



“We need weapons”: An exiled Iranian woman in Switzerland speaks out on the war

Summary:

- US President Donald Trump has given Iran an ultimatum until April 6 to respond to his 15-point offer to cease military action.
- To do so, Iran would have to abandon its nuclear program and give up the uranium it has enriched to date for the production of nuclear weapons. It would also have to drastically scale back its missile program.
- There are mainly domestic political reasons for Trump’s hopes for such a deal. This is because a large proportion of the American population rejects the war against Iran.
- It sounds different from Saudi Arabia. From there comes the request to the USA and Israel to continue the war until the fall of the Mullah regime in Tehran.
- But for the current government to be overthrown, there also needs to be an uprising within the country.
- “We are ready, but we need weapons,” says Nasrin Rahimi, an Iranian living in Switzerland, in an interview with FokusIsrael.ch.

By Sacha Wigdorovits [i](#)

At the request of the government in Tehran, he will wait to destroy the Iranian energy production facilities for a maximum of ten days, until April 6, US President Donald Trump announced on his social media platform “Truth Social”. In response, the Wall Street Journal, citing unnamed intermediaries, wrote that there had been no such request from the Mullah regime. Tehran also demanded that the USA refrain from its maximum demands, otherwise a ceasefire would be impossible.



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President Trump set out his demands on Iran at the beginning of this week as part of a 15-point plan. The key points are Iran’s complete renunciation of its nuclear weapons program, including uranium enrichment and the closure of various nuclear facilities. In addition, Iran would no longer be allowed to manufacture or possess long-range missiles, and it would no longer be allowed to support the terrorist organizations Hezbollah (Lebanon), Hamas (Gaza) and Houthi (Yemen), which it has built up, armed and financed. Furthermore, shipping traffic in the Strait of Hormuz, which is important for the West’s oil supply, would have to be secured. In return, Iran would benefit from the lifting of the sanctions imposed on it and the USA would support it in developing a nuclear program for civilian purposes.

For Israel, such an agreement would be acceptable in principle. However, the Jewish state is skeptical about how the US President intends to achieve it. The worst-case scenario from Israel’s point of view would be an approach similar to that in Gaza or Lebanon: first a ceasefire is agreed and only then a concrete agreement is negotiated. This is because the Israelis do not trust the regime in Tehran and fear that it would only be playing for time in order to consolidate its political and military position.

The Israeli army IDF is therefore continuing its air war against the Iranian military facilities, such as the bases for long-range missiles, with undiminished intensity. As was the case during the last Iran war in June 2025, Trump is also making no attempt to cease hostilities despite the negotiations. On the contrary, he has ordered 5,000 additional marines to the Middle East. These would be deployed to capture the island of Kharg. Iran exports most of its oil from there and threatens the ships that supply the West with oil.

The USA and Israel are now receiving support in the war against Iran from Saudi Arabia. According to the New York Times, Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman has called on the American president to continue the war until the regime in Tehran is toppled.

“90 percent of the population support the USA and Israel”

This hope is also shared by “90 percent of the population in Iran”, says Nasrin Rahimi (name changed for security reasons). She had to leave Iran with her parents



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as a child a few years after the Islamic Revolution of 1979 and now lives in Switzerland. From here, she is in daily contact with her relatives and friends in Iran. “I am glad that this war has come about,” says Rahimi, “because it is about the freedom of our country.” The vast majority of the population would also like to be freed from the current regime, as they are in a miserable situation.

“We Persians are not behind the government, we are behind the USA and Israel,” Rahimi clarifies. Similar to Israel, the population in Iran has an app that warns them of impending air strikes. If regime or Revolutionary Guard bases are attacked, the population is happy about it, says Nasrin Rahimi. In private chats, this would then be referred to as a “chop party”.

Rahimi is “100 percent sure that there will be a regime change”. But before that, the Iranian Revolutionary Guards must be further weakened. “And the people must be armed. Anyone who is given a weapon will fight.” She is also hoping for the USA and Israel in this regard.

When asked who should take power in Iran after the fall of the mullah regime, Nasrin Rahimi answers: “The son of the Shah.” She is referring to 65-year-old Reza Pahlavi, who lives in the USA. His support in his former homeland is underestimated here in the West. “If he says to the Iranian people ‘Stand up’, then they will stand up.”

However, the Iranian exile living in Switzerland only sees Reza Pahlavi as a temporary solution until Iran has democratic structures in place. “That will take time,” says Nasrin Rahimi, harboring no illusions. In a country with over 3,000 years of history, people are used to this.

Sacha Wigdorovits is President of the Fokus Israel und Nahost association, which runs the website fokusisrael.ch. He studied history, German and social psychology at the University of Zurich and has worked as a US correspondent for the *SonntagsZeitung*, was editor-in-chief of *BLICK* and co-founder of the commuter newspaper *20minuten*.