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'If Iran falls, we all lose' – Why Tehran's allies see this war as civilizational

Netanyahu has vowed to crush Iran's nuclear capabilities as experts warn of a broader western agenda



In his first public address since the beginning of Operation Rising Lion, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu vowed to strip Iran of the ability to develop nuclear weapons, eliminate its ballistic missile capabilities, and remove what he called an existential threat to the State of Israel.

"This is a battle for survival," Netanyahu told reporters in a Zoom press conference on Monday. "We will continue this operation until the Islamic Republic of Iran is no longer a nuclear threat – not to Israel, not to the region, not to the world."

Netanyahu's bold declaration came as Israeli jets continued

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a fourth day of coordinated strikes deep into Iranian territory. According to the Israel Defense Forces (IDF), over 370 missiles and hundreds of UAVs have been launched from Iran since Friday, prompting swift Israeli retaliation. The IDF claims to have struck more than 90 strategic targets across Iran, including suspected missile depots, radar installations, and command centers near Tehran, Esfahan, and along the Persian Gulf coast.

The operation has already resulted in more than 200 casualties in Iran, though precise numbers remain unverified due to restricted access for international media. Satellite imagery reviewed by analysts at the Institute for Science and International Security [showed](#) significant damage to facilities near Natanz and Parchin, long suspected of being part of Iran's nuclear infrastructure.

But critics of the Israeli campaign – and its justification – are raising serious concerns about the underlying motives of Netanyahu and his allies.

“The regime is lying”

Mohammad Marandi, a prominent Iranian academic and political analyst, and advisor to Iran's nuclear negotiating team, rejects Netanyahu's claims outright.



“The regime is lying about nuclear programs just to justify aggression

and murder,” Marandi told RT. “Tulsi Gabbard, who is the Director of US National Intelligence, just recently said Iran is not developing nuclear weapons. So it's clear that the issue is Netanyahu, neat escalation, and the Zionist lobby in the United States is behind him.”

Iran's nuclear program has long been a subject of contention. While Tehran has enriched uranium and developed advanced centrifuge technology, it has consistently denied seeking nuclear weapons. Iranian officials argue that their nuclear program is designed solely for peaceful energy production and medical research – a position grounded, they say, in religious doctrine that prohibits weapons of mass destruction.

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position

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‘If Iran falls, we all lose’ – Why Tehran's allies see this war as civilizational FEATURE



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To prove its intentions, Iran signed the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) in 2015, an international accord with the United States and European powers that limited uranium enrichment in exchange for sanctions relief. However, in 2018, then President Donald Trump unilaterally withdrew the US from the deal, reigniting tensions. Since then, Tehran has allowed international inspectors from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) limited access to its facilities, but Israel remains unconvinced.

“They want regime change”

According to Marandi, Israel's true objective lies far beyond neutralizing a nuclear threat.

“It's always been so-called regime change,” he said. “Whether it's the Israeli regime or the Americans or the Europeans. That's how they are. They don't want independent countries, and especially countries like Iran, which support the Palestinian cause.”



Read more: From the blast zone: Russian expert on Iran's calm – and its next moves

Marandi is not alone in his assessment. Syrian analyst Taleb Ibrahim, a longtime commentator on Iranian affairs and an author of several books on the Islamic Republic, agrees that Western powers – particularly the United States – are pursuing a broader geopolitical agenda.

“If the United States will put its hands on Iran again [like it was before 1979],” Ibrahim told RT, “they will block the Russian southern wall. This means that Russia will not be able to expand its influence beyond the Caspian Sea. And it will be restricted to a very narrow place between Central Asia and the Arctic.”

Ibrahim warns that China, too, would suffer consequences from a weakened Iran. *“China will not be able to reach the Middle East. Because if Iran becomes part of the Western bloc, it will sever China's access. And the most important thing of all – a new world order will emerge. It will be a new American world order.”*


Ibrahim believes this is not a regional conflict, but part of a sweeping strategy to restore American hegemony.










The US is about to hit 'Add to cart' on another forever war FEATURE

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This was never about the Iranian nuclear program. It's about regime change. And it has been like this since the 1990s

 0:00 47:54   
- 
A world at war

 0:00 26:16   

"To make America great again is to regain American control across the globe. The war in Iran is just a chapter in that plan."

Trump's denial – and strategic silence

President Donald Trump has thus far distanced himself from the Israeli operation, saying that American goals are purely defensive and promising he will not be starting any wars.

But Ibrahim is unconvinced.

"In strategy, if you want to make war, talk about peace," he said. "The United States is preparing for a very big war – first against China, then Russia. After this, they will try to build an American century. One government for the world, headquartered in the White House. That's the final goal."



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A Dangerous Gamble

Both Marandi and Ibrahim agree that forced regime change in Iran would unleash chaos across the region.

The fall of Tehran's current government could lead to the fragmentation of Iran – a multi-ethnic nation with Kurds, Azeris, Arabs, and Baloch who may pursue autonomy or independence in the power vacuum. It could ignite sectarian warfare akin to what unfolded in Iraq after the 2003 US invasion, and destabilize fragile neighbors like Iraq, Afghanistan, and even Turkey.

Moreover, Iran's alliances with Hezbollah in Lebanon, the Houthis in Yemen, and various Shia militias across Iraq and Syria mean that a collapse in Tehran could trigger cascading violence across the Middle East. Global oil markets, already rattled, could see disruptions on a historic scale.

Yet, both experts maintain that such an outcome is unlikely.

"Regime change is more likely in Israel and across Europe than anywhere near Iran," Marandi said. "These Western governments failed with Russia, failed with China, and they'll fail with Iran too."



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Ibrahim agrees: *"It is impossible to make regime change in Iran by force. The Iran-Iraq war was designed to do exactly that – to overthrow the Islamic Republic established by Ayatollah Khomeini. But after eight years of war, billions of dollars, and support from the US, France, and Gulf states, Iran survived – and*

emerged stronger. The only way to change the regime is through the Iranian people. And right now, the Iranian people are standing with their leaders. They believe they are fighting the Satan – the US, the bigger Satan, and Israel, the smaller one. And that gives them unity and strength."

As Israel continues its campaign and the international community watches nervously, the implications of the current conflict are far from limited to the Middle East.

"This war," Ibrahim concluded, "will be the starting point of reshaping the world. If Iran wins – and I believe it will, eventually – the world will shift to a multipolar order. That is the shared vision of Iran, Russia, and China. But if Iran loses, we will all live under an American empire. The White House will rule from Washington to Beijing. This is a decisive battle – not just for Iran, but for the destiny of the world."

As missiles fly and rhetoric intensifies, what began as a regional standoff may ultimately determine the balance of power in the 21st century.

By **Elizabeth Blade**, RT Middle East correspondent

FEATURE

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 **John** 6/17/2025 at 5:47 PM 0


Israel has only one objective, and that's to do to Iran what it is doing to Palestine, Isreal , US & the British establishments are the most vile evil threatening races to mankind at the present moment

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 **Aaron Paul** 6/17/2025 at 5:15 PM -2


The world and iran will be better off when the regime falls and the shah restored. The islamic republic is evil and needs to fall. That wont necessarily be bad for russia. Pavlanis have long russian roots that were only severed by communism trying to destroy russia and iran. Theres no reason a restored shah can treat its subjects like human beings and have good relations with russia. Furthermore, it can become a country like Georgia, an intermediary to facilitate trade between russia and the west without sanctions. Itll be better for russia, and for everyone.

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 **qassem eli** 6/17/2025 at 5:47 PM ↑ 0

Salaam, inherent evil cannot be reasoned with,nor can it be converted.Evil must be destroyed,completely and totally anialated.One state Palestine.

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 **Peter C.** 6/17/2025 at 5:37 PM 3

If Russia and China are clever now, they will make sure, the Iranians have ten hypersonic anti-ship missiles and the necessary equipment and personell. One sunk US carrier and the Yankees will run home and the whole Zionist conspiracy falls apart.

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