

WIN WITHOUT WAR



Progressive Foreign Policy Debrief

Intel for Advocacy

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SL: The anti-war majority is rising up to prevent war with Iran

People Power is What Will Prevent War

The past week saw Trump's disastrous foreign policy bring us to the brink of war. Following the unnecessary, reckless, and illegal assassination of Qasem Soleimani, Iran retaliated with limited missile strikes on U.S. military bases in Iraq. Trump responded with more aggressive rhetoric and additional harmful sanctions, but not further direct military escalation.

Many in the media have hailed this as a win. Trump's response was certainly restrained (relative to his usual bluster), and the threat of imminent war with Iran has thankfully [lessened](#). But it is clear: we have avoided all-out war not because of Trump's brinkmanship, but despite it. We should not have gotten to the precipice of war in the first place, and so far, Trump has shown no signs of taking the path of peace. By promising more [economic sanctions](#), he is returning to his [old playbook](#) of antagonizing Iran and perpetuating human suffering. This strategy is what brought us perilously close to another pointless, deadly war in the region. We must not continue down this path.

But the people have not been silent. People across the United States have put pressure on the administration, letting Trump know that we refuse to go to war with Iran. This has been echoed around the world. And it looks like our elected representatives are starting to listen.

TAKING ACTION TO STOP WAR

This week people from across the United States took action to stop Trump and his war cabinet from launching us into a catastrophic war with Iran. Nearly 10,000 grassroots activists called in to a national organizing call led by Win Without War and our partners – [the National Iranian American Council \(NIAC\)](#), [MoveOn](#), [Indivisible](#), and [About Face: Veterans Against the War](#) – featuring U.S. senators and representatives discussing how to organize a strategy to stop Trump's war with Iran. Over 100,000 people have [viewed](#) the livestream recording since the original call.

On Thursday, there were over [370 demonstrations](#) across the country, drawing tens of thousands of participants to tell the administration loud and clear that the American public does

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not want war with Iran. In DC, hundreds gathered outside the Capitol and were joined by members of Congress moments before the House voted to block war with Iran. More than 267,000 people have already watched the livestream of last night's DC rally (online [here](#)).

In Iraq, protesters [demanded](#) that their country not be the site of a proxy war between the U.S. and Iran. While the U.S. government and media continue to [devalue](#) the lives of Iraqis, the united voice of Americans with those in the region is integral to furthering peace and prioritizing diplomacy.

Protesters around the world — in the [UK](#), Berlin, Canada, and beyond — echoed the same sentiments: war with Iran is not an option.

The people have spoken; we must continue to speak out and advocate for a peaceful way forward with Iran. Iranian activists have spent decades fighting for peace, [women's rights](#), [normalized relations](#) with the U.S., and a more just and democratic society. Trump's actions have sidelined [these voices](#) — the very ones that we should be uplifting and empowering — and instead [rallied support](#) for the regime's hardliners. To counter Trump and achieve a more peaceful future that benefits all, we must continue to work with and amplify voices in Iran calling for change.

It is clear the Trump administration is [undermining](#) the change needed for normalized relations between the U.S. and Iran, which is why it is so necessary that people in the United States, Iraq, Iran, and around the world continue to make themselves heard, mobilize, and work together to demand Trump does not further escalate tensions.

HOW WE MOVE FORWARD

Diplomacy must be prioritized. The Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (the Iran Nuclear Deal) was an important and promising start to normalizing relations between the U.S. and Iran; rather than more "[punishing](#)" sanctions, the U.S. should take Iran up on its offer to return to its commitments under the JCPOA in exchange for U.S. compliance to the deal via sanctions relief.

Congress has also begun to make moves to curtail Trump's power to unilaterally wage war. On Thursday, the House of Representatives [approved](#) a war powers resolution which makes clear Trump must seek congressional approval for a war with Iran. Congress must also put up additional roadblocks to rein in unilateral action by President Trump for war with Iran, including swiftly passing legislation to ensure no funds are used for unauthorized war with Iran and to repeal the 2002 Authorization for Use of Military Force (AUMF), a 17-year-old law that the current administration claimed - without merit - provided authority for its Soleimani operation. (See more [here](#))

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In the meantime, sustained pressure from below, that is, from grassroots activism and protests, is what will continue to sway Trump's calculus and is essential to preventing yet another catastrophic war of choice.

BURIED LEDES

Mainstream media outlets **spread false information and amplified hawkish voices leading up to the invasion of Iraq in 2002 and are [once again](#) relying on pro-war voices in discussions on Iran.**

Trump loves supporting a dictator, until it comes to Iran. He and his supporters are [pushing](#) the false narrative that Democrats are grieving Soleimani's death in search of moral high ground.

Trump moved to [expand](#) his racist, inhumane immigration policies, **announcing the U.S. may start deporting Mexican migrants to Guatemala.**

Americans want the Pentagon budget [reduced](#) and for that money to be invested in other kinds of jobs in their communities. (They also aren't into "threats of mass genocide" shaping our national security policies 🙄)

There's been a lot of talk about the power of the Saudi Crown Prince, known as MBS. **But it might really be [the UAE's Crown Prince known as MBZ](#) calling many of the shots in the Middle East.**

The EU is [funding](#) construction projects in Eritrea built by forced-laborers. Those funds are supposed to go to addressing the root causes of forced migration.

After Secretary of State Mike **Pompeo informed Iraq the U.S. military plans to stay (cough: occupy) indefinitely, the Iraqi Prime Minister Adel Abdul Mahdi asked the U.S. to send a delegation to discuss troop withdrawal.** Awkwaaaard.

Your weekly reminder that **climate change is [real](#): 2019 was the second hottest year on record.** (And Australia is [still burning](#) – with 1 billion animals and dozens of people killed.)

The Vice President of the Philippines [condemned](#) President Duterte's "war on drugs" saying **only one percent of the total estimated drugs in the country have been seized and tens of thousands of civilians have been killed** over the past three years.

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Authoritarian leaders **Vladimir Putin of Russia and Recep Tayyip Erdoğan of Turkey** [called for a cease-fire in the Libyan civil war](#) after both countries have backed different warring parties, fueling the bloodshed.

France's [transportation strike](#) has become its longest in decades. Meanwhile, millions of Indians joined a one-day [general strike](#) in protest of the Modi government's economic policies. (Looking at you next U.S.)

And finally, not sure what to do with your left-over Christmas tree? [These alpacas](#) in the UK would be happy to snack on it!