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Help is indeed on the way... but for Tehran's murderous regime

COMMENT

By ALEX WINSTON

For months, US President Donald Trump has framed himself as the world leader who was willing to confront the Islamic Republic more aggressively than any Western leader before him.

The president spoke openly about supporting Iran's protest-

ers, warned Tehran that America's patience had run out, and encouraged Iranians to keep pushing against a regime that for nearly half a century has ruled them through religious repression, political domination, public executions, and fear.

"Iranian Patriots, KEEP PROTESTING - TAKE OVER YOUR INSTITUTIONS!!!" Trump

wrote on social media in January, after the regime's brutal crackdown on anti-government demonstrations. "HELP IS ON ITS WAY."

This came after thousands - estimates range from 30,000 to 40,000 - protesters were killed in two days alone on the streets of Iran between January 8-9.

Across the country, many believed Washington had final-

ly understood the true nature of the Islamic Republic and the desperation of the Iranian people living beneath it.

Now, only months later, those same Iranians are watching Trump move toward an agreement with the very regime he once appeared determined to isolate and weaken, and they feel betrayed.

Reports over the weekend

that the US and Iran are close to finalizing a framework agreement over the Strait of Hormuz and a broader ceasefire arrangement may have reassured markets worried about energy pricing and regional escalation.

Gulf states are pushing for calm, and oil traders want stability. Trump himself is facing political pressure over the economic impact of the war and

rising fuel costs ahead of the midterm elections later this year.

But while US negotiators, through Pakistani mediator efforts, discuss shipping lanes, sanctions relief, or uranium enrichment clauses, the Iranian people are once again being left to hang out to dry and at the mercy of the same regime that massacred them so merci-

lessly only months ago.

The Islamic Republic and those who rule it are good at playing this game. They have a way of dealing with the West that Western leaders still do not understand, despite all the examples and proof needed from the past. It is why Tehran has already begun framing the

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How do Gulf states perceive US-Iran ceasefire deal?

ANALYSIS

By AMICHAJ STEIN

By the middle of last week, senior Israeli officials and their counterparts in the Gulf states had rarely appeared more divided over one question: What will US President Donald Trump decide regarding the war with Iran?

In Israel, the prevailing conclusion was that Trump was going to strike. "It's not a question of if, but when," senior Israeli officials said. Israel also raised its level of military alertness in anticipation of a potential attack.

In contrast, the consensus in the Gulf states was entirely different: "President Trump may threaten to strike, but he does not want to attack, and he will find a way to reach an agreement."

Gulf officials advanced a compelling argument: Trump does not want oil prices to surge to \$250 per barrel just months before the US midterm elections for Congress and the Senate in November. Avoiding a regional energy crisis, they

argued, would remain a top priority.

As of Sunday, it appears that the Gulf officials were right.

Over recent weeks, leaders across the region - from the Gulf states to Israel - understood that President Trump had little desire to launch a military attack. However, in Jerusalem, the assessment was that negotiations would eventually reach a dead end, leaving no path to an agreement and making military action inevitable.

The Gulf states viewed the situation differently. Their growing assessment was that even if an attack did occur, it would likely be limited in duration - perhaps significant in scope, but not aimed at toppling the Iranian regime. Such an operation would allow the president to declare victory and move on.

The Gulf countries, meanwhile, understood that they would bear much of the immediate cost. Lacking defensive systems comparable to Israel's Iron Dome and Arrow missile defenses, they could face missile and drone attacks against critical infrastructure, energy

facilities, and water desalination plants.

Some might even be forced to respond directly to Iran. Yet in the end, the Iranian regime would remain in place, and they would be the ones left to deal with it.

As a result, an informal coalition emerged - from Qatar to the United Arab Emirates - with a clear message for Trump: do not attack.

Some of these countries likely preferred that Trump continue his strategy of maritime pressure and economic sanctions against Iran. But the unifying message was unmistakable: exert maximum pressure on the American president to refrain from launching another military operation against Tehran.

Trump himself made a remark several days ago that has taken on greater significance in recent days: "If there's a deal that's good for the Gulf states, it's good for me as well." In other words, he had no intention of being

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'No rush for Iran deal, US blockade stays' - Trump

Source: US-Iran deal fails to address missiles, proxies

By AMICHAJ STEIN and Reuters

US President Donald Trump said on Sunday he had told his representatives not to rush into any deal with Iran, appearing to dampen hopes of an imminent breakthrough in the three-month-old war that had been raised by both sides a day earlier.

The US blockade on Iranian ships on the Strait of Hormuz would "remain in full force and effect until an agreement is reached, certified, and signed," Trump wrote on Truth Social.

Negotiations were progressing, and the US relationship with Iran had become more professional and productive, he said. But he added, "Both sides must take their time and get it right. There can be no mistakes!"

Israeli officials warned that the emerging agreement between Iran and the United States is "a bad deal," saying

it fails to address key threats posed by Tehran beyond its nuclear program.

"The framework agreement is not good, and even if a final agreement is signed and all enriched uranium is removed from Iran, which is a big 'if,' the deal does not address the issue of Iran's missile program or its network of regional proxies," one official said.

Officials in Jerusalem are also concerned that the agreement could curb Israel's freedom of action in Lebanon and potentially restrict its ability to act against Iranian threats across the region.

"Nothing is final yet, but this is an agreement that could affect whether and how we can operate," an Israeli official told *The Jerusalem Post*.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu convened a small group of ministers and senior

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US PRESIDENT Donald Trump delivers a speech at Rockland Community College Fieldhouse in New York on Friday. (Brendan Smialowski/AFP via Getty Images)

Lieberman: Any Iran deal a 'catastrophe,' PM turning Israel into 'banana republic'

By KESHET NEEV

Leader of the Yisrael Beytenu party, MK Avigdor Lieberman, warned against any deal with Iran, calling it a "catastrophe" as developments on the framework emerged, while sharply criticizing Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu for allowing US President Donald Trump to control issues concerning Iran and Lebanon without pushing for Israel's stance.

He warned that any agreement with Iran "would leave all the ayatollahs in power," making the remarks in a Saturday evening N12 interview.

Later on Sunday, Netanyahu said that he discussed an agreement with Trump to reopen the Strait of Hormuz and negotiate towards a final agreement on Iran's nuclear program.



YISRAEL BEYTENU Party chairman Avigdor Lieberman leads a faction meeting at the Knesset last week. (Chaim Goldberg/Flash90)

"Trump is putting the entire State of Israel through a campaign of humiliation with Netanyahu's blessing," Lieberman said.

"Netanyahu turned Israel into a banana republic," he added, explaining that Israel would not strike in Lebanon because "the United States for-

bade it."

Lieberman said that while there were many beneficial things Trump had done, it was important that Israel knew how to stand its ground on matters related to the Iran deal.

"Of course, it's possible to say no to the president of the United States," he said, noting that he would be able to do so if he were prime minister.

He further elaborated on the danger of the Iranian regime having the ability to produce nuclear weapons.

"We need to understand that when it comes to producing a nuclear bomb, any advanced country today could produce one, for example, Germany or Japan. It's a political decision. Maybe it would take them a

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An agreement that weakens Tehran, but doesn't end the threat

ANALYSIS

By HERB KEINON

It was only natural that as soon as news broke Saturday night of the skeleton of a deal with Iran, the immediate questions were whether it was good or bad, whether it cemented an American or Iranian victory, and what it meant for Israel.

The problem with answering those questions is that the details of the agreement are so sketchy - and changing so rapidly - that any definitive judgment is premature. There is no written document, only media speculation based on unnamed sources about what may or may not be included.

Another complication is that assessments of the agreement are naturally filtered through the prism of politics.

Die-hard supporters of US President Donald Trump and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu are portraying the agreement in positive terms, seeing the glass as half-full. Their opponents, meanwhile, are predictably painting the emerging deal as an unmitigated disaster.

Nevertheless, something is clearly on the table. So is it a good deal or a bad one?

According to Trump's own social media posts, a Memorandum of Understanding is being discussed. According to various reports, the MOU would extend the current ceasefire by either 30 or 60 days.

During that period, the Strait of Hormuz would reopen without tolls, the blockade of Iran's ports would end, Iran would be allowed to sell oil again, and

talks on Tehran's nuclear program would commence. The ceasefire would also extend to Lebanon, halting the fighting there.

The *New York Times* quoted US officials as saying Iran agreed to give up its stockpile of highly enriched uranium. Reuters, however, simultaneously quoted Iranian officials denying any such commitment.

In short, much remains unclear.

What does appear clear, however, is that there is no indication that Iran's ballistic missile program or its support for regional proxies is part of the agreement.

So how should the deal be judged?

One useful way is to measure

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WH lockdown lifts after shooting suspect killed in US Secret Service altercation

Jerusalem Post Staff

A gunman who fired at a White House checkpoint was shot by officers and died after being taken to the hospital on Saturday evening, the Secret Service said.

The White House initiated lockdown procedures when the gunshots were heard, and the lockdown was lifted once the shooter had been identified

and neutralized.

Reporters who were at the scene at the time of the shooting claimed to have heard between 20 and 30 shots.

ABC News reported during the event that the White House North Lawn had been cleared by Secret Service, and that reporters had been told to "sprint into the White House Press Briefing Room."

The Secret Service Office of Communications announced on X/Twitter that there had been "reports of shots fired near 17th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue NW," and that the agency was "working to corrob-

orate the information with personnel on the ground."

FBI Director Kash Patel stated that the FBI was on the scene assisting the Secret Service.

In a Sunday morning Truth Social post, US President Donald Trump thanked the security agents involved for their "swift and professional action taken this evening against a gunman near the White House, who had a violent history and possible obsession with our Country's most cherished structure."

The shooting "goes to show how important it is, for all future Presidents, to get, what will be, the most safe and secure

space of its kind ever built in Washington, DC. The National Security of our Country demands it!"

The shooting suspect was shot and brought to the hospital after approaching a checkpoint near the White House and opening fire on officers there, Reuters reported.

The scene had been contained, and no law enforcement personnel were injured.

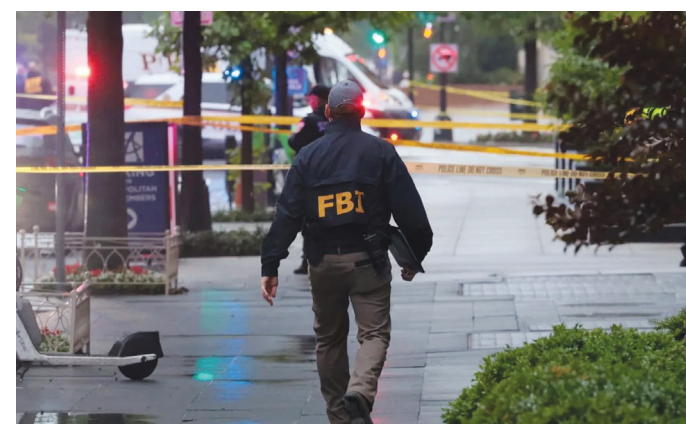
The suspect was identified as an emotionally disturbed person, a law enforcement official told Reuters, adding that a "stay-away order" had been issued to the suspect previously.

Both wounded parties were taken to a nearby hospital, where the Secret Service later announced that the shooting suspect had died.

The White House lockdown was lifted following the event.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu condemned the shooter, saying he was relieved that Trump "is safe and that the attacker was neutralized before he could cause any further harm."

"Political violence, including repeated attempts to assassinate President Trump, should



AN FBI agent walks toward yellow tape cordoning an area near the White House, after alleged gunshots were heard nearby, in Washington, on Saturday. (Kylie Cooper/Reuters)