



Can Washington Save The Saudi Dictatorship?

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Dimitri Lascaris (DL): In any case, why don't we turn now to more waiting matters and talk about the situation in West Asia, which is reaching levels of escalation and intensity that just boggles the mind. And I'm gonna start by asking our audience a question. And that question is: Have you ever heard of the Yasser Arafat International Airport? And I'm guessing that some of you will have heard of it, but that some of you and perhaps even the great majority of you will never have heard it and that is because it was destroyed by the Israelis. The Yasser Arafat International Airport was in the Gaza Strip and it was built in the aftermath of the Oslo Accords and opened on November 24th, 1998 and it served as the base of Palestinian Airlines. Yes, there was something called Palestinian Airlines back then. And it ceased operations in 2001 during the Second Intifada and was renamed in honour of Yasser Arafat following his death. It was initially called the Gaza International Airport and it was progressively destroyed by Israel during the Intifada and later conflicts. And from that point in time, the Palestinian people have not had no airport at all. And this was a purely civilian facility. How could it be anything other than a civilian facility? The Palestinians have never had an air force. So I think it's important to bear that context in mind when we talk about what has happened in the last couple of days to the Saudi airports and particularly the King Khalid Airport in the capital of Saudi Arabia, Riyadh. As many of you will know, it was struck over the weekend. It was hit by at least one ballistic missile. And I'll start by showing you a very brief video clip that was taken inside terminal three of the airport in the immediate aftermath of that strike.

Now, tragically, a number of people were killed and wounded, quite a few actually. This is a report published yesterday, or I guess it's today. No, it was yesterday, October 10th, by Al Jazeera. And according to the Saudis, and I'm in no position to confirm or question the figures, but they said 12 people were killed and more than 300 are wounded in an attack by, they call them Yemen's Houthis, but the right way to refer to them is Ansar Allah. By the way, I don't believe that Ansar Allah has formally taken responsibility for this attack, but it does seem likely that they launched that ballistic missile. And the Saudi General Authority of Civil Aviation said that at least four Saudi citizens were among those killed and two Bangladeshis. The dead also included, according to the Saudis, one person from the United

States, one from Jordan, one from Palestine, one from Syria, one from Sudan, and one from Egypt. And at the latest count, so this would have been yesterday, 304 individuals had been wounded in the attack, and some were in critical condition, and all were receiving medical care in a hospital. So it would not be surprising if the death toll increases. In the aftermath of this devastating attack on that airport, various governments have warned their citizens not to fly to or from Saudi Arabia, including the United States government.

Here is a warning issue today: "The US embassy in Saudi Arabia is warning government employees they need special authorisation to use the King Khalid International Airport, as well as the airports in Jeddah and Dammam. The warning has been extended with a similar alert yesterday, only specifying the Riyadh airport." So they started out by saying Riyadh, and now they've expanded it to Jeddah and Dammam. I believe that both of those airports have come into it under attack by Ansar Allah and that significant damage was done to them. And the statement by the US embassy concludes, "Please take extreme caution when using all major airports in Saudi Arabia". It would not be a stretch to say that now there is a quasi-air blockade in effect in Saudi Arabia. And this was all announced in advance by Ansar Allah. This is something we talked about in a report of October 6th. Before these attacks, the Ansar Allah movement put out a statement saying: "The aerospace of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia will be a theatre for the operations of our armed forces, and the Republic of Yemen disclaims its responsibility after this announcement."

Now, there's no question that the Ansar Allah forces had the ability to strike any major airport in Saudi Arabia. After all, they've been able for weeks to strike critical Saudi oil infrastructure and military bases virtually at will, causing very extensive damage to Saudi Arabia's oil infrastructure. The Saudi dictatorship was perfectly aware that they had the ability to carry out, to implement this warning. And furthermore, so too were international airlines. And so too, were the governments that support Saudi Arabia. But none of them, I repeat, none of the them, as far as we can tell, based on our investigation of the public record, took any steps to suspend operations at major Saudi airports, to stop or suspend flights into Saudi Arabia or out of Saudi Arabia and no government like the United States government issued a directive to its employees or citizens as far as we know to not use these facilities. And some suspensions happened and some warnings were issued after. Ansar Allah began to implement this threat. So when it began actually attacking airports, at that stage some steps were taken, but the Saudi autocracy did not shut down any of these airports.

Now another thing I want to bring to your attention is that Ansar Allah issued this statement before the attacks began: "Yahya Saree, the spokesman of the Yemeni Armed Forces, announced that from now on humanitarian flights to and from Riyadh airport entry and exit will be allowed for all flights that have received the necessary permission from the Centre for Coordination of Humanitarian Operations in Sana'a, the capital of Yemen." We recently interviewed the spokesperson of the official news agency in Yemen about the blockade on Yemen. And he told us that in the most recent round of warfare on Yemen by the genocidal Saudi dictatorship, they have not even been allowing humanitarian flights into Yemen. The other thing I want to point out is that the number of strikes that the Saudi-led coalition carried

out on Yemeni airports during the past decade is truly astonishing. And this was published today helpfully by Megatron on X: "The Saudi-Emirati coalition conducted more than 227 airstrikes on Sana'a airport" – this is the airport in the capital of Yemen – "between March 26, 2015 and February 2022." Okay, so that looks like about three per year for a decade, no, I'm sorry, no it's much more than that for a decade, I think that's 21 actually, 21 strikes on Sana'a airport per year on average for a decade. The airstrikes are documented by the United Nations. 2015, 67 airstrikes, 62 in the following year, seven in 2017, 47 in 2018, seven, 15 and 12 and finally ten in 2022. And of course there have been many more airstrikes on Sana'a airport since then.

In that time, right up until the current time, I have not seen a single statement, not one by any Western government condemning Saudi attacks or Emirati attacks on civilian airports in Yemen. And despite that fact, Prime Minister Goldman Sachs, the Canadian Prime Minister otherwise known as Mark J Carney, put out this statement yesterday following the attack on the airport in Riyadh: "The Houthi attacks" – like so many in the West, he refuses to call them by their, the name they themselves use, which is Ansar Allah – "The Houthi attacks on the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and particularly the strike on King Khalid International Airport are abhorrent. There can be no justification for attacks on civilian infrastructure. No political or military objective can justify the deliberate targeting of innocent people. Canada condemns these reckless acts of violence in the strongest possible terms, we extend our deepest condolences to the families of those killed and wish a full recovery to those injured." The only part of that statement that I agree with is the last sentence. Of course, we're deeply saddened by the loss of any civilian life. Innocent civilians are constantly suffering the consequences of unjust wars, but I'm just going to tell you straight up, although I don't wish any harm on any civilian for any reason by any means, for me, the people who are ultimately responsible for what happened at the Riyadh International Airport are people like Mark J Carney. And I'm going to tell you why. Because all of this could have been avoided. Saudi Arabia has for over a decade inflicted a genocidal blockade on the Yemeni people. There are credible estimates that they have caused the deaths of hundreds of thousands of innocent Yemenis. I've just given you the statistics for the attacks on the Sana'a airport. And during that time, not only did Western so-called leaders like Mark Carney do nothing to deter Saudi Arabia from tormenting the people of Yemen, but they actually armed them. Canada itself sold during this period \$15 billion worth of weaponized personnel carriers to the monstrous Saudi autocracy. Even when there were credible reports that those weaponized personal carriers were being used to carry out war crimes, Canada continued to supply them. It was Mark Carney's predecessor that did that, Justin Trudeau, and so did his predecessor, Stephen Harper, and I could give you a legion of examples of other Western governments arming Saudi Arabia during the period where it was carrying out a genocide in Yemen.

Secondly, when the warning came out by Ansar Allah, about a week ago, nobody, no Western government, ordered the airlines of their country to stop flying into Saudi Arabia. Their proxy, the Saudi dictatorship, did not shut down these airports, even though all of them knew that this was entirely possible, that Ansar Allah had the ability to carry out this threat. And finally, the CEOs, the executives of these airlines themselves were undoubtedly aware of the

warning and undoubtedly understood that Ansar Allah had ability to strike any major infrastructure project in Saudi Arabia and they had plenty of motivation to do that and yet they allowed their aeroplanes to continue to fly in and out of Saudi Arabia. So although I'm deeply saddened to hear about the loss of these civilian lives, I am going to place the blame anywhere other than on the shoulders of the people who ultimately arm and enable the Saudi dictatorship and who have done absolutely nothing to stop its genocidal attacks on Yemen during the past decade or more. As a matter of fact, I think the people who are most responsible are the leaders of the major Western countries, along with the Saudi dictatorship itself. By the way, let me just share with you some video which Megatron also provided of attacks or some attacks on the airport in Sana'a.

So with that, let's move then to other developments in the war on Yemen. There were, of course, reports by the Saudis that they had, or their proxies in Yemen had retaken the Bab al-Mandeb coast, or I'm sorry, the Red Sea coast bordered on the Bab al-Mandeb Strait of Yemen in a major offensive that was carried out about a week ago. We reported that that offensive was by all indications a catastrophic failure. And just to ensure that the propaganda campaign of the Saudis doesn't get any traction, the forces of Ansar Allah have been publishing videos of their forces on the Red Sea coast of Yemen in the Bab al-Mandeb Strait, and here is one such video.

So let's then look at what has been happening to the Saudi oil infrastructure over the past couple of days. The attacks of Ansar Allah have clearly intensified, and they have been having a devastating impact on major oil infrastructure within Saudi Arabia. So there are multiple reports which have been documented with video satellite imagery – I'm going to share that with you – that the Ansar Allah forces have struck and inflicted major damage on a gas plant facility at the Ghawar field in Saudi Arabia, which is the world's largest oil field. And the name of that gas plant is the Shedgum gas plant. I don't know if I'm pronouncing that correctly, S-H-E-D-G-U-M. And footage shared on Arabic channel shows huge black plumes of smoke rising from the site after it was hit last night. Here is one of those videos.

Sorry, I got ahead of myself. So that is a video I'm going to show you in a moment. That's from the Strait of Hormuz. Let me go back. So that's one of the videos showing the aftermath of a strike on the Shedgum gas plant. Here is another one. And you can see there that a big chunk of the sky has been blackened out entirely from the smoke rising from that site. And here is some satellite imagery, which was published by Mench Osint. It's an account I follow that has been extraordinarily informative about events on the ground. And you could see here that this was posted today: "A massive plume of black smoke has been rising from the Shedgum gas plant in Al Ahsa since last night and it remains visible via satellite this morning." I believe the plume a smoke he's referring to is – it's a little hard to make out for those who are watching this on their screens – but in the middle of the satellite image to the right just a little bit to the west of the Persian Gulf coast, you will see Al-Ahsa there, A-H-S-A, and black smoke rising up to just above the lettering Al-Ahsa. So this appears to have been confirmed, this video footage, by satellite imagery.

Now, in addition, there are multiple reports of other oil infrastructure on fire in Saudi Arabia, but this one is particularly notable because it is in the biggest oil field in the world, as I just mentioned. And up until now, the Ansar Allah forces have not generally struck the actual sites at which the oil is extracted and produced. What they've been focusing upon are pumping stations of pipelines and refineries and a crude processing plant, a very important one in Abqaiq. I believe it's the world's largest crude processing plant. But they haven't actually gone to the source and struck the sites at which the oil is extracted, the oil fields themselves. This may mark a change in that strategy. And I've been of the view for some time that this was inevitable. It was inevitable that they were going to go. Up that step on the escalation ladder, because there's absolutely no indication that the Saudis are willing to meet the very reasonable demands of Ansar Allah, which are an end of the bombardment of Yemen and no more armaments for the Saudi-backed mercenaries in Yemen that are attacking Ansar Allah. In other words, what Ansar Allah has been demanding is simply that the Saudis comply with their obligations under international law. But the lunatic monarch, he's really a dictator – by the way, when Western governments call an autocrat a monarch, you should just replace the word monarch with dictator. It's just a euphemism for somebody who in all respects is actually a dictator, it's a way to dress them up, give them legitimacy, accord to them a certain level of gravitas when they're nothing more than vicious tyrants who are brutally oppressing their people and anybody who poses their tyranny. So the so-called monarch of Saudi Arabia has, like the United States government itself and all major Western governments, assumed a maximalist position with respect to Ansar Allah all these years, wants to destroy it utterly, is not willing to coexist with Ansar Allah, is not willing to coexist with any government in the region that is unwilling to bend the knee to Washington or to the Saudi monarchy. And so it was inevitable, as I say, that the forces of Ansar Allah would escalate eventually. And if they haven't yet struck an oil field, as I said, it appears this is a gas plant situated in the largest oil field, but once they actually set those oil fields alight, you can expect to see drastic increases in the price of oil, the likes of which we have never seen. Certainly not during this war of aggression on Iran, and that is unfortunately where we appear to be heading.

Now with that I'd like to turn to the Strait of Hormuz. Multiple reports and videos indicate that at least two more vessels have been struck in the Strait of Hormuz in the last 24 hours. If you hadn't watched our last episode just for those of you who didn't, I'll repeat what I said during that episode. According to Reuters the period from September 28th to October 5th was the week during which Iran attacked the most vessels in the Strait of Hormuz since the criminal war of aggression on Iran began in February 28th. So they took their attacks on Hormuz shipping to a whole new level and it appears that since then if anything the attacks have increased maybe not in frequency but they have increased in severity, the level of damage that is being done to the tankers appears to be at a whole new level. And you know this is something that the Iranians I think were very careful about up until recently, they were striking vessels but they were not inflicting catastrophic damage on them generally, the vast majority of reports indicated that there were no casualties there was no environmental damage but that appears now to have changed. So here is a video which the IRGC published

showing what it says is an oil tanker burning out of control in the Strait of Hormuz after it struck a mine.

Now earlier today there was a report that another tanker in the Strait of Hormuz had been struck. And let me find that one for you. So as you can see, that is catastrophic damage indeed that has been done to that particular tanker. My understanding is that that explosion happened not as a result of a mine, but as a result a projectile. Although the reports are preliminary, it's not entirely clear what set that vessel ablaze. Now, in addition, the Iranian military issued this warning during the past couple of days: "The IRGC Navy announces that violating vessels would now be pursued and targeted throughout the region beyond the Strait of Hormuz." I believe they issued that report according to the Middle East Spectator a couple of days ago. And since then, a vessel was struck just offshore Qatar and another vessel was struck a little bit offshore from the Emirati port of Fujairah in the Sea of Oman. And so the Iranians have not only issued a warning to this effect, but they have already demonstrated that they are perfectly prepared to carry out this threat.

And in addition, you can see here, this was a report from the UKMTO, which is controlled by the British Navy, issued on Friday. "UKMT has received a report of an incident 13 nautical miles west of Al Jazeera, United Arab Emirates. It received reports from multiple sources that the vessel has been struck by an unknown projectile causing a fire which has since been extinguished. Status of the crew, damage assessment and environmental impact are unknown. So you can see that that's not quite in the Strait of Hormuz and it's actually near the port there. This by the way reminds me to stress a particular point about Iran's ability to stop traffic through the Strait of Hormuz, even if it were true that somehow, and I'm going to come back to this in a moment, the US Navy had the ability to protect vessels that are transiting through the Strait of Hormuz, the Iranians could easily strike the ports at which the oil is being loaded onto these tankers, the ports in the Persian Gulf, or it could strike the ports on the outbound end of the Strait of Hormuz, like the Emirati port of Fujairah. So there's all kinds of ways that the Iranians could put a stop to the flow of oil through the Strait of Hormuz. And if some oil has gotten through and there are, by all credible accounts, a significant amount did get through in the month of September, that's probably because the Iranians were allowing it to happen and there could be several reasons why they're allowing it to happen or had allowed it to happen. The most plausible being that they were secretly being paid a toll by either the Gulf autocracies that were exporting that oil or by the ship owners. And whether or not that's true, it is now quite clear ever since the latter week of September that Iran has decided that it is going to dramatically reduce the amount of oil that is going through the Strait of Hormuz.

Now, in regard to what the US navy can and cannot do in the Strait of Hormuz, we've been told for months by the corporate media and by the US government that the US has been providing military escorts to ships going through the Strait of Hormuz, but they never tell us what that means. Does that mean that frigates, submarines, destroyers, are accompanying those vessels? And if so, why is there no video or photographic evidence to back that up and would the Americans be so foolish as to put their vessels so close to the Iranian coastline?

That didn't seem plausible. So then the question was, what kinds of other military escort might they be providing? And the only other real option is aerial escort; helicopters or warplanes or other types of aircraft. And up until now, I had not seen any video footage of an actual military escort. Well, some Iranian fishermen have just videotaped something that looks like an actual military escort in progress. And here's that video.

Now, I'm just going to pause it there. It's hard for you to see, but just above the water, the horizon, you may be able to see two specks. There's one on the left and there's one on the right. What those are, are helicopters, okay? And ahead of them, it's a little bit out of the image, there is a tanker. So there are two helicopters there, presumably they're American and they are flying at a relatively close distance to the tanker, and they appear to be separated, the two helicopters by several hundred metres. Now, I don't know if that's what the American government means by military escort, but what I can say with reasonable confidence is that if that is what the United States Navy is doing, that is completely and utterly ineffective to protect these vessels from missile attack. So, based on my research into open sources, the helicopters in the United States Air Force and Navy, they might have the ability to take out drones or slow moving missiles, they can also perhaps take out slow moving aircraft like other helicopters, but they don't have the capacity to take out jet powered drones, and they certainly don't have the capacity to take out supersonic missiles, hypersonic missiles, ballistic missiles, or even cruise missiles, subsonic cruise missiles. All the information that I've been able to glean is that they don't have the capacity to do that. And by the way, even if they're using warplanes in those military escorts, the most advanced warplans that the US Air Force has, they don't have the capacity, the warplanes, to shoot down supersonic or hypersonic missiles. I doubt they even have the capacity to shoot down cruise missiles. Again, they might be able to take out some drones. So there's absolutely nothing that the US military can do to prevent attacks on shipping through the Strait of Hormuz. We had on our programme last week a retired captain from the maritime transportation industry. He had 42 years of experience. He had a master's in international shipping. His name is Colin Smith. We asked him about the reports that the ships that were going through the Strait of Hormuz were turning off their transponders. You know the suggestion has been that this somehow renders them invisible to the Iranian military and he said this is complete nonsense because these are such large vessels that they're clearly visible on radar. And the Iranians have radar facilities on the coast, fixed radars, they have mobile radars on the coastline, and they have ships that have radar that can detect these vessels. He also said that they have these extremely powerful search lights that can detect objects on the surface of the Strait of Hormuz miles away. So there's any number of ways; they could also, the Iranians, they could send surveillance drones up into the sky to keep an eye on ships transiting through the Strait. Turning off your transponders isn't going to protect you at the end of the day. So I come back to what I said earlier, if there are ships getting through the Strait of Hormuz in significant numbers, it is almost certainly because the Iranians for whatever reason have decided to allow that to happen and why they might have done that is an interesting question, but that appears to be coming to an end. Now, one other thing I wanna share with you before we end today's livestream is the most recent depraved commentary from the Donald in talking about the situation in the Strait of Hormuz. Have a listen to this, folks.

Donald Trump (DT): Be very quick, one way or the other, either they give us everything or they don't exist any longer. They know that.

DL: I just got to pause right there and say, you know, this is really an appalling commentary on the supporters of Donald Trump. He just threatened to wipe out the Iranian nation. They don't exist anymore. And the people standing there with those MAGA hats applauded and cheered this genocidal sentiment. Listen to what he says next.

DT: But Russia, Ukraine, and Iran, they're moving along at rapid speed. But forget them, forget them, just forget them, it's the eight wars that I've already settled. Any one of which, in particular, like Pakistan and India, they were going at it, eight days, eleven planes were shot down. It was done well. That's two nuclear nations, that would have been bad. But would be far more necessary, think of it, any one of these eight wars, you get the Nobel Prize. I did eight. No president has ever done any; I settled eight wars.

DL: Okay, well, so much you could say about this, much of which we've said before, but the thing that really just blows my mind is that immediately after threatening to commit a genocide in Iran, he claims that he is the most qualified candidate for the Nobel Peace Prize. What more evidence do you need that this man is criminally insane? In any case, my friends, I'm gonna have to call it a day there because I have a family commitment this evening and I don't have my trusted comrade with me to help me answer questions, even if I did have time to do that because Rami had to go back out into the field and continue his investigation. I much appreciate you joining us today and we will be back to you tomorrow with the latest news in this criminal war of aggression on the resistance in West Asia. In the meantime, please stay safe out there and peace out.

END

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