



Many things are currently possible in Iran, Lebanon and Gaza – including good things

Summary

- What happens next in the conflict with Iran: will an agreement be reached between the USA and the mullahs in Tehran?
- What is happening in Gaza: Is the war breaking out again because Hamas is still refusing to give up its weapons?
- Where do the talks between Lebanon and Israel stand: Can the terrorist organization Hezbollah prevent peace?
- Developments in the Middle East are currently uncertain. Here is an overview of the current situation.

From Sacha Wigdorovits

If you want to know how the conflict between the USA and Iran is progressing, it is best to consult a graph showing the price of crude oil. On February 27, immediately before the US-Israeli attack on Iran, a barrel (159 liters) cost USD 66. The price then rose temporarily to 112 dollars at the height of the war, only to fall again shortly afterwards to just under 83 dollars, before rising again a few days later to 105 dollars.

At present, a barrel still costs 96 dollars. The market therefore seems to be hoping that the USA and the Iranian mullah regime will reach an agreement after all, despite all the failed negotiations to date. And that this agreement will also include free shipping traffic in the Strait of Hormuz, which is important for oil supplies from the Middle East. This is currently blocked due to the conflict.

The latest state of affairs in the repeatedly interrupted negotiations, which are being conducted with the help of Pakistan: The USA has submitted a 14-point proposal to Iran. According to previous information, the central components are free shipping in the Strait of Hormuz, the abandonment of Iran's nuclear weapons program and, in return, the release of billions in Iranian assets abroad.

Essentially, the US government is insisting that Iran surrender its highly enriched uranium because it can only be used for military purposes. In addition, Iran must shut down those production facilities that serve the same purpose and allow much



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more rigorous international inspections to verify these agreements. The American plan provides for negotiations within 30 days on the exact modalities of the agreement.

Time plays for the mullahs

It is unlikely that the Iranian government will accept such a proposal. Instead, it can be assumed that it will continue to stall the USA, as it has done in previous rounds of negotiations, in order to gain time. Because it knows that the US is on its side.

It is true that the Iranian population is also suffering greatly from the current conflict. But the government in Tehran does not care; it does not shy away from violence against its own people and has bloodily crushed all protests to date. For US President Donald Trump, on the other hand, discontent in his own country over the current conflict is becoming more and more of a problem as time goes on.

This is because its economic and financial impact is also being felt more and more in the US. This comes at an unfavorable time for Trump: mid-term elections to the US Congress will take place in the autumn, which do not bode well for his Republican Party at the moment anyway. If the dispute with Iran drives up consumer prices and costs jobs, the president's party will lose even more seats.

Unlike the mullahs, Trump therefore urgently needs a sense of achievement. An end to Iran's nuclear weapons program would be one such success. But the regime in Tehran knows this too, and it will hardly be prepared to deliver it to him.

For this reason, the American president could ultimately be forced to follow the motto of Goethe's "Erlkönig": "And if you are not willing, then I need force." This means resuming the war against Iran, even though he would actually like to avoid this at all costs.

Gaza: Hamas continues to resist disarmament

This could also be the case in Gaza. This is because the terrorist organization Hamas is still refusing to give up its weapons. This is an integral part of the American 20-point peace plan presented in September 2025, which was first agreed to by Israel and then by the UN. Hamas also accepted phase 1 of the plan, but has always refused to disarm, which is envisaged in phase 2.

Creating the conditions for the implementation of the plan is the responsibility of



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the so-called "Board of Peace", the peace council appointed and presented by US President Donald Trump. This board must oversee the demilitarization and reconstruction of the Gaza Strip. The latest estimates from the World Bank, UN and EU assume that this will cost over 70 billion US dollars.

However, as long as Hamas remains the dominant power in the part of Gaza not controlled by Israel, there can be no thought of rebuilding the area that has been severely affected by the war. In the meantime, even the top negotiator appointed by the Peace Council, the Bulgarian diplomat Nikolay Mladenov, seems to be running out of patience.

According to the Times of Israel, Mladenov wrote a letter to the Palestinian Committee of Technocrats appointed for the reconstruction of Gaza. In it, he is said to have made it unmistakably clear that the Board of Peace would not prevent Israel from resuming the war against Hamas and restricting aid deliveries to Gaza if Hamas continued to oppose its disarmament.

Hezbollah stands in the way of peace in Lebanon

However, it currently seems unlikely that Israel will make use of this "carte blanche". For one thing, the Israeli army IDF still controls a considerable part of the Gaza Strip - as envisaged in the 20-point peace plan for the current state of implementation. This means that Israel has an important protection zone for the south of the country affected by the Hamas massacre on October 7. On the other hand, the government in Jerusalem is currently focusing primarily on Lebanon.

At the initiative of the USA, representatives of Israel and Lebanon are currently negotiating a possible peace treaty between the two countries in Washington. If it were only up to the governments, such a treaty would be within reach. However, the Shiite terrorist organization Hezbollah, which operates in Lebanon, is doing everything in its power to prevent such an agreement. Because just as for Hamas in Gaza, this would also mean the end for them.

For its part, the Lebanese government is too weak to disarm Hezbollah with its own army; only Israel could achieve this. At present, the Israeli army has established a buffer zone in the south of Lebanon in which it is destroying all Hezbollah positions and weapons depots; the IDF is also repeatedly attacking Hezbollah positions in Beirut and northern Lebanon. This is because the terrorist organization broke the previous ceasefire after the start of the war with Iran and has been constantly firing



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rockets at northern Israel, where over half a million people live, for weeks.

Secretly, the Lebanese government is probably not unhappy that Israel is doing the job it should be doing vis-à-vis Hezbollah. But in view of the fact that around a third of its own population is Shiite like Hezbollah, it cannot manifest this openly. This is why Lebanese President Joseph Aoun has so far refused to meet Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in person. US President Trump had proposed such a meeting and announced it prematurely.

Whether Iran, Gaza or Lebanon, the conclusion therefore remains the same: much is currently unclear. Nevertheless, this means that many things are possible and at least one or two things can turn out well. As we all know, hope dies last.

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