

# Larry Johnson: Iran Just SEIZED Control of the Strait of Hormuz – Ceasefire Already Falling?

**#Nima**

Hi everybody, today is Friday, April 8th—no, not the 10th, the 8th or 9th.

**#Larry**

Eighth, ninth, tenth—well, it's some date, sometime in April.

**#Nima**

Yeah, it's April 10th, 2026, and our dear friend, our brother Larry Johnson, is here with us. Welcome back.

**#Larry**

Yeah, I have to check the calendar. What day is it? What time is it?

**#Nima**

Yeah, it's April 10th, Friday. Larry, let me start with what's going on in Islamabad, Pakistan. It seems that two delegations, two groups, are going to meet there and talk tomorrow. The meeting is set for tomorrow, and they'll be talking to each other. But we had some sort of understanding on the part of the Iranians, because they were saying it's going to be based on a 10-point plan, a 10-point proposal. Then J.D. Van said something else. And here's what J.D. Van said, Larry—then let's talk about what he meant by that.

**#Vance**

I've been involved in this. There are at least three different 10-point proposals that I've seen floating around. The first one was something that was submitted—and we think, frankly, was probably written by ChatGPT—that went to Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner. That one immediately went in the garbage and was rejected. The second 10-point proposal was much more reasonable, based on some back-and-forth between us and the Pakistanis. That's the 10-point proposal the president was referencing in his Truth yesterday.

And then, frankly, I've seen a third 10-point proposal that's even more maximalist than the first one, and it's been floating around on various social media channels. Now, here's what's interesting about all this: I've seen various outlets—the New York Times, CNN, others—pick up and run with the original 10-point proposal based on little more than some random Yahoo in Iran submitting it to public access television there, and then people saying that somehow represents the negotiating position of the government. Larry, what's wrong, what's right—what's your understanding of the plan? J.D. Vance has brown eyes; that means he's completely full of shit.

## **#Larry**

OK, it's not a 10-point proposal, and I was going to disagree with your language. These are the preconditions that Iran has established for negotiations. In other words, the statement that Iran will be in control of the Strait of Hormuz—that's not a negotiating position. They're not saying, "OK, we'd like to be in control. What do you think, United States? Let's talk it out." Bullshit. No, Iran's now in control of the Strait of Hormuz. The United States has to accept that. You've got to accept that. The attacks on Lebanon, Yemen, Iraq—they have to cease. And if you start that up, we're walking. Iran's not going to, quote, "sit with you" as these attacks continue. And all this posturing by the United States is just disgusting.

Because, you know, they like to pretend, "Oh, we're in the strong seat." It was the United States that was begging, pleading, desperate to have a negotiation. They sent their 15-point plan, and Iran threw that in the trash. Iran sent back and said, "Okay, these are the 10 things that must be in place so we can have negotiations." The United States doesn't want to admit that. But, you know, for example, the U.S. initially signed off on that Tuesday night. And then—oh my God—the Zionist lobbies went crazy: "They're selling us out!" The next morning, Trump did the Michael Jackson moonwalk backward—"Oh no, we didn't say that. Hey, you better not charge a fee for people coming through the Strait of Hormuz, or else."

Or else what, you clown? I mean, I am so disgusted by Donald Trump. He is detestable. He needs to be removed from office. He is a danger to the world. So it's still not clear if Iran is going to show up in Islamabad. They made it very clear—the drones are still flying over Iran. They've shot them down, but that's a violation of what they requested. Back off. That's the message to the United States: back off. But, you know, Iran still—they closed the Strait of Hormuz yesterday in retaliation for, I mean, they shut it down so nothing was coming in or out because of Israel's attack on Lebanon. The country that's out of control in this is Israel, in terms of their actions toward Lebanon. So it's a dynamic process in play right now.

## **#Nima**

It turns out to be so complicated for Donald Trump to keep Netanyahu under control, to somehow restrain him from what he intends to do. The case of Lebanon is one example. They even talked about it—we had that article in The New York Times saying the text sent to the Pakistani prime

minister was coordinated, somehow written by both sides, the Pakistanis together with the Americans. Then he posted it, and he's talking about Lebanon. In that text, he mentions Lebanon and elsewhere. And here's the thing, Larry—the first version of the text was titled "Draft – Pakistan's Prime Minister Message on X." Who sent that message to the Pakistani prime minister that he just copied and pasted on his account?

## **#Larry**

Yeah, I don't know. You know, it obviously was a copy-paste job. But again, the United States signed off on a deal that it then reneged on, backed away from. And it did so under pressure from Zionist groups, both Christian and Jewish. When the news of this first broke Tuesday night, the Zionists were in shock. We saw that with Mark Levin—he was, like, you know, very subdued. I'm sure Bibi Netanyahu was having a meltdown. They got ahold of Miriam Adelson to, you know, put pressure on Trump. She's going to take back a quarter of a billion dollars. And then Trump, with his outbursts on social media—he is, honest to God, deranged, mentally not fit to be president. And he must be removed. And I'm afraid we don't have a way to do it.

The 25th Amendment is too complicated, and impeachment would take too much time. But, you know, let's just hope that he— that somebody, that Susie Wiles—will, you know, take the lead and keep him from doing something utterly crazy. But, you know, these Truth Social messages he puts out, just attacking— you know, the attacks he unleashed yesterday on Tucker Carlson, Marjorie Taylor Greene, Candace Owens, Alex Jones—just disgusting. A level— I mean, God, he's worse than some teenage girl. He's just, you know, thin-skinned. There's nothing presidential about him. And this is— good God, do I regret voting for the man. I'd take it back a hundred times. He will go down in history as the absolute worst president in the history of the United States.

## **#Nima**

You know, what's so amazing about Mark Levin, as you mentioned—the night before the ceasefire announcement, he was talking about how to nuke Iran, how to destroy everything, you know, remembering what was happening. And right after the announcement, he was saying, "What can we do for the people of Iran right now? They need us. We have to go there. How can we betray them?" You know, he was talking about nuking the Iranian people, and the next day he was talking about saving them, helping, liberating Iranians.

## **#Larry**

Yeah. No, I mean, there's just no—again, these are not rational human beings. The whole Zionist cause is built on an entire fraud, a lie. You know, "God gave us this land, God loves us more than everybody else." Oh, shove it, okay? I am just tired of hearing it. I join those who are anti-Zionist. It is an evil, evil cult. That's the best way to describe it.

## **#Nima**

Larry, how much of what has happened has to do with this decision by Donald Trump? My understanding was that Iran has never changed its position since the war started. They always asked for points. But it was Donald Trump, on his part, who accepted it—who went to negotiate on those points. That's why it was all his decision, the deadline. It was about him, not about negotiating with the Iranians.

## **#Larry**

Yeah, just think about it. The reality is, the United States has been pressing the Pakistanis, the Egyptians, Turkey—they've been pleading with them: get a hold of those Iranians, we want to have talks, please. Well, why? You're winning the war. I mean, you've crushed Iran. There's nothing left. They've collapsed, right? So this is another example of how Trump says one thing, but his actions dictate another. They're desperate to get this stopped because of the economic implications. You know, the stock market still does not accurately or adequately reflect the damage. When Trump announced, "Oh yeah, we've got this peace agreement, negotiations are underway," the stock market jumped, you know, 1,400 points. But the fundamentals of the economy haven't changed one bit. The reality is, there are supply chain shortages, and the price of oil is still going up.

In actual buying today, you know, the futures market has dropped. But what you're paying for right now is still high—about \$150 a barrel. And the United States is recognizing that our inflation is going up; they just recorded that in the market today. The world is basically in a recession. And the economists say, "Oh no, that's not true, we haven't had two consecutive quarters of negative growth." Just wait. Just wait. And Iran, ironically, will be one of the few countries that does well out of this economic chaos. Russia, as well, will be doing pretty good. Any country that's a major producer of oil will have revenues—at least from oil—and they'll do well. Nigeria should do pretty well. But the rest of the world is suffering throughout Asia, and that suffering is going to come here to the United States.

## **#Nima**

We have to understand what the main reason was for Donald Trump—after all those shifting deadlines: 48 hours, then five days, then ten days, and back to 48, ending on Tuesday at 8 p.m. It was all about setting a deadline to pressure the Iranians. So what happened on Tuesday at 8 p.m. that made Donald Trump, or somehow convinced him, that the only way out of the conflict would be some sort of talks between the two parties?

Because economically, as you just mentioned, and politically, we know a lot is going on behind the scenes that we're not seeing, but we understand what's happening with the political side—the MAGA movement, those people who supported Donald Trump in the United States. We know how Democrats are putting pressure on him. But I think the real foundation of what happened was the

military operation—the capabilities on the battlefield—that finally made Donald Trump, or convinced him, to move toward talks. What was that? What were the conditions around Trump—politically, militarily, and economically?

## **#Larry**

Well, I think it's a combination of those factors. Look, you can't rule out that it was an economic play to enrich some members of his family and business associates, because he made the announcement around 6:30 p.m. People had already placed bets in the stock and oil markets that stock prices would go up and oil prices would come down. I mean, he's done this the last four weeks in a row. Remember, they'd all say, "Oh yeah, looks like we're going to have talks, things are going to get moving." And then the next day, in the morning, the stock market would go up, and within 24 hours people would realize, no, nothing's happening, that was a lie—and then the stock market would go back down.

We've seen this roller coaster before, and he's timed it every week—either Sunday, Monday, or Tuesday—for the last four weeks. So we'll see him do it again next week. I'm sure it's manipulation of the stock market. And, you know, there should be some investigations into insider trading. There are people close to Trump who are getting the word and then going out and making money off this. The reality for the United States is that the air defense systems—the PAC missiles, the PAC-3 missiles on the Patriot, the THAAD missiles—they're done. They're depleted. Now they just have to wait for whatever is produced in the factories this month, and then those get delivered.

But, you know, they're producing 50 PAC-3s a month, maybe 60. So that means they could potentially shoot down 30 incoming drones or missiles. But they're not even that effective against those—that's just in theory. The same with the THAAD missiles; they make about eight or nine of those a month. And it's not clear what level of rare earth minerals is required to produce them. Then you've got the JASSMs that are launched—those are running low. The Tomahawk missiles, their supplies have been depleted. So really, the United States is in a position where, if it goes to war with China, that war would be over in a week, and the United States would be clearly defeated.

This whole misadventure—Trump was told it wasn't going to pan out the way he thought. But he went ahead and did it anyway, according to the New York Times. Now he's stuck with it, because instead of a victory, he's looking at a defeat. Objectively, the U.S. Navy can't get close to Iranian shores without the risk of getting blown out of the water. So they keep coming up close, then they get attacked, and they retreat. The Navy is no longer a factor. You can't put ground troops of any size anywhere in or around Iran, because they'd be slaughtered—chewed up. So that leaves air power, and the Iranians have improved their air defense over the last three weeks.

So they're getting more—something has happened with either the Chinese or the Russians—but their air defense has significantly improved. And they're using some methods that are not, you know, infrared, as opposed to any kind of radar. And, you know, they're shooting down more aircraft. That

fiasco trying to rescue that one crew member—the colonel who was in the backseat of the F-15 on Sunday—the United States lost about \$480 million worth of airframes. And that's just counting the A-10, the F-15, the two C-130s, the four AH-6 helicopters, and two Predators. You know, that's almost half a billion dollars within two days. So the United States can't sustain that.

## **#Nima**

Okay, Larry, you mentioned Donald Trump was told—like you said, in the New York Times article—who told him? Was it Mossad? Was it Benjamin Netanyahu? Was it the CIA? Or a combination of all of them? And, after all, we know the responsibility would be Trump's responsibility, because he's the one who ultimately decides whether to go to war or not start a new war in the Middle East.

## **#Larry**

Well, yeah, when you read that article, you have to read between the lines to see, you know, who's— The person most to blame for this war is Donald Trump, because they make it quite clear in that article. He's the one who ignored the advice of J.D. Vance, Marco Rubio, and Dan Cain. Those were the main ones who told him to hold off, don't do it—but he did it anyway. And he was explicitly told this could disrupt the Strait of Hormuz. He said, "No, I don't think they'll do that." Okay, Mr. Wisdom, eat that. So Donald Trump is number one. He bought into the Israeli lies. Israel, you know, they were the culprit in helping set the table for this.

But, you know, both John Ratcliffe, the CIA director, said it was farcical, and Marco Rubio called it bullshit. So, despite his advisers telling him not to do it, he did it. The one cabinet member who was singled out as the biggest cheerleader for this was Pete Hegseth. I took this article as a sign that they've already started looking for scapegoats, and Hegseth is at the front of the line. Because Trump's not going to accept any responsibility for his decision, even though it was his decision. He decided to do this after being counseled not to.

## **#Nima**

I think he mentioned that in one of his latest talks with the press. He said Pete Hegseth was the first one to stand up and say, "Let's do it, we're going to make huge progress." And I think that's going to end up costing Pete Hegseth—he's going to lose his position.

## **#Larry**

Yeah, yeah. I'd be surprised if he's still in the job at the end of this year. You know, he'll be dumped before then. Because this war—this war—it's... unless the United States accepts Iran's demands, and I don't see how they do that because they've painted themselves into a corner, this war is going to restart and it's going to continue. And the United States is going to try to use military force to, quote, "open the Strait of Hormuz." And they can't do it. Look, the threat of a missile or rocket or

drone is enough to keep the strait closed—just the threat. Because insurance companies either won't insure or they'll jack up the rates beyond the point where it's profitable for the ship owners. So the United States is going to try to, I don't know, put personnel in there.

If they try to put ships in there, they'll be targets. They just can't do it. The military cost of opening the strait would mean a lot of physical losses. I think it could eventually be done, but it would take a couple of years, because you'd basically have to go all the way into the interior of Iran to make sure there are no more drones or missiles that could be launched from there to hit ships in the strait. So once you've created a world where there are no more rockets or missiles that could be launched—no more drones, no more submarines, no more mines—then yes, you can say, "Okay, we secured and opened the strait." And at what cost? That's what the West, or the people around Trump, don't understand.

## **#Nima**

I think there's a lot still to be learned about the operation—the whole thing—the number of casualties, those killed and wounded. Recently, with this operation you mentioned, I think you were one of the first commentators to talk about it. It seemed more like a raid, not a rescue operation, in Iran.

## **#Larry**

Yeah. Well, I have no doubt that the Joint Special Operations Command had been tasked with carrying out some sort of raid on a nuclear facility. I think it was Isfahan. I don't know that for certain—it could have been Natanz. Natanz is up in that area as well. It could be Bushehr. There's a lot that doesn't add up. You know, Trump's description of the hundreds of aircraft supposedly involved in this mission—I don't know what he's talking about, because if they'd had that many aircraft over there, a lot of them would have been shot down, and they weren't. What we do know is we had the two C-130s on the ground, and they did show evidence that at least one of them had been shot at.

Now, did the shootings take place in the air, or were those bullet holes the result of what happened on the ground? Don't know. They were carrying—well, they were prepackaged with two AH-6 Little Birds each. Now, on a normal combat search and rescue, a CSAR, you wouldn't go out with two aircraft like that for just one guy. That doesn't make sense because, you know, why would you have two Little Birds on each plane? But they did. And I believe they were preloaded for an operation that was supposed to take place, and with the downing of this pilot, that mission got repurposed.

In other words, they shifted away from it. Now, I know others believe they actually got people on the ground and tried to, but got defeated. But where are the bodies? You know, we don't see any bodies. The explanations offered for why the C-130s couldn't take off don't make a lot of sense, because they didn't land in soft sand—yet they said they got stuck in the sand. They landed on

airstrips. I just saw another video showing there was an airstrip about eight or nine kilometers to the north, but there was also one right in the area where they landed. So again, we just don't have a good explanation.

All I know is the explanation that Trump, Ratcliffe, and Hegseth gave the other day about the rescue was a lie—just a pack of lies. And what's really interesting is they've kept the identity of the pilot and the colonel who was riding in the back seat. You know, they haven't identified them. So I know who the guy is—or at least, yeah, I know who the guy is. I think if it was going to be carried out, they were going to try to get to Isfahan's nuclear facility, get inside, plant explosives, blow it up, and get away. I think that was the plan. But obviously it didn't get executed, and I doubt it will be executed now.

## **#Nima**

But the colonel himself was one of the main question marks in the whole operation. Why would you need someone like him?

## **#Larry**

Yeah, no, I think people are reading way too much into that. A good friend of mine who served—he was at the base in Qatar, Al Udeid Air Force Base, at the Combined Air Operations Center about ten years ago—described how the two-star general who commanded that facility would, from time to time, say, "Hey, I want to go fly a mission." So he'd go out and fly a combat mission. And everyone was like, you know, he shouldn't be doing that—he could, because he was in charge, but it wasn't really the best idea. And I think that's what happened here. This guy is the vice wing commander of the U.S. base there in Jordan, Mawafik Salty. And, you know, I think he just wanted to get his boots wet, so to speak.

You know, this is all going on, and I don't want to just be sitting back. But then he gets shot down, and all of a sudden that became the priority—recovering him was the issue. But again, we don't know what happened. He was on the ground for almost 48 hours, and we've heard everything from a sprained ankle to a broken ankle to a broken leg. I've seen one map that pinpoints where he landed after ejecting from the plane, and most likely he only had to crawl about a mile, maybe a mile and a half, to get up into the mountains where he could hide behind some rocks. But then the issue is finding him—how did they locate him? Yeah, lots of questions.

## **#Nima**

Larry, there's a report on CBS talking with one of the survivors of the Iranian attack in Kuwait, where he describes what happened that day. I think there are a lot of questions right now about whether the numbers Donald Trump and his administration have been giving us are accurate—whether they're accurate in terms of how many people were killed.

## **#Larry**

Oh, they're not accurate at all. There were at least twice as many killed and wounded as they're reporting—at least twice as many. The numbers are far higher. They're just, you know, they're lying.

## **#Nima**

Here's what this guy said—he's a U.S. Army survivor of the attack. Here's what he told CBS News.

## **#Speaker 04**

Interview with a member of the Army's 103rd Sustainment Command, based in Iowa. The soldier survived an Iranian drone strike that killed six others and says their unit was unprepared to defend itself. We agreed to conceal the soldier's face and voice. Here's CBS News correspondent Jonah Kaplan.

## **#Speaker 05**

Photos and video obtained by CBS News show the charred aftermath of the deadliest Iranian attack on U.S. forces in five weeks of war.

## **#Speaker 06**

Everything shook—it was like something out of a movie. You know, your ears are ringing, and there's dust and smoke everywhere.

## **#Speaker 05**

This soldier was part of a crew of about 60 troops stationed at the military post in Kuwait that was hit by the strike. He says his unit's leadership ordered them there despite intelligence indicating it was a potential drone target.

## **#Speaker 06**

We moved closer to Iran, into a deeply unsafe area that was already a known target. So, what reason were you given for why you needed to be there? I don't think there was ever a good reason articulated.

## **#Speaker 05**

The attack killed six American soldiers and injured dozens more. Were those deaths preventable?

## **#Speaker 06**

In my opinion, absolutely yes.

## **#Nima**

He said they were moving closer to Iran, instead of, you know, removing them from that area and putting them somewhere farther away from Iran. What was that, Larry?

## **#Larry**

I don't know. You know, these were not attack ships. These were all, you know, what I'd call admin types, maybe doing intelligence work. Right? It's just a failure to do proper risk assessment. And if you're going to put troops forward, at least put them in a facility that's bunkered, that has some protection against an explosive. This one had a very light roof that was easily breached. So, again, it just reflects the fact that this was not well planned out at all. They're just throwing stuff against the wall, hoping something sticks.

## **#Nima**

It seems to me that the guy, the way he's talking about it, suggests that Donald Trump and his administration thought everything was going to collapse. Then they started moving the troops, the forces, closer to Iran to move in as the government.

## **#Larry**

Well, again, this was about putting people in bases in Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, and Bahrain. I don't know what they were thinking—well, actually, I do. I think there was an enormous amount of confidence, overconfidence, that the Patriot missile batteries and the air defense systems there would work and protect them. But it turned out they were inadequate. They don't protect people.

## **#Nima**

Larry, Benjamin Netanyahu finally got the war he wanted—for such a long, long time. And he literally wanted this war. What's the outcome for him? What's the outcome for Donald Trump? So far, I'm not there, because we're still in the war. And it's not about negotiation. I don't see any positive outcome from these kinds of negotiations in Pakistan. And here's what John Kerry said about the behavior of Benjamin Netanyahu.

## **#Speaker 07**

Were you ever part of any conversations like that? I know he's made those pitches to past administrations. Were you ever part of that? And were you surprised that he was able to convince Trump to do this?

## **#Speaker 08**

Well, I was part of any number of conversations with Prime Minister Netanyahu. But as for him pitching the U.S. to strike Iran—yes, he wanted us to strike. He came to President Obama and made a presentation asking to strike. President Obama refused. President Biden refused. President Bush refused. The only president who agreed to this, obviously, was President Trump.

## **#Nima**

I think this is huge, you know, because he'd been asking every U.S. president for such a long time to do that. But finally, Donald Trump did it.

## **#Larry**

Well, I know that the plans were well advanced in 2006 to try to do a regime change—to take out the government in Iran and put in a government the United States would control. But that collapsed; it didn't proceed. There was active planning for it. I know the CIA was actively planning for it, and the DOD was positioned. But I think it was a combination of the increased insurgency in Iraq that finally convinced the United States they had their hands too full—that they didn't have Iraq under control—and Afghanistan as well was not under control. But, you know, yeah, they definitely planned it.

And, you know, Trump listened to Bibi and went along with what Bibi said. That's the simple way to put it. This is Trump's war. He's responsible. And it hasn't turned out as they thought. It's led to a dramatic increase in fuel costs around the world, supply chain shortages, and the shutdown of some industries. You know, it's going to make it very difficult to produce computer chips because of the helium shortage. Agriculture is suffering with the cutoff of fertilizer and the rising price of fertilizer. It's also led other countries to start getting rid of U.S. dollars, so the value of the dollar is falling dramatically.

And, you know, France withdrew all of its gold from the United States and returned it to France. Japan's starting to sell off its U.S. Treasuries. So instead of a world in which the United States can reestablish itself as the economic power—the superpower controlling events—it's damaged us severely. That's on top of the reputational damage for being militarily weak, because we've just demonstrated we couldn't stop the Houthis in the Red Sea, and now we can't reopen the Strait of Hormuz. And all these Gulf countries that put their trust in us—"Oh, we've got your back"—well, it turns out we didn't.

## **#Nima**

How problematic is the situation between Israel and Lebanon for the upcoming talks between Iran and the United States?

## **#Larry**

That's been going on for, you know, 50 years—46 years. You know, Hezbollah was formed in 1982, partly as a consequence of Israel's invasion of southern Lebanon.

## **#Larry**

So Israel's been on this almost half-century quest to get control of Lebanon, and it's been unable to do so—and it's going to fail this time. Hezbollah is, you know, despite the claims that it was severely weakened and destroyed—and, you know, Nasrallah, yes, he was assassinated—its leadership is, you know, they said, "We got rid of the leadership," and then they used the cell phones, the exploding pagers. And now what's happened? Hezbollah's back. It's fighting effectively. It's destroying hundreds—literally more than a hundred—Israeli Merkava tanks.

And when you destroy those tanks, you're killing or wounding crew members. So there's no telling how many have been killed or wounded in those assaults. But, you know, they're talking about trying to find an agreement. Lebanon's president has traditionally been Christian. But then what did Israel do the other day, on Wednesday? Killed a bunch of Christians. Yeah, that's a good way to get them to come around—go kill the women and children and old men. Yeah, that'll make the Lebanese say, "Oh yeah, let's get along with these Israelis. They can be our friends." Not going to happen.

## **#Vance**

Yeah.

## **#Nima**

Larry, if you were to mention the main barriers for the two parties to negotiate—to talk—considering the 10-point proposal, what would those main barriers be?

## **#Larry**

Well, the United States wants to eliminate Iran's nuclear program, and Iran's not going to eliminate its nuclear program. The United States wants Iran to cut back and curtail production of ballistic missiles and how far they can travel. Iran's not going to do that at all. They're not going to negotiate

over control of the Strait. I mean, Iran controls the Strait of Hormuz, okay? So that's not a negotiable point. They've already established it's under new ownership—you're going to pay to use it. The United States may not like it, but it can't do a thing to change that.

So, no, I see no foundation for an agreement, other than the United States surrendering and having to admit, "Okay, we were wrong, we shouldn't have done this." Iran has already, through military attacks, driven the U.S. out of many of its bases in the Persian Gulf, and they won't be back. The U.S. is not going back to Bahrain, where the Fifth Fleet was headquartered. That's done. So, you know, Iran is actually well on its way to achieving most of the points listed in that 10-point document.

**#Nima**

Is that something similar? Are you expecting something like that to happen in Iraq?

**#Larry**

What do you mean?

**#Nima**

Because they withdrew their troops from Iraq.

**#Larry**

Oh, yeah, you're going to see a closer relationship.

**#Nima**

Not only U.S. troops — we had European troops as well.

**#Larry**

Right, right. No, you're going to see a closer relationship going forward between Iran and Iraq, that's for sure. You know, Iran will probably tell them, "Hey, go ahead and retake Kuwait." The al-Sabah family's not going to be happy about that, but, you know, this is one of the fruits of victory. Bahrain, I think, will return under Iranian control. So it'll be up to the UAE, Qatar, and Saudi Arabia to figure out whether they're going to basically accept Iran's new status as the dominant power in the Middle East, replacing the United States, or continue to hitch their wagon to the U.S. The UAE is going to try, but they don't have the economic infrastructure to stay intact. They're a very fragile country, and I think they're going to be folded back into Oman.

**#Nima**

Do you see China playing a role in what's going on?

**#Larry**

Yeah, well, China played a big role with Pakistan. And again, for China, they want to get the supply chains flowing again because China is somewhat dependent on gas, liquefied natural gas, oil, helium, and other elements that come out of the Persian Gulf. But getting some of those things restarted may take months, if not a year or two. China definitely played a significant role in this — it wasn't just Pakistan on its own. I think China may have sweetened the pot for Iran by providing some additional weaponry they needed, along with radar and communications systems. But yeah, China has been an important player behind the scenes.

**#Nima**

It seems they've sent three cargo shipments to Iran so far.

**#Larry**

Right.

**#Nima**

During this, you mentioned it's going to be mostly about electronic warfare — some kind of radar operations. I don't know what they can even send to Iran right in the middle of the war.

**#Larry**

Well, as this war has been going on, I heard from a friend that Iran's air defense system has been significantly upgraded over the past three weeks, and the United States is finding it harder and harder to protect itself. So clearly, some materials and technology have been rolling in and getting integrated into the system. It's still not perfect, and it's not the kind of system that can stop every rocket or missile from entering or roaming in its airspace. But apparently, U.S. military planners are more concerned now than they were at the start of the war.

**#Nima**

Considering many, Larry, we have people in Iran and outside Iran arguing that Iran's decision to talk with the United States during a two-week ceasefire was stupid. But after all, is there anything significant happening on the battlefield in terms of the production of weapons, interceptors, you know, cruise missiles? Is that two-week period significant — or maybe, let's assume four weeks instead of two?

## **#Larry**

Yeah, no, I think the two-week deadline is an arbitrary deadline, or just an arbitrary time. I think the real reason Iran did this was at the request of China — basically, give peace a chance, see if the United States will come to its senses. The Chinese seem to believe that what Donald Trump says is different from what Donald Trump does, and that some of these extremely bizarre comments he's made over the past week don't reflect his actual thinking, and that the United States might be persuaded to accept the new status quo. I think they're overly optimistic. I'm hoping that the Iranians, if they go to Islamabad and sit down with the United States, refuse to meet with Kushner and Witkoff. If they're in the room, we're not talking. Get them out.

## **#Nima**

Do you think that J.D. Vance could do something different from what we've seen so far? With all the negotiations — with the Russians, with the Iranians — these two guys were incapable of doing something substantial, something important. How do you see J.D. Vance being part of the team? Because, after all, in my humble opinion, Larry, I think J.D. Vance can save himself — his political life, his opportunity for 2028 — if he's serious about doing something, not only with Iran but also with Russia. That could save him. It's a golden opportunity. Is that the case, or are we expecting too much from J.D. Vance?

## **#Larry**

Yeah, I think you're expecting too much. Let's assume that the agreement the Iranians would accept is not acceptable to the Zionists, period. So when J.D. Vance, who's already viewed with skepticism by the Zionist camp, steps in, he'll be subjected to unrelenting attacks. And don't doubt the possibility that Witkoff and Kushner will throw him under the bus, too — just say, "Oh, we told him not to do this, but he did it anyway." So any deal he agrees to would have to go back and get Donald Trump's blessing, the two thumbs-up, and I don't see that happening. So you're right — if it were J.D. Vance, if Trump had been removed as president and Vance were now president, then yes, he'd have the power to make these agreements and deals with the Russians and the Iranians that could make him a formidable force in the 2028 election.

But as long as he's still sort of the bag handler — you know, the vice president — he doesn't get to make the call. He can negotiate the deal, and if it's a bad deal, he gets blamed. If it's a great deal, if it succeeds, Donald Trump gets the credit. Yeah, so it's just a thankless job. I think if anybody could have some potential success, he could. But when you play it out, if Trump doesn't like the deal, Vance will get blamed for selling out America, or however you want to call it. Maybe Trump will talk about him the way he's talked about Alex Jones and Megyn Kelly — not a very stupid person, just not a very bright person.

## **#Nima**

He doesn't care about these people. He said the same thing about Marjorie Taylor Greene. He said it's unbelievable the way he's firing at those who basically supported him without expecting anything in return. These people just supported him. It's not just Lindsey Graham backing Donald Trump — it was all these people using their power and influence to support him.

## **#Larry**

Right. Yeah, no, it's a one-way street with Trump. There's no loyalty going down. You've got to be loyal to him, worship him, but he'll throw you under the bus in the blink of an eye.

## **#Nima**

I don't see Donald Trump helping himself if he decides to double down on what's going on with the war. It's not going to help him in the long run because, Larry, if we assume that before this war started — even the first round of it, back in June 2025 — he decided to give the green light to Benjamin Netanyahu to attack Iran, then you look at the sequence of what's happened, and it's a total failure: strategically, militarily, everything. I don't know how far he would go with these kinds of suggestions from Benjamin Netanyahu. Is he suicidal? Because if that's the case, we can say he's suicidal.

## **#Larry**

Yeah, I don't know if it's blackmail, if he's completely compromised and being threatened to go along with this, or if it's just his own narcissism. He's had this obsession with getting rid of Iran — that's not new. He was talking about that 30, 40 years ago, when he was a young guy who didn't know a lot but had a lot of opinions. And now, with his brain dysfunction, the things that were kept back, suppressed, are coming to the surface. That's why it's all, "Yeah, we've got to get rid of them, we're going to destroy, obliterate the civilization." I'm not even sure what that means, other than if you're going to commit mass murder. And again, Trump doesn't have a filter. There's no social consciousness sitting there saying, "No, you can't say this, you can't do that." He's completely unfiltered now — which, sadly, is one of the signs of dementia that can come with aging.

## **#Nima**

Yeah, I think the intelligence file has a lot to do with what's going on with Donald Trump. Here's the report on that file — the latest.

## **#Speaker 09**

Going for the Trump administration right now, Antonia? Things are going so well that a war — which has pushed the Epstein investigation to the back page for the last five weeks — is going so badly

that the First Lady of the United States makes an unscheduled, impromptu statement about the Epstein investigation. The administration was so desperate to get it out of the headlines, and now it's back in the headlines during an international armed conflict, where just 48 hours ago the president of the United States — her husband — was threatening the destruction of an entire civilization.

So we're 48 hours removed from threatening war crimes, trying to distract from those threats, and dealing with a colossal disaster of our own making in the Middle East. And now we're burying a statement by the First Lady about an investigation that the Department of Justice has so badly mishandled that Pam Bondi — who, just a week ago, was the Attorney General of the United States and who, a week from now, should be testifying before the House Oversight Committee — will not be testifying. And the argument the administration is making is, well, she's no longer the Attorney General.

**#Larry**

Yeah. You know the war's going really well when you have to have Melania come out and talk about Epstein just to draw attention away from it. Yeah, hilarious.

**#Nima**

This isn't going to end well for Donald Trump.

**#Larry**

Yeah. You know, it is—he's caught. And the thing that's so shocking is, instead of trying to cultivate or retain the support of people, he's attacking the biggest social media platforms and influencers in the United States and in the world. So when you go after Tucker, Candace has got the number one show on TV—but Tucker, Rogan, and Candace, good Lord—you're talking millions, millions. And Trump keeps saying, "Oh, you're not on television anymore. Nobody watches the goddamn thing, okay?" People aren't tuned in to CNN, MSNBC, or Fox. It's just a bunch of old farts like me who'll watch Fox. People your age and younger, you're doing other things. Yeah.

**#Nima**

Thank you so much, Larry Johnson, for being with us today.

**#Larry**

All right. I'm sorry we couldn't have Colonel Wilkerson with us today—he's traveling.

**#Nima**

That's why he's not with us today. I forgot to mention that.

**#Larry**

We'll see him next week.

**#Nima**

Yeah, exactly.

**#Larry**

All right, my friend. I'll see you Monday. See you.

**#Nima**

See you on Monday.

**#Larry**

Bye-bye.