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country." If no deal is reached, he said, he is "considering blowing everything up and taking over the oil." On ABC's *This Week*, he told Jonathan Karl that the Strait of Hormuz could be run as "a joint venture" between the United States and Iran.

Trump also announced on social media that the destroyer USS Spruance had seized the Iranian-flagged cargo ship *Touska* in the Gulf of Oman, firing into its engine room and putting Marines on board.

Iran's state news agency IRNA then said Tehran would not attend the second round of negotiations supposedly scheduled for Monday in Islamabad. The Pakistani capital was placed under lockdown Sunday night, with 10,000 additional security forces deployed.

Trump's threats and the US seizure of the Iranian ship came on Day 51 of the US-Israeli war on Iran, on the 12th day of a two-week ceasefire set to expire within 72 hours. On Friday, Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi posted on X that the Strait of Hormuz was open to commercial shipping on a route close to the Iranian coast.

Nineteen ships transited the Strait on Friday and Saturday morning, the first meaningful movement of cargo since the February 28 start of the war. The United States did not reciprocate the Iranian reopening, however. Because the US Navy maintained its blockade of Iran's ports, Iran could not export a single barrel of oil.

On Saturday evening, the Revolutionary Guard announced over Iranian state media that the Strait

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law.

On CNN's *State of the Union*, Jake Tapper asked Representative Elise Stefanik, chair of House Republican Leadership, whether a president should threaten to “wipe out an entire civilization.” She would not answer the question directly, pivoting to defend Trump's language as directed at “the Iranian regime” rather than at the country as a whole.

The ceasefire in Lebanon, brokered at midnight Friday, was broken within 48 hours. On Saturday morning, an Israeli drone killed a motorcyclist in Kounine, in the Bint Jbeil district. The Israeli military defended the strike under a “Yellow Line” doctrine applied to 55 towns in the Lebanese south, modeled on the occupation grid used in Gaza. The same morning, French Staff Sergeant Florian Montorio of the 17th Parachute Engineer Regiment, serving with the UN peacekeeping force, was killed and three fellow soldiers wounded near Ghandouriyeh.

Lebanese government casualty figures now stand at 2,167 killed, including 172 children, and 7,061 wounded. In Iran, the Al Jazeera casualty tracker records 2,076 dead—including 240 women and 212 children—with 26,500 wounded; the independent monitor HRANA puts the total at 3,636. The Pentagon has acknowledged 13 US service members killed in combat. The US average price of gasoline is now \$4.09 a gallon. US Energy Secretary Chris Wright said Sunday on CNN that it will not fall below \$3 this year.

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The Sunday television interview programs of April 19, 2026 are a portrait of a ruling class with no significant opposition to mass murder. The sitting president threatens the destruction of the civilian infrastructure on which 90 million people depend. His ambassador to the United Nations defends the threat by citing the fire bombing of Dresden in World War II. A former senior Biden official admits on camera that the previous administration had war-gamed the same strikes.

The war on Iran is the policy of both parties of American capital, backed by their German, British and French partners, against the peoples of Iran, Lebanon and Palestine. The struggle against this war cannot be waged through the existing two-party framework, entirely controlled by corporate America. It requires the independent mobilization of the American and international working class, on a program of socialist internationalism, led by the International Committee of the Fourth International.