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Trump declares Hormuz ‘new US territory’

Tehran has dismissed the US president's cryptic claim on the strategic waterway as “delusional”

Published 18 Aug, 2026 15:59 | Updated 18 Aug, 2026 15:59

Iran has called US President Donald Trump “*delusional*” after he proclaimed the Strait of Hormuz a “*new US territory*.”

Trump made the claim on the strategic waterway, which remains heavily disrupted due to the ongoing standoff, in a post on Truth Social on Tuesday. The US president shared a map of the strait and its environs with an area circled out and labeled as “*New territory of the United States*.”

The post promptly elicited a reaction in Tehran, with Deputy Foreign Minister Kazem Gharibabadi condemning Trump's “*delusions*” and warning Iran would “*correct*” them. At the same time, he commended Trump for managing to “*correctly write the name of the eternal Persian Gulf*,” apparently referring to the reported intentions of the US president to rebrand the waterway as the



Ships are anchored in the Strait of Hormuz off the coast of Bandar Abbas, Iran on August 10, 2026. © Getty Images / Ali Saeedi

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'Arab Gulf.'



The exchange comes as negotiations between Washington and Tehran remain stalled, while the two-month window to reach peace expired on Monday. Shortly after laying claim to Hormuz, Trump confirmed that *“no talks or conversations going on, or scheduled”* with Iran. *“The naval blockade remains in full force and effect. The Hormuz Strait is open and operating. All water mines have been removed or detonated,”* the US president claimed in a subsequent Truth Social post.

On Monday, Trump threatened to attack US ally Oman and *“bomb the sh*t out of it”* should it *“get in the way”* of his purported effort to end the conflict with Iran. While Muscat has been playing a major role in mediating the talks between the US and Iran, it has been conducting parallel negotiations with Tehran on establishing a joint mechanism to govern the Strait of Hormuz.

Iran has been seeking to collect tolls for safe passage through the waterway on a permanent basis and has reached an *“understanding”* with Oman on the matter, Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmaeil Baghaei said on Monday. The US has ruled allowing Iran to charge fees for passing through the strait, signaling it would continue to block Iranian ports indefinitely unless it relinquishes the demand.

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FEATURE



Trump abandons ‘hammer Iran ASAP’ approach – CNN

The US president has reportedly shifted to a strategy of attrition aimed at “strangling” Tehran over time

Published 19 Aug, 2026 01:55 | Updated 19 Aug, 2026 03:00

The US has suspended negotiations with Iran and is seeking to gradually “strangle” the country, CNN reported on Tuesday, after its bombing campaign near the Strait of Hormuz failed to yield the desired results.

The US abruptly halted its most recent wave of strikes late last month amid reports that the war, launched alongside Israel on February 28, has largely depleted its stockpiles of precision munitions and interceptor missiles. US top brass have also reportedly warned President Donald Trump that the military has exhausted its list of targets near the Strait of Hormuz.

White House officials reportedly told political allies that they were changing strategy in what a CNN source described as “going from ‘hammer Iran ASAP’ to ‘strangle them’ over time.”

According to the outlet, Trump instructed his negotiators, including Vice President J.D. Vance and envoys Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner, to halt talks with Tehran.



A car displaying missile replicas and images of Iran's supreme leaders during a gathering in Tehran on August 12, 2026. © Getty Images

“There are no talks or conversations going on, or scheduled, with the Islamic Republic of Iran,” Trump wrote on Truth Social on Tuesday, adding that the US blockade of Iranian ports remained “in full force and

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effect."

The June 17 memorandum of understanding (MoU), which provided a 60-day window to negotiate a definitive peace deal between the US and Iran, expired on Monday as the two sides clashed over its interpretation. Iran's key negotiator, Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf, last week denounced what he called *"theater diplomacy,"* accusing

the US of issuing unacceptable ultimatums.

Ghalibaf said on Tuesday that the Strait of Hormuz would remain closed until the US lifts its blockade, releases Iran's frozen assets, and removes sanctions. Iran closed the strategic waterway, which handles around a quarter of global seaborne oil and LNG trade, shortly after the US and Israel launched their bombing campaign in late February. The US Navy declared its own blockade in April and has since been guiding ships through routes that Iran considers illegal.

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F Farangutan 8/19/2026 at 7:37 AM

5

Trump is strangling himself the US economy and his mid term election chances lol .

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 **Shiff Piff** 8/19/2026 at 7:57 AM ↕

-8

nah, you're 100 percent wrong. you must be queer

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K Khikus Filthius 8/19/2026 at 8:06 AM ↕

3

What's this fascination you have with queers? Are you a bit of a kinky American poofter yourself cowboy?

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E Edkic D 8/19/2026 at 9:03 AM ↕

1

hes not in the US

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J Jenet Jonathan 8/19/2026 at 9:08 AM ↕

2

How is the weather in Israelhell hasbara boy?

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E Eyad Mansour 8/19/2026 at 9:23 AM ↕

1

Correct.

The Israeli government seems to have several full-time posters here in the RT comments section.

I think most of us already know who they are.

Shiff Piff and Michael are only 2 of them.

Mind you, they actually get paid to scribble their drivel in the comments sections.

The Zio-Nazis can't stand being criticized.

[Reply](#)

K Khikus Filthius 8/19/2026 at 9:39 AM ↑ 0

I think you might find Paul Figaro and Patrick Walsh also amongst them.

[Reply](#)

E Eyad Mansour 8/19/2026 at 9:22 AM ↑ 1

Nah, you must be an Israeli hasbara troll.

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 paul figaro 8/19/2026 at 4:52 AM

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-12

E Eyad Mansour 8/19/2026 at 9:33 AM

1

The United States is now a circus run by an orange haired clown.

The owners of that failing 3-ring big-top are Israelis and their pro-Israel, Jewish-American billionaire friends.

The Polish Jew Benjamin Mileikowsky (changed to Netanyahu because it sounded more 'Zionist') have now actually caused the United States to move to the left and have perhaps unknowingly, caused the insurgent Democratic Socialists to win several important national elections here.

Trump and the pro-Israel US media can dismiss DSA all they want but they know they are quickly and somewhat surprisingly gaining real political traction with American voters, especially American youth, who have been hit especially hard by Trump and Netanyahu's failed anti-Iran crusade.

Sometimes in life as my grandmother used to tell me, **'you have to be careful what you wish for, in that you might just get it.'**

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