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Trump sets yet another timeline for ‘total victory’ in Iran

Tehran is willing to give Washington “everything,” the US president claims, as he predicts a deal within two weeks

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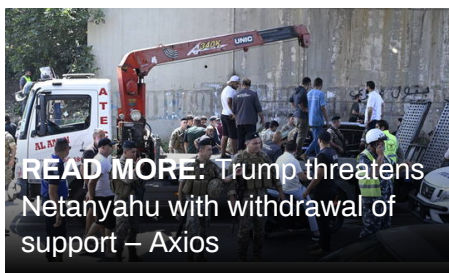
US President Donald Trump © Chip Somodevilla / Getty Images

The US will declare “total victory” over Iran within two weeks, President Donald Trump has said, claiming Tehran was “willing to give us everything.”

Trump made the remark on Monday, hours after Iran and Israel agreed to halt their most intense fighting since an April ceasefire. Earlier that day, Iran declared an end to its attacks on Israel but warned it would respond with “crushing” force if Israeli military operations in Lebanon continued.

Tensions had spiked on Sunday after Israel struck Beirut despite a ceasefire, prompting Tehran’s retaliatory missile attacks on northern Israel and a fresh wave of Israeli airstrikes on Iran.

“We’ve been a very tough team, and I think we are winning that battle, but you’re really going to win it over the next two weeks



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when we declare total victory,” Trump stated during a tele-rally for Republican Senator Lindsey Graham.

“It’ll be a total victory, it will happen very soon, and oil prices will come tumbling down,” he added.

According to Trump, Iranian officials are seeking a “very good deal” and are prepared to give the US “everything,” including a pledge not to pursue a nuclear weapon.

Trump’s latest prediction is far from his first. Since announcing an Iran ceasefire in April and declaring the sides were “very far along” toward an agreement, the US president has repeatedly insisted a deal was imminent. Over the past two months, Trump has said or suggested at least 37 times that a breakthrough was near or that Tehran was eager to strike an accord, according to CNN estimates, yet no deal has materialized.

Trump is also reportedly considering deploying US special forces to Iran if diplomacy fails. Washington is weighing either renewed military action or a continued naval blockade of Iranian ports, with the US president said to favor the latter as a more effective option.



The Iran conflict has also featured in discussions between Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin.

During an April phone call, Putin backed Trump’s decision to extend the ceasefire with Iran, saying it could create an opportunity for negotiations and help stabilize the Middle East.

Putin also warned of “inevitable, extremely harmful consequences” not only for Iran and its neighbors but for the wider international community if the US and Israel resumed military action. A ground operation inside Iran would be “unacceptable and dangerous,” he added.

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Imagine having to sit for an hour in a room full of people who actually take Trump seriously.

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US chopper crashes near Strait of Hormuz

The pilots of the Apache attack helicopter have been rescued, President Donald Trump has said

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An American AH-64 Apache helicopter flying above the Strait of Hormuz during a patrol mission. © X / US Central Command

US President Donald Trump has confirmed media reports of a US Army Apache attack helicopter going down near the Strait of Hormuz amid Washington's efforts to curb oil shipments by Iran.

The Apache choppers are one of the key aircraft used by the US military to enforce the blockade of Iranian ports, which had been imposed by Washington to pressure Tehran into agreeing a peace deal and restoring traffic through the strait. The key waterway, which the Iranians control, accounts for some 20% of the global crude oil trade.

"The pilots are fine, nobody injured," Trump told journalists when asked about the incident on his way back from the third game of the NBA finals in New York late on Monday.

The Apache, which has been in service since the mid-1970s, is usually operated by two airmen.

The New York Times first reported the crash earlier on Monday. The newspaper did not say whether the helicopter had been brought down by hostile fire or suffered a technical malfunction.



Last month, the Congressional Research Service issued a report based on open-source materials, claiming that the US had lost at least 42 aircraft, both manned and unmanned, since the start of the American-Israeli attack on Iran on February 28.

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In early April, Washington confirmed that two MC-130J Hercules transport planes, four MH-6 Little Bird helicopters, an A-10 Thunderbolt and an MQ-9

Reaper drone had been destroyed during an operation to recover the pilot of an F-15E Strike Eagle that had been downed by Iranian forces. Iranian officials have, at various points during the conflict, claimed that additional US aircraft were shot down, but many of those assertions have not been acknowledged by Washington.

Israel and Iran carried out strikes against each other on Monday in the worst escalation since the start of the April ceasefire between Washington and Tehran. The Iranian authorities claimed that the US bore *“direct responsibility”* for Israeli strikes on the Lebanese capital, Beirut, which triggered the exchange.

Despite those developments, Trump claimed that *“we’re very close to having a very, very good, strong, powerful deal”* with Iran that could be signed in *“two or three days.”*

Tehran has rejected American demands to give up its stockpile of highly enriched uranium, while insisting on sanctions relief, the unfreezing of its assets, and an end to Israeli military operations against Hezbollah in Lebanon even before a final agreement is reached.

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Iran’s chief negotiator, Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf, said on Monday that his country’s *“goal is to end the war and establish lasting security”* through diplomatic and military means, adding that Tehran has *“no trust”* in the US.

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