiles of defensive munitions, increasing casualties, maintenance issues on ships, lengthy troop deployments, complicated logistics, flagging morale and a host of other issues that have taken a heavy toll on troops, damaged military readiness and strained the Pentagon's budget. Iran's ability to overwhelm US air defenses in the Middle East using attack drones and advanced ballistic missiles, as previously reported by The Intercept, has left the US Military in a precarious state. 'The Trump administration failed to appreciate Iran's military prowess', said the first official. The other pointed to a 'complete lack of planning for the war'." Those are the words this official used. "Since July 7th alone, there have been hundreds of US casualties caused by Iranian attacks, according to official Pentagon statistics. The official said the military's ability to function at peak capacity was crippled in the opening hours of the conflict when an Iranian missile and drone attack on February 28th destroyed Navy facilities in Manama, Bahrain, the region's most critical logistics hub".

Now, quite apart from that, CBS News just published photographs showing extensive damage to US military bases in West Asia. The photographs were provided to CBS on an anonymous basis by US soldiers who are serving in the region and who are concerned that the American people are not being told about the true cost of the war and the extent of the dangers confronting US Military personnel in the region. I'm going to show you six photographs published by CBS. There's first of all, this one. This shows an E3 Sentry aircraft put out of action definitively, I would say. This radar plane is very, very important for surveillance purposes for the U.S. Military in the region, and cost roughly \$300 million. And according to CBS, this particular disaster transpired at the Prince Sultan Air Force Base in Saudi Arabia. Then there's this photograph, which is also from the Prince Sultan Base in Saudi Arabia. This looks like a barracks or some other, perhaps it was a warehouse, an ammunition facility, completely destroyed. Here is an image of a hanger. Perhaps it was used for some other purpose. Maybe it was a warehouse. It too has clearly been destroyed. This was at a US military base in Kuwait. And here is another image from a US Military base in Kuwait. Notice not only the destroyed vehicle but the large shrapnel holes in the wall, which appears to be a concrete wall behind the destroyed vehicle. Here's another image from Kuwait, this building seems to have been rendered unusable and I'm not sure, I have really no idea for what purpose that was used. My best guess is this was some sort of housing accommodation.

And then we have this image. These appear to me to be temporary housing units for soldiers. And we've seen satellite imagery of these types of structures wiped out in large numbers. And here you have a ground level view. This too is from, I believe it's Camp Buehring in Kuwait. Kuwait and Bahrain appear to have suffered by far the greatest damage, at least based on the currently available evidence.

Finally, my friends, let's turn to conditions in global oil markets. The Wall Street Journal has published an article which is entitled, *Oil Executives Say The Great Fuel Crisis Is Here*. This was published two days ago. And in the article, the Wall Street Journal cites leaders in the oil industry in the United States and experts from the industry and states as follows: "American oil executives warned for months that the prolonged closure of the Strait of Hormuz was bound to cause a fuel crisis. Now they say it is here. Commercial fuel stocks around the world have been depleting for more than six months, and strategic crude reserves can't be tapped much further. Attacks last week shut down a crucial crude pipeline in Saudi Arabia that bypassed the Strait, stranding at least 2.5 million barrels a day from an already tight global oil market analysts estimate. All these mechanisms help to mitigate the price and supply risk." And I think this is the Chevron chief executive Mike Wirth speaking at an energy conference last Friday, and he refers to the mechanisms. He's talking about things like the releases of oil from the US Strategic Petroleum Reserve. And he goes on to state at this conference, the Chevron CEO: "'Those mechanisms have largely now played out, and we don't have nearly the buffers in the system that we did when it began'. Veteran energy advisors", writes The Wall Street Journal, "say that with no resolution to the Iran war in sight, the situation risks spinning out of control. Diesel prices have soared to a record \$6.23 a gallon in the United States". And gasoline prices which slipped below \$4 a gallon this summer during the hysteria over a supposed peace deal between Iran and the United States, at that point, the hopium was so widespread that gas prices came down in the United States to below \$4, but they've rebounded now to \$4.32 a gallon, and some energy analysts say they have been fielding investor questions about when consumers pinched by the high prices will start pulling back on new purchases. And that sounds to me like a formula for a recession. I just checked moments ago where the price of Brent crude is situated. It was as of my last check, trading at a little bit north of 107 dollars US per barrel. So that is far above where it was at the beginning of the year, in the range of, it was a little bit more than \$60 a barrel before this criminal war of aggression was launched. And it has hovered up in that range between about 105 and 110 a barrel now for about a week, which is the highest point it has been at since the the Trump regime and Israel sabotaged the Memorandum of Understanding with Iran, something which was entirely predictable and which we said repeatedly was going to happen at the time of the signature of that document. So again, all indications are, unfortunately, that the price of oil is going to remain elevated for months to come, possibly years, and it could go far higher than it currently is. And my guess is that that is exactly what's going to happen. As difficult as it is to predict, especially in the market that has been manipulated as extensively as the oil market has been over the last few months, it's difficult to predict exactly what will happen, but if investors are behaving rationally and we remain on this current trajectory, one would expect to see massive increases in the price of oil in the months ahead. That's our report for today, my friends. The next time you hear from me, I'm going to be in

Moscow. I'm heading there tonight, and I will be attending a conference there for several days. I'll be reporting there. Hopefully, I'll be able to do that on a daily basis and give you a sense of what is going on in the country and how the people of Russia are currently dealing with the ongoing NATO proxy war. Thanks very much for listening in today, and please stay safe out there.

END

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