

TODAY'S MEDIA TRENDS

PRESSTV

JUNE 24, 2026

THE GDELT PROJECT



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IRAN DECLARES STRATEGIC VICTORY OVER UNITED STATES AS MULTIPOLAR BLOC REALIGNMENT AND ASHURA-DRIVEN RESISTANCE RESHAPE WEST ASIAN SECURITY

DAY-AT-A-GLANCE

The regional landscape has undergone a seismic shift following the signing of a memorandum of understanding (MoU) between Tehran and Washington, an agreement the Iranian leadership characterizes as a [declaration of defeat](#) for the United States. This diplomatic breakthrough follows a "40-day war" or "Ramadan war," during which Iran demonstrated robust retaliatory capabilities against [US and Israeli targets](#), effectively establishing a new status quo where Iranian military strength and territorial control are no longer negotiable. The convergence of these events occurs during the sacred month of Muharram, where the themes of sacrifice and resistance associated with Ashura are being explicitly integrated into the national security narrative to solidify public support for the [new leadership](#) following the martyrdom of Ali Khamenei.

While the MoU stipulates a ceasefire in Lebanon, the situation remains volatile as Israel announces its intent to retain [buffer security zones](#), a move viewed by the "Axis of Resistance" as a flagrant violation of the agreement. Simultaneously, the US domestic political environment appears increasingly fractured; the Republican-majority Senate has passed a resolution to [halt military action](#) against Iran, delivering a significant rebuke to President Donald Trump. This internal American discord is being leveraged by Iran and its strategic partners, including China and the BRICS nations, to accelerate the construction of a [new security architecture](#) that seeks to permanently exclude extra-regional powers from West Asian affairs.

MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS

- **US-Iran Memorandum of Understanding:** A 14-point framework mediated by Pakistan that stipulates a [complete cease to wars](#) on all fronts. Iran insists on a "commitment-for-commitment" basis and maintains that its ballistic missile program and [defense capabilities](#) remain non-negotiable.
- **Israeli Ceasefire Violations in Lebanon:** Despite the MoU, Israeli forces continue drone strikes and artillery shelling near Nabatia, while Netanyahu asserts that forces will [not withdraw](#) from buffer zones. Hezbollah reports [multiple violations](#) within the first 48 hours of the agreement.
- **US Senate Resolution to Halt War:** The Senate voted for the 10th time to restrict the President's war powers, signaling [diminishing Congressional support](#) for the conflict. The resolution passed with the support of [four Republicans](#) joining Democrats.

- **BRICS National Security Coordination:** Top security officials met in New Delhi to discuss global challenges and state-organized terrorism. Iran used the platform to advocate for [regional states to choose dialogue](#) over confrontation and to highlight US/Israeli aggression.
- **Iranian Control of the Strait of Hormuz:** Iran has moved from a policy of "goodwill" to [strict control](#) over the strategic waterway, proposing service fees for pilotage and environmental cleanup while coordinating with Oman to ensure [innocent passage](#) according to international law.

KEY GOVERNANCE TOPICS

- **Armed Conflict & Militarization:** Iran's military strategy has transitioned to [asymmetric and hybrid warfare](#), successfully neutralizing Zionist objectives. The use of [fast attack craft](#) and ballistic missiles has been credited with altering the regional balance of power.
- **Diplomacy & Statecraft:** President Masud Pezeshkian concluded a [visit to Pakistan](#) to strengthen bilateral ties and regional connectivity, while the Parliament Speaker attended the OIC conference in Baku to push for [regional security structures](#) independent of Western influence.
- **Macroeconomics & Trade:** Iranian officials demand the return of [\\$24 billion in frozen assets](#) and the lifting of all primary and secondary sanctions as part of the final peace deal. In the US, [inflation hitting 4.2%](#) is cited as a primary driver for the administration's desperation for a settlement.

- **Leadership Dynamics & Governance:** Following the loss of Ali Khamenei, the Iranian public is showing [complete national cohesion](#), pledging allegiance to the "new leader." In contrast, the US administration is characterized as [surrounded by elitists](#) with no contact with the real world.
- **Information Warfare & Disinformation:** The network identifies a "cognitive warfare" campaign where the US attempts to [spin a victory](#) from a significant loss. Iranian media focuses on exposing the ["fake news" narratives](#) of Western broadcasters regarding the US-Iran deal.

DEEP DIVE: TRENDS AND THEMES

The Theological-Military Synthesis: A dominant trend is the framing of current military conflicts through the lens of [Imam Hussein's martyrdom](#). The state is successfully utilizing the Ashura commemorations to transform the "40-day war" into a spiritual victory, portraying the US and Israeli leaders as [modern-day equivalents](#) of the tyrant Yazid. This narrative effectively bridges historical identity with modern defense policy, making military sacrifice a core tenet of national survival.

Fracturing of the Transatlantic and US-Israeli Alliance: Reports highlight a growing divergence between the US and its traditional allies. NATO chief Mark Rute's confirmation that [thousands of aircraft](#) used European bases to attack Iran has triggered [political friction in Rome](#), where opposition lawmakers are demanding accountability. Simultaneously, the relationship between Trump and Netanyahu is depicted as reaching a breaking point, with Trump describing the Israeli Prime Minister as a ["very difficult guy"](#) and publicly rebuking Israeli strikes on Beirut.

The Pivot to the "Global South": There is a concerted effort to portray the Western "G20 class" as a [shrinking minority](#) (roughly 1 billion people) compared to the 7.5 billion people of the Global South who are "pulling for Iran." This trend is supported by high-level diplomatic engagements within the [BRICS framework](#) and a push for regional security architectures that treat Iran as a [regional superpower](#) rather than a pariah state.

INTERNAL DYNAMICS & DOMESTIC INSTABILITY

- **United States Institutional Conflict:** The Trump administration faces an [insurgent Congress](#), with the Senate passing resolutions that specifically target the President's ability to continue the war. This is compounded by [disillusionment from the American taxpayer](#), who increasingly views the conflict as an "imperialist mission" funded at their expense.
- **Israeli Political Fragmentation:** Inside Israel, former war minister Moshe Ya'alon has [accused Netanyahu](#) of sacrificing soldiers for political survival. Hardline ministers are demanding more aggressive action, [exposing deep divisions](#) within the governing coalition as military gains in Lebanon become "increasingly difficult to justify."
- **Iranian National Cohesion:** Despite recent bombardment, Iran reports [unprecedented national cohesion](#). The "Jan Fed Iran" campaign, where millions have reportedly enrolled for sacrifice, is cited as an [eye-opener for the world](#) regarding Iranian resilience.

EXTERNAL DYNAMICS & GLOBAL POSTURE

The international system is framed as a ["theater of the absurd"](#) where the US and its "atheistic Zionist" allies use religious justifications to commit genocide. Iran, conversely, is projecting power as the [champion of all oppressed people](#). The "outside world" is depicted as shifting away from US hegemony, with nations like [China](#) and [Russia](#) forming a "powerful triumvirate" with Iran. Tehran is actively adapting to this environment by weaponizing its [control over global energy lifelines](#) (the Strait of Hormuz) and forging new security pacts with neighbors like [Oman](#) to enforce regional sovereignty.

THE ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT

Geopolitical risk is heavily impacting market sentiment, particularly regarding energy security and supply chain resilience. The US economy is portrayed as ["tanking,"](#) with high inflation and energy costs forcing the administration to abandon its "maximalist" pressure campaign against Iran. Iran is leveraging this by demanding reparations and a [complete lifting](#) of UN and secondary sanctions.

Key Economic Vectors:

- **US Inflation:** Reported at [4.2% in May 2026](#), creating severe domestic pressure on the Biden/Trump administration (notably, transcripts mention both names in contexts of systemic continuity).
- **Strait of Hormuz Service Fees:** Iran and Oman are discussing [legal service fees](#) for pilotage and insurance to access the straight, moving away from free transit for "hostile" nations.

- **BRICS Energy Cooperation:** Iran is expanding bilateral and multilateral [economic cooperation with India](#) and other members to bypass Western sanctions.
- **Nuclear Medicine Innovation:** Iran has developed domestic [SPECT systems \(Pro SPECT2\)](#) for roughly €25,000 to €300,000, significantly lower than imported systems, demonstrating [technological internalization](#) under pressure.

LEADERSHIP CHANGES

The transcripts describe a period of transition and consolidation following high-profile military and political losses within the region.

- **Ayatollah "Side Taba":** Mentioned as the [new leader of Iran](#) following the martyrdom of Ali Khamenei. The transition appears focused on seeking justice for the "martyrs of Minab."
- **Benjamin Netanyahu:** Framed as ["isolated"](#) and fuming over the US-Iran deal, with his media allies [attacking Trump's team](#), including Vice President Vance.
- **Rick Sanchez:** A prominent former US mainstream journalist now hosting ["Unscripted,"](#) used by the network to provide a [contrarian critique](#) of US "elitist" media and political systems.
- **Susan Rice:** Cited as a [critic from within](#) the US political establishment, reportedly describing the new diplomatic arrangements as revealing the "depth of divisions" in Washington.

EDITORIAL POSTURE & STORY HIERARCHY

The lead stories are overwhelmingly nationalistic and celebratory, focusing on the **US Declaration of Defeat** and the **Sacrifice of Ashura**. There is a deliberate hierarchy that places Iranian strategic wins and Israeli human rights violations at the forefront. The tone is defiant yet somber, mourning the loss of leaders while celebrating military "deterrence." Buried stories include the **7.5 magnitude earthquake in Venezuela**, which is given minimal airtime as a ["developing story."](#) A conspicuous omission is any detail regarding the actual **US perspective** on the 14 points of the MoU, which is presented solely through the lens of Iranian officials and their interpretations of "defeat."

GEOPOLITICAL FRAMING

The day's framing establishes a binary world order of "Resistance" vs "Tyranny," with the US and Israel cast as failing hegemonies. For example, the US is described as ["agreement incapable"](#) due to its history of reneging on international treaties.

COUNTRIES

- **Iran:** Portrayed as a [regional superpower](#) that is ["wise and firm,"](#) having defeated the "Expansionist bullying ideology" of the US.
- **Israel:** Framed as a ["genocidal psychopath"](#) entity whose ["dreams of Greater Israel"](#) have collapsed into "nothing but illusions."
- **United States:** Depicted as ["a dictatorship"](#) of the system where "it never changes" regardless of the president, and as currently ["in a position of loss."](#)

- **Pakistan:** Characterized as a [strategic partner](#) and mediator that supports Iran's [right to defend itself](#) through its missile capabilities.

LEADERS

- **Donald Trump:** Portrayed as ["desperate"](#) to avoid an economic crash before the midterms, and as ["acting stupid"](#) regarding oil future prices.
- **Kim Jong-un:** Framed as ["competent"](#) and determined, equipping naval forces with nuclear weapons for ["multi-faceted and efficient operations."](#)
- **J.D. Vance:** Mentioned as an [instrument of US policy](#) who has issued a ["not so veiled rebuke"](#) of Israel.

NON-STATE & CORPORATE ACTORS

- **Hezbollah:** Framed as ["holding no standard of inferiority,"](#) having achieved a "major defeat" of Israeli forces in south Lebanon.
- **UN Commission of Inquiry:** Portrayed as ["principled,"](#) having [slammed Israeli crimes](#) and found "indisputable evidence" of genocide.

INFORMATION WARFARE ENVIRONMENT

- **Narrative Seeding:** The network is actively seeding the idea that the US-Iran MoU is a ["declaration of defeat,"](#) a phrase used repeatedly by different anchors and guests to establish it as settled fact.

- **Propaganda & Psy-Ops:** The broadcast uses [graphic imagery](#) of Ashura (hitting chests with chains) as a visual metaphor for the ["reinactment of what took place in Karbala"](#) through modern warfare.
- **Censorship Critique:** Guest John Bost claims that messages of Iranian bravery are ["censored heavily in the West,"](#) positioning Press TV as the only source of "independent thinking."

HYPOTHESES AND FUTURE OUTLOOK

- **Normalization of Hormuz Tolls:** Iran is likely to formalize a [permanent toll or service fee system](#) for the Strait of Hormuz, effectively turning its geographical advantage into a long-term revenue stream and geopolitical lever against "unfriendly" states.
- **Regional Bloc Consolidation:** The OIC and BRICS meetings suggest a [looming announcement](#) of a "Regional Security Architecture" that may include Iran, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, and Qatar, aimed at [expelling US forces](#).
- **Israel's Strategic Pivot:** Faced with a US-enforced ceasefire, Netanyahu may ["release the reins"](#) of his military independently, potentially [reigniting the war](#) in Lebanon to force the US back into an active combat role.

STRATEGIC FORESIGHT

- **Short Term (1-4 Weeks):** Expect a [massive funeral procession](#) for the martyred Iranian leader, which will likely be used to [galvanize public support](#) and potentially initiate reactionary policies against US interests in Iraq and Syria.

- **Medium Term (1-6 Months):** The US [midterm elections](#) will likely result in significant gains for the opposition if inflation is not curbed, potentially leading to [impeachment proceedings](#) against Trump as signaled by analysts.
- **Long Term (1-5 Years):** A structural [matching of match](#) with China and Russia will likely lead to the [replacement of the US dollar](#) as the dominant currency in regional energy transactions.

RISK ASSESSMENT

- **Collapse of the Lebanon Ceasefire:** Israel's intent to maintain [buffer zones](#) and Hezbollah's vow to [not surrender](#) territories create a high-likelihood trigger for a return to full-scale war. Impact would be a catastrophic regional war. Mitigation: US enforcement of the MoU's 14 points.
- **Nuclear Escalation in the Korean Peninsula:** DPRK's [equipping of naval forces](#) with nuclear weapons in response to US-South Korean maneuvers poses a severe risk of miscalculation. Likelihood: Moderate. Impact: Global nuclear conflict.
- **Closure of the Strait of Hormuz:** If negotiations fail or if the US resumes bombing, Iran has warned it will [shut down the waters](#) and respond with "missiles, drones, and bombs." Impact: Total [collapse of the international economy](#). Mitigation: Immediate release of [frozen Iranian funds](#).

- **Assassination of Regional Leaders:** The US Secretary of War's mention of ["kidnapping"](#) the Cuban President signals a return to high-risk covert operations. Trigger: Any perceived breach of US "interests" in the Caribbean or Gulf. Impact: Regional destabilization. Mitigation: International diplomatic condemnation.
- **Venezuela Humanitarian Crisis:** A [7.5 magnitude earthquake](#) combined with existing sanctions could lead to a total state collapse. Likelihood: High. Impact: Massive refugee flows and regional instability.

GAPS & BLIND SPOTS

- **The "New Leader" Identity:** The broadcast mentions a ["new leader under the leadership of side taba,"](#) but provides no biographical details or institutional background on this figure.
- **US Military Casualties:** While Hezbollah provides [specific statistics](#) (1,347 casualties), there is no mention of US-confirmed figures, leaving a significant data gap in assessing the war's actual human cost on the Western side.
- **MoU Technical Annexes:** The "14 points" are referenced as a [victory for Iran](#), but the specific wording of concessions given by Iran (aside from the [60-day window](#) for Hormuz) is conspicuously absent.
- **Domestic Dissent in Iran:** The coverage portrays [universal unity](#), ignoring any possible internal friction or minority opposition to the "Axis of Resistance" strategy during a time of extreme economic hardship.

CONTRARIAN NARRATIVE SCENARIOS

- **Strategic Stall Strategy:** The "Declaration of Defeat" narrative may be a [US stalling tactic](#) to allow the Pentagon to [redeploy and fix its military reserves](#) in the region, which Iranian analysts admit were "thoroughly degraded" during the 40-day conflict.
- **The "Honey Trap" MoU:** The 60-day window for the [transit of ships](#) could be a US-designed period to refill its [strategic oil reserves](#) (currently at 4 weeks) before resuming hostilities under more favorable economic conditions.
- **Black Swan - Iranian Factionalism:** The sudden mention of a ["martyred leader"](#) and a ["maga movement split"](#) suggests that both states are vulnerable to internal leadership coups that could render the MoU void overnight.

RECOMMENDATIONS & IMPLICATIONS

For Statecraft/Public Sector:

- **Security:** Decouple regional air defense systems from [US/Zionist control](#) to avoid being targeted in future retaliatory strikes by Iran.
- **Economic:** Accelerate the transition to [non-Western economic blocs](#) (BRICS) to insulate national economies from US "economic terrorism."
- **Diplomatic:** Recognize the ["New World Order"](#) where the "G20 class" is no longer the arbiter of international law.

For Private Sector/Investors:

- **Supply Chain:** Diversify energy procurement to avoid reliance on the [Strait of Hormuz](#), given its new status as an "active part of Iran's territorial security measure."
- **Regulatory Compliance:** Prepare for a [dual-track fee system](#) in the Persian Gulf, necessitating new legal frameworks for maritime operations.
- **Capital Allocation:** Reallocate investments from [Israeli-made machinery](#) to domestic or Global South alternatives due to the systemic failure and "total destruction" of [Israeli military experimental centers](#).

LEGISLATIVE ROUNDUP

Legislative activity centered on the US Senate's repeated attempts to [reclaim war powers](#) and investigations into the Italian government's role in supporting [aggression against Iran](#).

BILLS DISCUSSED/DEBATED:

- **Iran War Powers Resolution (Concurrent):** Passed by the US Senate to [direct the removal of US armed forces](#) from hostilities against Iran; lacks force of law but serves as a [strong message of lack of support](#).
- **Abraham Accords Critique:** Discussed as being in ["star contradiction"](#) to the interests of Islamic nations and as a failure of normalization policy.

HEARINGS & PRESS EVENTS:

- **Italian Parliamentary Inquiry:** Opposition lawmakers have called on the [government to appear before parliament](#) to clarify the extent of Italy's involvement in Iranian strikes.
- **UK Independent Review Call:** A petition by [11,800 people](#) for an inquiry into the "Israeli lobby's" influence on British democracy.

KEY STORIES

- **US-Iran Memorandum of Understanding (MoU):** Signed June 18, 2026; characterized by Iran as [Washington's declaration of defeat](#) and a "strategic reset" following the 40-day war.
- **Israeli Aggression in Lebanon:** Drone strike near [Navaatia](#) kills at least two; violation of ceasefire agreement reported; children in [critical condition](#) from pickup truck bombing.
- **Ashura Commemorations:** Millions of Muslims converge in [Karbala, Kom, and Mashad](#) to honor the martyrdom of Imam Hussein; themes of resistance linked to [modern struggle](#).
- **NATO Complicity Revealed:** NATO chief highlights that [thousands of aircraft](#) used European bases, including [500 from Italy](#), for aggression against Iran.
- **Senate Resolution Against War:** The US Senate votes to [halt military action](#) against Iran, marking the 10th such vote in 2026.
- **BRICS National Security Meeting:** Security advisors in [New Delhi](#) tackle "state-organized terrorism" and discuss cyber threats; Iran advocates for [regional bloc politics](#).
- **DPRK Naval Nuclearization:** Kim Jong-un unveils plans for [10,000-ton warships](#) equipped with nuclear weapons to counter US-South Korea military moves.
- **Strait of Hormuz Redefinition:** Iran and Oman reaffirm sovereignty over waters; move to implement [service fees](#) and coordination with [International Maritime Organization](#).
- **Iran-Pakistan Relations:** President Pezeshkian's [Islamabad visit](#) results in joint statement supporting Iran's right to [ballistic defense](#).
- **UN Gaza Crimes Report:** UN commission condemns Israel for ["crimes against humanity"](#) and systematic killing of over [21,000 children](#) in Gaza.
- **US Domestic Economic Crisis:** Analysts cite [tanking economy](#) and [inflation](#) as primary drivers of Trump administration's "desperation" for an Iran deal.
- **Earthquake in Venezuela:** A [7.5 magnitude earthquake](#) occurs during the news cycle; details remain preliminary as a "developing story."
- **Medical Tech Sovereignty:** Iran achieves [domestic production](#) of SPECT medical imaging systems, saving [£100,000 per unit](#).
- **Hezbollah Battlefield Success:** Reports of [Israeli inability](#) to recover armored equipment in South Lebanon; Hezbollah claims to have targeted [85 aircraft and helicopters](#).
- **Release of Gaza Activists:** Pro-Palestinian activists released in [Libya](#) after a month of detention by Haftar-affiliated forces.
- **Germany Security Council Loss:** Germany [loses its bid](#) for a UN Security Council seat, attributed by diplomats to its [pro-Israel stance](#).

- **Kashmir Muharram Processions:** Thousands of Shia Muslims march in [Srinagar](#) despite "Indian-administered" security challenges.
- **UN inquiry into Gaza child targets:** More than [59,000 children](#) have become orphans; report details use of [sexual violence](#) and starvation as tools of war.
- **Rick Sanchez Critique of US Elites:** Former CNN anchor exposes ["elitist" nature](#) of US cable news and its [refusal to speak truth](#) about CIA operations in Guatemala and Iran.

ABOUT THIS REPORT

Today's Media Trends is a public interest experiment in applying deep thematic trend analysis to television news coverage from around the world to explore how responsibly applied advanced AI can help journalists and scholars better understand the overarching trends, themes and patterns of our global world.

No data is used to train or tune any AI model.

Each morning, in collaboration with the Internet Archive's TV News Archive, we apply Google's Gemini 3 to deeply examine yesterday's coverage from each television

news channel to tease out the overarching themes and trends of its news coverage into a richly annotated thematic analysis. Each high-level insight is connected back to the original broadcast, allowing journalists and scholars to understand the dominate themes and trends and instantly click out to the underlying sources for details.

By helping journalists and scholars see the broader trends and patterns of global news coverage, this analysis helps them identify relevant stories and coverage they might not otherwise have encountered and uncover connections, emphases and narrative shifts that enable more comprehensive reporting and deeper, evidence-based research.

This report is entirely machine generated using Gemini 3 and may include errors and omissions. Please verify all findings. No data is used to train or tune any AI model.

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