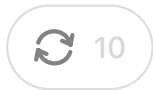
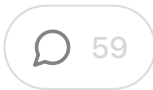


Where Matters Stand After Vance's Theater



MARK WAUCK
APR 12, 2026



Vance went to Islamabad and made impossible demands on Iran—demands he would be rejected and were, in fact, utterly unreasonable. The demands about enrichment, for example, were advanced by a state that refuses all inspection: stands outside all nuclear regulation regimes—not Iran. Israel. The refusal to recognize Iranian sovereignty over a waterway within its territory is equally outrageous. Here is a summary of Iran's view on what transpired in Islamabad:

Megatron @Megatron_ron

54m

US-Iran negotiations failed

Axios: 'Iran refused to give up its stockpile of enriched uranium'

IRIB: "The American enemy, which is vile, wicked and dishonest — attempted to achieve on the negotiating table what it could not achieve through war"

Among these demands are handing over enriched uranium and opening the Strait of Hormuz without confirmed Iranian sovereignty over it.

Iran has decided to reject these terms and continue the sacred defense of fatherland by any means necessary, military or diplomatic."

Source to Tasnim: **"Iran is in no rush. The ball is now in America's court. have some time to reconsider their miscalculation, while the Strait of Hormuz remains closed."**

One of the issues was America's unwillingness to compel Israel to an immediate ceasefire in Lebanon

The U.S. merely convinced Israel to stop strikes in Beirut while 'gradually expanding' to include southern Lebanon and the rest of the country. Iran did not agree to this.

Independent analysis—Jewish Nationalist interests trumped US interests. Hardly a surprise. And beyond Jewish Nationalist interests are Anglo-Zionist Empire interests, including the big energy companies, which know that loss of control over Persian Gulf energy means loss of dollar hegemony and loss of empire. The war must continue because it's existential for the Empire.

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8h

Al Mayadeen analyst Musa Assi: Vance's uranium/nuclear weapons expertise is "very weak and cannot be believed."

Iran has repeatedly said it doesn't want nuclear weapons and is ready to reduce uranium enrichment to very low levels for civilian use. Everyone is convinced Iran does not have the intention to produce a nuclear weapon.

The real reasons for failure:

First: **Israel succeeded in sabotaging negotiations by insisting on continuing the war on Lebanon**, violating the ceasefire that Trump had agreed to as a

precondition.

Second: The US chose "Israel first" not "America first." Vance called Trump ten times in 21 hours, showing he lacked full authority. The American negotiating team chose Israeli interests over American interests and peace.

Failure may take us back to before the ceasefire. The military option is still on the table.

The US attempted to push two destroyers through the Strait of Hormuz under pretext of "mine sweeping"—for which those ships are not suited. They left after being subjected to close surveillance by an Iranian drone. Was this merely a front for Trump's fantasy of switching from a losing kinetic air war—which has depleted our munitions—to a fantasy naval blockade? A naval blockade would be an overt act not only on Iran but on the entire world. Remember freedom of navigation? Forget it, not for thee! Cutting the world off from a major source of energy? Not only economically nuts, but also militarily unfeasible, half way around the world. The crazy concept floated by people who are living in the past:



Donald J. Trump

@realDonaldTrump

The Trump card the president holds if Iran won't bend: a naval blockade
justthenews.com/government/sec



justthenews.com

The Trump card the president holds if Iran won't bend: a naval blockade
Trump used a naval blockade to weaken Venezuela before Maduro's ouster.

239 ReTruths 841 Likes

Apr 11, 2026 at 9:16

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Trump is sharing articles floating a US naval blockade of Iran, the "Venezuela playbook," after talks fail. Here's what that would actually look like.

The idea is the US Navy takes control of the Strait of Hormuz and Kharak Strait, strangling Iran's economy while cutting China and India off from their energy source simultaneously.

Takes control—how?

The problem: Iran is not Venezuela.

- **The strait is only 33km wide at its narrowest point, every ship that passes is within range of Iran's entire coastal arsenal**

- **Iran's Khalij Fars anti-ship ballistic missiles have a 300km range and are designed specifically to hit moving ships at sea**
- **Noor and Qader cruise missiles, fired from mobile launchers hidden in coastal caves, cover the entire strait from the Iranian shoreline**
- **Iran has an estimated 5,000-6,000 naval mines — including influence mines that sit on the seabed and are nearly impossible to detect**

Sending those destroyers in to supposedly search for mines was nothing but a pretext for intel gathering at sea.

- **IRGC fast attack swarm boats are designed specifically to overwhelm destroyers in confined waters**, a classified DoD war game found the 16 major warships including a carrier to Iranian swarm tactics
- **Iran controls three fortified island outposts** (Larak, Qeshm and Abukhatab) sitting directly on the shipping lanes, **each with underground bunker missile batteries**

Air/sea assaults on those islands would be far more disastrous than the Isfahan debacle. Any such attempt would necessarily fly/sail into the face of massive, prepared defenses.

Iran doesn't even need to win a naval battle, FPRI experts note Iran is running an "insurance blockade," it only needs to strike occasionally to make insurance uneconomical for commercial shipping. That alone shuts the area down.

Mine clearance in a contested environment takes a minimum of 4 weeks, and the US has decommissioned most of its dedicated minesweepers in CENTCOM. It took 40 ships four months to clear Iraqi minefields in a permissive environment.

Meanwhile the USS Gerald R. Ford, cited in the article as leading the blockade currently in Split, Croatia being repaired after Iranian strikes. The USS George Bush is en route as replacement.

Trump may be out-blockaded before the blockade even starts.

Meaning, Iran's control regime over Hormuz as now exercised will place the global economy under intolerable pressure long before any credible blockade by the (US and its vassal navies) could be launched. And what would be the response to Chinese (and possibly Indian—naval presences? This is crazy talk that looks as unworkable as the current war.

I heard a commenter last night suggest that the current situation is akin to Trump having shot himself in the foot—or was shot in the foot by Jewish Nationalist fantasists. He's now trying to to treat himself but has got the bandage wrapped around his neck. November looms.

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Laurie Hudson 7d

It was a bald faced lie to say we were working on the basis of Irans ten point plan. It wa designed to fool them into thinking there was hope. The really hopeless factor is believ country is good. It's no longer a good country.



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Tamsin  7d

I wonder how this self-inflicted Energy Crisis will fit in with our need to roll over US Treas with our Private Credit crisis, and with our AI bubble. We have many very heavy and exp dishes spinning in the air.



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