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PRAY FOR PEACE

• Trump should declare victory, bring the troops home, end the war

By the Staff of AFP

As AFP goes to press on May 7, President Donald Trump is signaling that he will be winding down the Iran war—a conflict America was dragged into by fanatical Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. As many prominent America-firsters have noted—including former U.S. Counterterrorism Director Joe Kent—this is the best possible policy move in a sea of bad options.

On May 5, Trump announced on his social media site “Truth Social” that Iran and the United States “have mutually agreed that, while the blockade will remain in full force and effect, Project Freedom (the movement of ships through the Strait of Hormuz) will be paused for a short period of time to see whether or not the agreement can be finalized and signed.”

Shortly after his statement, Barak Ravid—a former Israeli intelligence operative who is now a writer with Washington, D.C. daily *Axios*—reported that officials from Iran and the United States had agreed to a one-page memorandum whereby Iran would limit its nuclear enrichment and open the Strait of Hormuz.

In return, the United States would drop its sanctions against Iran and release \$20 billion in Iran’s money that the United States has seized over



Find the strength Mr. President.

the years.

In early May, it appeared the United States and Iran were already on their way to de-escalating heated back-and-forth rhetoric.

For instance, on May 5, it was being reported that Iranian forces had allowed two U.S. warships to sail through the Strait of Hormuz and anchor off the coast of the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

At any point during the hundred-mile trip, Iran could have attacked the ships with everything left in its arsenal, including underwater drones,

mini-submarines, and fast attack boats, or Iranian forces could have bombed the ships from fortified, dug-in positions all along the mountainous shores of the Strait of Hormuz. Satellite images released by Chinese firm MizarVision, however, showed the two U.S. Navy destroyers anchored in the Persian Gulf just off the coast of the UAE.

In the last week, China’s MizarVision also tracked 117 ships—five of which were flagged as Iranian oil tankers—passing the U.S. naval blockade line that was positioned just south of the strait in the Gulf of Oman.

On May 6, Trump went even further, writing on his “Truth Social” media site, “Assuming Iran agrees to give what has been agreed to, which is, perhaps, a big assumption, the already legendary Epic Fury will be at an end, and the highly effective blockade will allow the Hormuz Strait to be open to all, including Iran.”

Of course anything could change in the weeks ahead, especially considering unscrupulous actors in Israel who could stage a false-flag attack to renew the disastrous war.

But until that happens, the news is looking positive.

Following Trump’s victory talk, Kent echoed the thoughts of millions of America-firsters, saying on “X,” “End the war, declare victory and bring our troops home. Avoid getting sucked into another foolish war. The only people who will criticize President Donald Trump for ending the war are the neocons and Israelis who got us into this mess in the first place.”

For now, we should all pray for peace. (See page 2 for a brief tally of the suffering this war is causing all across the globe.) ★

THE INSIDE SCOOP



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