CNN's *The Situation Room with Wolf Blitzer and Pamela Brown*
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PAMELA BROWN: So, given the fact you're a veteran, you have a military background, do you support this impeachment effort against Defense Secretary Hegseth?

CONGRESSMAN-ELECT ADAM HAMAWY (D-NJ): I do. I mean, I think what's been happening over the last two years and how he's conducted himself has been a disgrace, and we need to have accountability and we need more people in positions, especially as secretary of defense. That represents the values — of, you know, the United States, and — and the people who serve in our military.

BROWN: He tried to make the case today that it will be him now and then members of the military next who are carrying out these orders. What do you say to that?

HAMAWY: Carrying out the orders of what? I mean, right now, he's decimated our leadership in the military, you know. So, rather than making a stronger military, he's weakened it by taking those with experience out. And — you know, what we need to do is remove the ones who are actually impeding us in advancing and — and hold them to account.

BROWN: But he tries to say that members of Congress are going to then target the troops who are on the — is that true?

HAMAWY: That's not true at all. We're trying to support the troops. He's the one who's targeting our — our service members.

BROWN: When you say that, what do you mean?

HAMAWY: Well, look at all the admirals and generals that have been removed just because they stood up and had, you know, the courage to say that what you're doing is wrong and that this is not lawful, and refusing to kind of just bow down, um, to whatever he's, uh, he's ordering.

BROWN: You mean when leadership, members of leadership that were fired, that he fired?

HAMAWY: Correct.

BROWN: Okay — how does impeaching Secretary Hegseth assist in your caucus's goal of putting an end to the conflict in Iran and lowering prices for everyday Americans?

HAMAWY: Well, one is we could end the conflict, which is increased gas prices. It's increased, you know, prices in our supermarkets; everything that's coming in around the world is related to the Iran war right now, and holding him to account also is the other half of this is — is having accountability for this administration and the crimes and the corruption. People are profiting off

this war, and — he's one of the people at the top.

BROWN: I want to just talk about the history behind you winning Abdul el-Sayed in Michigan. I mean, Muslim candidates have made historic gains this election despite anti-Muslim rhetoric on the campaign trail. What do you think about that? Do you think that this marks an end to that kind of political rhetoric?

HAMAWY: It's a step in the right direction. It's not the end. Unfortunately, there's — there is a politics of hate and division that's out there. We've shown that it's not working, but we still have some work, some work to do.

BROWN: What kind of — do you get — what kind of response have you gotten since you were —

HAMAWY: I've gotten hate myself, and — and it's not just me. I mean, I expect that jumping into politics, but it's against my family, against my coworkers, against my friends. And — but, you know, hate is loud, and what we showed last Tuesday is that that's not the majority.

BROWN: Mmmm.

HAMAWY: Americans are seeing through this — that, you know, rhetoric is really a distraction to the real issues that the American people face, and the people of New Jersey, you know, want to fix health care. They want education, they want childcare, they want, you know, our gas prices to go down. And so, their — you know, their — use of hate is just because they have nothing else to talk about.

BROWN: Aw, I'm sorry that your family and friends have gone through that. That's unacceptable, you as well. You have been critical of Israel. You've called for cutting off all military aid to Israel, including funding for the Iron Dome. Would you oppose funding for any missile defense systems that could protect U.S. troops in the region as well?

HAMAWY: Well, you know, U.S. troops is one thing, but we're talking about aid to certain countries, and it's really following our own laws. Leahy laws say that we should not providing any military aid to any country who's violating human rights laws, so that's Israel right there at the top. But any other country as well, and we're not asking for a new law. We're just asking for enforcement of what we currently have in place.

BROWN: So, what about the defense missiles that could help protect military members of the U.S. in the region?

HAMAWY: When our military moves around, we have our forces that move, and that's not necessarily part of any kind of aid system. So, when we go to any theater — we have, you know, our militaries there. So, our batteries will move, and it belongs to us, and it's under our control. That's different than giving it to someone else.

BROWN: So you don't want any, any aid at all, any funding for military — resources, equipment to Israel.

HAMAWY: Correct.

BROWN: Do you see Iran as the adversary and Israel as an ally to the U.S.?

HAMAWY: Well, now, what I see is that we are pushed into this war by Israel. It's not helping Americans. Americans didn't ask for it. It's illegal, it's immoral, and at this point, I think the United States and the Iranians want this war to end.

BROWN: Do you see Iran as the adversary?

HAMAWY: I see we pushed them into a fight. And so, I think we both have to step back and say, is this helping either one of us?

BROWN: But are they the adversary?

HAMAWY: They're — we're making adversaries when we should be making friends.

BROWN: We've been saying, death to America for decades.

HAMAWY: We've been saying death to Iran for decades as well. And so, what we need to do is use diplomacy.

BROWN: They've killed a lot of Americans.

HAMAWY: And we've killed a lot of them as well.

BROWN: So — so, you — so, you don't see Iran as an adversary?

HAMAWY: I see that we are pushing Iran into a fight when we have the leverage to kind of bring them to the table, and we did that during the Obama administration, and we could do that again if we use, you know, diplomacy, our leverage — are both economic, not just military power — to create friends in the region to pressure them as well. Um, and to bring peace to the region if we want to.

BROWN: So — do you see Israel as the adversary, then?

HAMAWY: I see, you know, I want America to succeed. And so, I want America to be at peace. I want America to have as many friends and allies around the world as possible, and we do that by again, exerting our diplomatic and economic power, um, to the benefit of people to make more friends rather than make more enemies, and I see that we are moving in the wrong direction. I think America today is less safe. You know, since we started the war — we are, you know, more — we've created more enemies. We've lost allies because of this, and that doesn't

make — doesn't help anyone, including I'm not even like talking about the economic impacts that we've had.

BROWN: So — so basically, bottom line, you don't want to say whether Israel is an adversary or ally, and same with Iran?

HAMAWY: I'm saying that that doesn't help us. We're in the middle of a war right now that is making American lives worse. We're putting our troops at risk. We're creating, you know, an economic crisis that we don't need, and so the blame game doesn't help. So, how do we get out of this?

BROWN: Yeah. But as a member, you know, you're — you're going to be a representative, right — member of Congress?

HAMAWY: Right.

BROWN: I think people want to understand your views and have clarity of how you view various — various countries and whether you view the country that we're currently at war with, whether or not you agree with the war —

HAMAWY: Yeah.

BROWN: — as a — as an adversary and whether you think it's a worthy objective to make sure that they don't have nuclear weapons that could be used against our allies?

HAMAWY: I think that is a worthy objective. There's different ways we could do that. We could do that by going into war, putting our troops at risk, and creating an economic crisis, or we could do it diplomatically, like the Obama administration did. You know, I don't agree with the Iranian government. I think it's an authoritarian government. It's a dictatorship. It's not good for its people. But going toward this way is not — it's made it actually worse. It's made it more radical, and it's created a crisis here at home that we didn't need — you know.

BROWN: How do you — how do you suggest — I mean, I know you want to go the diplomatic route.

HAMAWY: Yeah.

BROWN: How do you see that? I mean, what diplomatically do you see happening here?

HAMAWY: We did this before. It's not like we have to reinvent the wheel. I mean, we had them, you know, make concessions, and we had them on the track so that they wouldn't get a nuclear weapon. And we tore it up and threw away that treaty — that — with — with the first Trump administration.

BROWN: Got it.