



Iran Goes on the Offensive – U.S. Bases No Longer Viable

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Dimitri Lascaris (DL): Good day, this is Dimitri Lascaris coming to you from Greece on September 7th, 2026 for Reason2Resist. There is a ground and aerial war raging in southwestern Yemen, and the Western media are paying far too little attention to this highly consequential war. Why is it so important? Well, because the apparent aim of Ansar Allah's forces is to seize the southern Yemeni port city of Mocha, which sits close to the narrowest point of the Bab al-Mandab Strait, which is of course one of the most important maritime choke points in the world today. In this report, I'll share with you dramatic footage of the battles raging around Mocha. I'll also discuss other key developments in the criminal Western wars of aggression in West Asia. Before I do that, please remember to like and share this video if you find it to be informative, and if you're not already a subscriber to Reason2Resist, we very much hope you will become one, and will help us to expand the reach of our unapologetic, on-the-ground resistance journalism. Now with that, let's get into it.

Over the weekend, Yemen's Ansar Allah published a detailed video of its devastating missile strike on what it described as a meeting of Saudi mercenary commanders. And here is that video. You'll see in the beginning here a surveillance drone, one that is not actually used to carry out the strike, is recording the assembly of what appear to be military personnel, according to Ansar Allah Saudi-backed forces. It is quite remarkable to see them here in broad daylight with no cover, natural cover or human-made cover, for example, a building out in the open air where Ansar Allah can easily identify them. And frankly, if they were minimally competent from a military perspective, I don't think they would conduct themselves in that way. Here's the missile strike. The precision of that strike is remarkable. And obviously for them to have been able to carry out the strike, Ansar Allah, those military personnel must have remained in place for some time. I don't know how quickly on Ansar Allah would have been able to carry out the strikes once they were detected, but obviously it wouldn't have happened immediately, meaning that they lingered there for at least, I would say, an hour, perhaps hours in the open air broad daylight, as I mentioned and the result is

obliteration. Here you will see the incoming missile. They freeze the frame so you can see this projectile just metres away from the target.

Now, before I show you more images and videos from this all-important battle, let's orient ourselves with a map of southwestern Yemen. And if you look towards the middle of the map, I'm sorry, on the left side, on the far left where you see the blue, that's the Red Sea and the Bab al-Mandab Strait, right on the coast of Yemen, you'll see a port city called Mocha, M-O-C-H-A. And the red dot in the centre of this map is another city under the control of the Saudi back forces called Taizz and that city based on its position relative to Mocha is probably an important source of resupply for the Saudi back forces that are currently occupying Mocha. Iran's Fars news agency reports that Ansar Allah has severed the link between Taizz and Mocha, presumably that is the road you can see running from the red dot westward to the coastline where Mocha is situated, and Ansar Allah forces were reported to have launched ballistic missiles at positions held by Saudi-backed forces in Taizz itself with powerful explosions reported across the city said Iran's Press TV. And here is a video of one of the aftermath or actually the moment of the strike I believe in Taizz by Ansar Allah.

In addition, video has emerged of what is reportedly a fierce gun battle somewhere to the west of Taizz in the direction of Mocha, and here is the video in question. Now, quite apart from all of this, and as if this weren't bad enough for the Saudi-backed forces, a reliable source of information, what I regard to be a reliable source of the information, Ryan Rozbiani, whom I understand to be Iranian, posted on X today that Saudi jets had bombed their own allied forces in Yemen. A Saudi fighter jet, wrote Rian on X, reportedly mistakenly struck positions belonging to the Saudi backed Al-Almaliqa forces in Yemen's Taizz province, dozens of Riyadh-aligned fighters were reportedly killed or wounded in the friendly fire strike. Now, quite apart from all of that, newly released satellite imagery from the Sentinel-2A satellite appears to show a new burned area around a crude oil storage tank at the Yanbu refinery facility owned by Saudi Aramco and here is that side satellite imagery. I'll show it to you one more time. This is not a high resolution, I think, but still there is some indication there of a significant burn area around it.

Now, based on all available information, it's difficult to say with confidence what is happening on the ground in Yemen, but one thing is clear, the Saudis have shown no inclination whatsoever to lift their criminal, inhumane, more than decade-long blockade on Yemen, and that is the core demand of Ansar Allah, a lifting of that blockade. In fact, the Saudis appear determined to wage war in any manner necessary to prevent Ansar Allah from expanding its zone of control in Yemen. And given that that's the case, then it is almost certain that this war is not only going to continue but that it will intensify and that of course is going to have very significant impacts on the oil markets. Now with that I'd like to turn to the question of the Strait of Hormuz, the other critically important maritime choke point that is being affected profoundly by the Western wars of aggression in West Asia. Over the weekend, the terrorist US military published a video which, it said, shows Iranian oil tankers sinking after it was struck, and this is that video.

Now CENTCOM claims that it attacked not just one but actually three Iranian tankers. And in retaliation the IRGC naval forces fired three missiles from the Iranian port city of Sirik toward the Strait of Hormuz and said they targeted three tankers linked to the United States or its vassals in the region using, that were attempting to use an unauthorised route through the Strait of Hormuz, and that they attacked three US linked vessels elsewhere. This was reported by the Iranian news agency, IRNA. And IRNA quoted the IRGC as stating: "To ships operating in Hormuz, do not be deceived by the terrorist US military, otherwise you will be targeted." Iranian media also published this video, which reportedly shows the aftermath of an Iranian strike on an unauthorised tanker in or near the Strait of Hormuz. Here it is again, it's a brief clip, but you can see a very large plume of smoke rising from a tanker in the distance. The IRGC also reported that it had intercepted a US army unmanned surface vessel trying to enter Hormuz. So you can see here this vessel, I don't know that this is the one that was actually intercepted, this may just be a photograph of this type of vessel published by the US military, on other prior occasions, but that's what it looks like. I don't have any footage of the interception, at least not at this point, but it is interesting that the US is resorting to the use of unmanned vessels. Clearly, that means that they feel that their military personnel, their sailors and their marines aboard these vessels, if they get into the Strait of Hormuz, they're at risk. If they weren't at risk, why would they be sending unmanned vessels? And if in fact they are at risk, then that undermines, as does a mountain of other evidence, the Trumpian claim that the Strait of Hormuz is open and that it is business as usual.

Now over the weekend, Iran's parliamentary speaker, Mr. Ghalibaf, announced that the era of proportionate Iranian responses to US aggressions is over. And the Americans he said in an important speech and this was reported by Iranian news agency Tasnim: "The Americans must have understood that the era of proportionate responses over in our strikes and recent operations against the aggressor bases were only a beginning and if they've not understood until today they should understand that the rules of the game have changed. And from now on any violation of Iran's interests and security will receive a quicker, heavier, and more painful response." Quite possibly the most important development this weekend, insofar as the Strait of Hormuz is concerned, is Iran's announcement that it was expanding its zone of control around the Strait. And here is a summary of that statement put out by the Hormuz Letter on X. Iran announces it will implement a new restricted zone outside the Strait of Hormuz in the coming days, starting from the US Navy's blockade line and into areas of the Persian Gulf, per Iran's SNSC Chief Rezaei." That's the National Security Council, I believe, being referred to there. And Iran says, "Any ship that enters this new zone will be placed on Iran's sanctions list and vessels acting without coordination with Iran will face consequences including insurance problems, later transit issues, fines, detention and cargo confiscation. Iran says that this is the first change in Iran's approach to the Strait of Hormuz since the war started, extending Iran's enforcement zone well beyond the Strait itself. After implementation, Iran will control all traffic entering the Gulf of Oman."

Now, one may wonder whether, in fact, Iran has the capability to control a zone this expansive to the south east of the Strait of Hormuz in the Gulf of Oman. Well, apparently what precipitated the US attacks on three Iranian tankers this weekend was that Iran actually

fired at a US carrier and a destroyer. And although I haven't seen any statement from Iran that they claim to have struck the carrier and the destroyer, they clearly feel that they managed to place them under serious threat and this in fact precipitated not only attacks on Iranian tankers but also a statement by CENTCOM, the segment of the US military responsible for this region, which acknowledged that its military vessels in the region had come under attack. So, clearly, Iran has the ability to threaten vessels in the Gulf of Oman that are at a significant distance from the Strait of Hormuz. And this is particularly important for the United Arab Emirates because in the Gulf of Oman, on the south eastern side of the Strait of Hormuz, there is a very important port, Fujairah, which the UAE has been using to, at least to some degree, mitigate the effects of the Strait of Hormuz closure to export oil. So if the Iranians can in fact prevent, as you can see from this map, or you may not be able to see it, but I can confirm to you that within this zone of control, well within the zone of the control is the UAE port of Fujairah. So, this could mean serious problems for the ability of the UAE to continue to export some oil during the ongoing war of aggression against Iran. Separately, retired US Army General David Petraeus, someone who, by the way, was convicted for leaking classified information to his mistress and got a very light punishment indeed, he has acknowledged to US military media that the US bases in the eastern Persian Gulf are no longer viable.

This is a story published by the Indian news outlet WION, and they say as follows: "Former CIA director David Petraeus, in an interview, has claimed that the United States bases and the eastern Gulf States are no longer viable. He said that both the maintenance and functioning of the US bases have been affected. In an interview with Global Gambit, the retired Army General cited Iran's attacks on US bases, saying the military locations and critical infrastructure were used as leverage. He also claimed that America has used perhaps half of our missile interceptors in the Iran conflict. He urged the Trump administration to shift to inexpensive drones and learn from Ukraine.

Well, I doubt at this stage that any such shift is going to happen, and even if it does, it'll take time to implement. And it isn't going to prevent Iran from continuing to attack vessels in the Strait of Hormuz and creating an unacceptably high risk for most of the shippers in the world today. In related news, the US military command continues to engage in a disgraceful treatment of its military personnel. This is a report in the Telegraph that the Pentagon refused to pay out for soldiers who died in the Iran conflict, because it isn't a war. Yes, that's right, folks, in the distorted, deranged mind of the Trump regime, all of the violence that the US military has inflicted on Iran and has itself suffered in retaliation at the hands of Iranian forces doesn't constitute a war, and therefore, people who laid down their lives in this criminal enterprise because they believed in the US government, such as this pilot, aren't going to get the benefits to which they would be entitled if they were killed in action in an actual war. And this Telegraph article says: "Families of fallen US soldiers in the Middle East are fighting the Pentagon to ensure they receive appropriate paying benefits for their loved ones participating in the US Israeli war against Iran. One widow, Libby Klinner, wrote on social media that the US Air Force has deemed her ineligible for additional benefits following

the death of her husband, Major Alex Klinner, 33, because Congress hadn't officially declared war. That's some military command, isn't it?

So how is the oil market responding to all of this? Well, predictably the price of oil is up again today. This is the price level as of about 30 minutes ago. So that would be 6.30 a.m. Eastern time, or 1.30 p.m. Athens time. And as you can see, the price of oil was up slightly by 0.6% at 96.87. Earlier this morning, it was actually well above \$97. And this chart that you see up on the screen shows price movements for Brent crude over the past month. And clearly there is a sharp upward trajectory, starting from the beginning of I'd say around the first week of August. And up until the current time, there was a dip for completely mysterious reasons around August 26th to 28th, but since then it has been climbing relentlessly and it looks very much folks as though we're heading back above \$100 a barrel for Brent crude. Remember that the price of Brent crude was a little more than sixty dollars at the beginning of the year and it began to climb as people became increasingly concerned that the US and Israel were going to attack Iran. And then it soared to well above a hundred dollars I think it was actually close to a hundred and twenty at one point and then the US and other countries flooded oil markets with their strategic reserves of oil and also China for reasons that aren't entirely clear cut its imports of oil dramatically and Donald Trump engaged in all sorts of shenanigans including outright lying about the status of peace talks and the prospects of the war coming to an end. But all of that, all of those efforts are now coming to naught. The strategic petroleum reserves, particularly the United States, are getting dangerously low. It appears to some degree the Chinese have returned to pre-war levels of imports or in the process of doing so. And no sane person takes seriously any claims by Donald Trump that peace is just around the corner. We're all going to be clasping hands and singing Kumbaya.

In fact, Trump isn't even lying anymore. I think he finally understood that the market doesn't take him seriously, and he's trying to salvage the smidgen of credibility that he may retain with some market participants. In any case, this is going to be a very painful economic period indeed for people all around the world. And it's not the price of Brent crude, which is problematic from an economic perspective. This report just came out today. It was published by Reuters. This is a follow-on article by OilPrice.com about the Reuters piece and basically citing industry experts Reuters is predicting severe shortages of shipping fuel in the third quarter of this year which just began. And the article reads: "Supply of fuel oil for the shipping industry is getting squeezed by the war-driven tightness in diesel fuel as refineries prioritise the latter over the former, Reuters has reported, with Asia set to suffer the most severe blow." And of course, Japan and South Korea and Pakistan and the Philippines, all of them allies of the United States, are extremely dependent on imported oil, particularly from the region of West Asia. The article continues, "The shortage is seen at 218,000 barrels daily in the current quarter, according to Energy Aspects, as quoted by Reuters, which would be the first quarter of a shipping fuel shortage since 2025. At that time, the shortages was much smaller, at a mere 6000 barrels daily." A tiny fraction of the 218,000 barrel a day shortage, which they are predicting. Quote, "'Due to the protracted supply disruption in the Middle East, we expect fuel oil supply to remain critically tight in the third quarter', Rystad Energy analyst told the publication. Refinery margins are running at record highs across the world as

the energy crisis enfolds. The first aspect of this crisis is, of course, the tighter supply of crude from the Middle East, yet there has also been refinery damage in the Middle East. In fact, per the International Energy Agency, as much as one-fifth of that refining capacity, totalling nearly 10 million barrels daily, has been knocked out by hostilities. In addition to the Middle East disruption, Ukrainian drone attacks have affected diesel production in Russia to the extent that the country imposed a ban on diesel exports."

So it's not just the Western wars of aggression of West Asia, which are creating these problems in the shipping fuel market, it's also the Western backed NATO proxy war against Russia. So you can see that the behaviour of the United States, its vassals and allies in West Asia and in Europe is having absolutely devastating impacts on the availability and the prices of key petroleum products such as diesel, such as jet fuel, such as shipping fuel and on top of all of that, by escalating the tanker war, what the Trump regime is in effect doing is contracting the supply of oil tankers. And if you decrease the supply of something and the demand remains more or less constant, as we all know, prices will inevitably go up. The price of shipping oil and oil products by maritime transportation is almost certainly going to increase as more and more tankers are taken out of circulation, whether temporarily or permanently, by the Trump regime's escalation of the tanker war. So all around, from an economic perspective, the policies of the West, the collective West are an unmitigated catastrophe for people all around the world.

Now, with all of that, let's turn to Palestine. Palestinians in Gaza just held a heartbreaking mass funeral. And here you can see a photograph taken of 100 persons being laid to rest. The funeral procession was held for 100 Palestinians including 70, I repeat, 70 children whose bodies were recovered by civil defence crews from beneath the rubble of destroyed homes in Al-Zaytun neighbourhood southeast of Gaza City. Glory to the martyrs. I just remind you that according to the genocidal Israeli regime somewhere in the range of 38 children were killed by Palestinian militants; that's what they claim on October 7th, 2023. Of course, due to Israel's implementation of the Hannibal directive on that day, a large number of those children and perhaps a majority of them were actually killed by Israeli forces and not by Palestinian militants. In any case, even if it were true that Palestinian militants killed 36 children on that day, in this one strike, Israel killed nearly double that number of Palestinian children and has in fact killed tens of thousands of them and perhaps well in excess of a hundred thousand of them since October 7th, 2023. And yet Western governments have not imposed any meaningful sanctions on these child murderers even now. In addition, the Gaza Health Ministry put out its daily report yesterday of casualties. They reported that 17 injuries had arrived at Gaza Strip hospitals, the few that remain functioning in the past 24 hours. A number of victims are still under the rubble. Since the ceasefire, October 11th, total martyrs 1,344. Total injuries 4,481. Total retrievals 826. The toll of the Israeli aggression has risen to 73,651 martyrs and almost 175,000 injuries since October 7th, 2023.

As we've said many times, this is unquestionably a vast undercount because Israel occupies most of the Gaza Strip and there are credible reports that they're destroying evidence of mass murders. So these are only the bodies that have been collected by the remnants of the Gaza

health system and identified. And I also want to stress here again, the total number of people killed during the so-called ceasefire by the Israeli monsters is 1,344. According to Israel the number of persons killed by Palestinian militants on October 7th was 1,149. Now again many of them probably a majority or at least it's possible that a majority of them were actually killed by Israelis when they implemented the Hannibal Directive, but again even if all of those 1,149 people were killed by Palestinian militants and even Israel acknowledges that about a third of them were military personnel and they were therefore legitimate targets, even if that's true that number is well below the number of people whom Israel has murdered in the Gaza Strip during a so-called ceasefire.

I also want to tell you about some notable news coming out of the genocidal entity itself this weekend. First of all, it was reported that a former Israeli soldier who was serving as a border police officer and suffering from PTSD opened fire on fellow Israeli border police officers in the Israeli settlement of Netanya. And the officers who were fired upon fired back and killed this former soldier who was apparently suffering from PTSD. And Israeli media published a video of the soldier moments before he was shot dead and he's carrying a firearm, as you can see. Now, quite apart from the mental health crisis, the suicide crisis in the Israeli military, which gets worse by the day by all accounts, more evidence has emerged that Israel is experiencing a brain drain. This article was published yesterday, I believe, over the weekend by the Times of Israel: *1,370 doctors left Israel over the past three years, research finds, the equivalent of a hospital*. "Tel Aviv University researchers document extensive brain drain in the 2023 to 2025 period with a fivefold increase over previous decade in annual departures of physicians who haven't returned." Now, in the body of the article, the propagandists of the Times of Israel suggest that maybe there has been a vast increase in the number of doctors leaving the genocidal colony because in 2023 the criminal Netanyahu regime undertook what the Times of Israel described as a judicial overhaul. And of course, in that year, that was attempted and legislated, and that did precipitate large protests in Israel, but what the Times of Israel doesn't mention that 2023 also happened to be the year in which Israel began its live-streamed in-your-face-fuck-you genocide, and that of course has continued up until the current day, and it seems to be beyond the contemplation of the so-called journalists of the Times of Israel that maybe that genocide had something to do with all of these physicians leaving the genocidal colony. After all, some of them might have been bothered by the fact that Israel has been murdering, torturing doctors and mass murdering healthcare workers in general and has virtually destroyed the entire healthcare system of Gaza. Just maybe some of those doctors were motivated to leave Israel in whole or in part for those appalling reasons. In any case, my friends, that is our report for today. I'm still trying to have a vacation, so I may not do a report tomorrow; it depends on how matters unfold in the ongoing wars of aggression in West Asia, but certainly if I do not have an opportunity to publish a report tomorrow, I will do so on Wednesday in the interim. Thank you for joining us today and please stay safe out there.

END

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