

EXCLUSIVE: Operation Epstein Fury Part 8. Is It Finally Over?

Quotes Stephen Zunes; Wyoming Star April 10, 2026, by [Joe Yans @Joe_Yans99](#)
The core problem is simple: the two sides disagree on what they even agreed to.

Stephen Zunes, Professor of Politics and International Studies at the University of San Francisco and longtime analyst of US policy and nonviolent movements, put it sharply:

“Despite US and Israeli claims to the contrary, Pakistani mediators and others have confirmed that the agreement for a two-week halt to the fighting and the reopening of the Strait of Hormuz was contingent on a ceasefire in Lebanon. European leaders and other US allies have underscored the importance of the ceasefire applying to Lebanon as well.

Israel’s US-backed air strikes have gone well beyond Hezbollah military targets to include heavy bombing of crowded urban neighborhoods. Israeli bombing on Wednesday, the day following the cessation of hostilities in the Gulf, resulting in the deaths of 285 people – the vast majority civilians. This comes on top of Israel’s occupation and ethnic cleansing of a large swathe of southern Lebanon and the systematic destruction of entire villages.

The United States is faced with a decision to either force Israel to cease its attacks on Lebanon or accept the continued closure of the Strait of Hormuz and the likelihood of the resumption of the war.

Meanwhile, the continued support by Democratic Congressional leaders for unconditional military aid to Netanyahu raises questions regarding the sincerity of their stated opposition to Trump’s war on Iran.

Even if the two-week ceasefire holds, the United States may simply use it to rearm and resupply their depleted stocks in order to resume its war on Iran.

If it does hold, it will be hard for the Trump administration to portray it as any sort of victory. Despite the killing of prominent Iranian leaders and the enormous damage to Iran’s military and civilian infrastructure, it appears that their nuclear program and materials are still there, they are still able to launch drones and missiles, and the regime’s grip on power is as strong as ever.

At the same time, the United States may not have much of a choice. Despite the willingness of the Trump administration to accept the enormous costs of the war financially, the physical damage inflicted on US assets in the region and allied Middle Eastern states, the harm done to America’s international standing, and the impact on the global economy resulting from the closure of the Strait of Hormuz, the war appears to simply be unwinnable. Trump is under enormous pressure, not just from the American public and US allies (which he is quite willing to ignore), but international business and finance, reeling from the economic consequences of the war and fearful of far greater damage to come if the war resumes.”