

Larry Johnson: Hezbollah Breaches Iron Dome: Israel on the VERGE of Military COLLAPSE

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#Nima

The breaking news of what's going on right now, because moments ago we've learned that Iran has halted indirect talks and message exchanges with the United States, citing that they're talking about Lebanon. They said that as long as there are these sorts of attacks on Lebanon and Gaza, there will be no talks between Iran and the United States. And what would be their... Iran and the resistance front have also reported that if something goes on, because Israel wants to attack the southern part of Beirut in Dahia.

And there are many people there. Somehow it's impossible to evacuate all of those people in Dahia. And they said, here is what Iran said — they're going to close all these choke points, the Strait of Hormuz and Bab al-Mandab, all together. And everything's going to get back to what it was during the war. But the difference right now is going to be Bab al-Mandab joining, and it means that Yemenis are going to join the fight. Where are we headed, in your opinion, and what's going on in West Asia?

#Larry

We need to cue up the old musical. Again, this is before you were born — The Music Man. We got trouble, we got trouble right here in River City.

#Nima

Yeah, exactly.

#Larry

We got trouble. Well, Israel has been violating the ceasefire now for two weeks, but over the course of the last five days, it's gotten worse. You know, because remember, going back to April—was it

April 14th, 15th?—there was that initial ceasefire agreement between the United States and Iran. So the basic U.S. initiative stopped bombing Iran, and that was around April 7th, April 8th. And it took another three or four days before the Iranian position was, hey, you've got to include Lebanon and the attacks on Palestinians—that's got to stop. So that went into effect. I think that held for basically like five days, maybe a couple of weeks. And there were some abuses, violations of that ceasefire. But now, there's no ceasefire.

Israel's back at full-blown war, full back, full attacks on Hezbollah. And Hezbollah is firing back with missiles, rockets, and drones into northern Israel. So that war is—that's back on full heat. And so with Iran taking this position, linking the two. And so that is what's so new about this whole situation—that the Iranians now are linking what goes on in Lebanon and in Israel to any kind of agreement with the United States. You can't separate it. You can't pretend that this is just about a conflict between the United States and Iran. No. The lives of the Palestinians are also at least... Iran is the only country in the world standing up, trying to do something for those people. And now maybe the Houthis will join. We'll see.

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What do they have, Larry, in the Middle East if something happens between Iran and the United States? From the Iranian sources, we've learned that they have brought a lot of weapons to the Middle East, even more than what they had before the war started on February 28th. And this is one part—the offensive part, the offensive part of it. On the defensive, we have to see the combination of the defensive capabilities and offensive capabilities. What do we have right now in the Middle East?

#Larry

Well, there are reports that—well, they're not public reports. Let me change that. I have been told by someone who has access, or let's call it a knowledgeable source with access, that China has provided Iran with, at a minimum, a supersonic anti-ship missile, but also apparently some other significant ballistic missiles that were not previously there—solid fuel, which makes them easier to load up and fire off. So, yeah, Iran's in a position now with more weaponry than it had at the start of the war on February 28th. You know, let's think about it. We're looking at—so we had March, April. It's gone over more than three months now—three months and two days. And this is, you know, one of the things that Iran didn't do much of during that first, you know, really seven weeks of the war.

Five weeks. Because the missile exchanges were over a course of about five, six weeks. And then they got into the ceasefire, but did not aggressively go after the Israeli military airfields where these various planes are based. I wouldn't be surprised now to see that in this new phase. Actually, it's going to restart. It's going to restart this week. The United States' attacks are going to step up on both shipping and the Persian Gulf. There will be attacks, I think, on U.S. naval vessels. And we're going to see, I think, more aggressive attacks by Iran on the airfields in Israel and in Jordan. So this,

yeah, this is, I think, the lull that we've had now going back, you know, eight, nine weeks—that's over.

#Nima

The question is, why does Israel need to attack Doha right now if the situation is going well in the southern part of Lebanon?

#Larry

If they're in a good position?

#Nima

And we've learned, Larry, from Hezbollah—they said an underground base belonging to the Israeli regime army, it says in this announcement by Hezbollah, in the occupied city of Tiberias, was targeted with rocket fire. And it seems that 137 officers and soldiers were injured in this attack, as reported by Hezbollah.

#Larry

So Hezbollah is saying that they hit and inflicted casualties on 137 Israelis? 137, but it counts all of them in the last two weeks. It says 137.

#Nima

It wasn't just one single attack, okay.

#Nima

And it says a hundred, yeah, that's the number for two weeks. And that's why, you know, many people are asking, why does Israel need to attack Dahiya if they're doing great in the southern part of Lebanon, if they're crossing the Litani River? What is your answer to that?

#Larry

Oh, no, I have no answer to that. It's just their idea is to kill and destroy as much as they can, and they see Dahiya as a stronghold for Hezbollah, and therefore, you know, for them, killing women, children—there's no such thing as civilians as far as the Zionists are concerned. So, you know, they don't mind killing and flattening the area, just as they've done in Gaza. You know, what the government of Israel has been doing is a war crime of the highest order. It needs to be stopped.

But, you know, the world is standing by doing nothing. You know, unfortunately, that has been typical throughout history. I mean, the Israelis, you know, talk about the Holocaust and that, oh my God, the Nazis tried to exterminate them.

And the world knew about it, stood by, and did nothing. The Houthis, they were attacked by the Tutsis in Rwanda. Again, a massive massacre, a million people at least. The world sort of complained a bit about it but didn't take any kind of action to stop it. And now we've got more than—going on two and a half years of Israel murdering Palestinian women and children primarily, and, you know, killing doctors, killing journalists, killing aid workers. And, you know, they're allowed to show up in polite company at the United Nations. They should be thrown out, shouldn't be allowed anywhere near it, should be isolated, should be treated like a plague. Instead, you know, they go along with it, and then they get to go make their speeches at the U.N. and pretend that they're the victim.

#Nima

Israeli media reported, Larry, that the United States has proposed an arrangement to Lebanon under which attacks on Beirut, Beirut's southern suburbs—they're talking about Dahiya—would cease in exchange for Hezbollah refraining from targeting Israeli military forces in southern Lebanon. It's just unbelievable what they're doing. They're occupying the southern part of Lebanon right now. They're saying, we're gonna hit Beirut and the southern part of Beirut, but if you don't want us to attack you, to destroy the civilians, then you have to stop attacking us in the southern part of Lebanon, which they're occupying. How ridiculous is that? And Hezbollah rejected that. That's why.

#Larry

Yeah. Well, hey, look. There's a Yiddish word for this—C-H-U-T-Z-P-A-H. Chutzpah. Or as Michele Bachmann, a former congresswoman in the United States, she called it chutzpah. But, you know, that's what it is. It's pure chutzpah on the part of the Israelis, you know. That's along the lines of, you know, the kid that kills his parents and then pleads for mercy from the judge. "Judge, you can't prosecute me. I'm an orphan." Yeah, you're an orphan because you killed your parents, you bastard. So, you know, here's Israel looking for leniency in the course of when people are responding to their attacks. And, you know, it's quite understandable that, you know, I can understand why they'd ask that. Maybe their calculation was, hey, we ask, what's the worst that can happen? They'll say no.

#Nima

I think the situation is getting so serious, Larry, and we're going to have this war breaking out again. Here is what one of the senior Iranian officials said to Fars News in Iran: the blood of a Palestinian equals the blood of an Iranian, the blood of a Lebanese equals the blood of an Iranian, and the Muslim community is one joint column, side by side, in this battle. Exactly. They're not going to give

up on what they're asking for from the United States. And I don't see Donald Trump having any sort of solution for what's going on because he has not shown us any sort of leverage on Benjamin Netanyahu.

#Larry

Well, I'm hoping that Iran was able to play the stock market on this, you know, do what Trump's been doing. So Trump, over the last—now we're going on 14 weeks, 13 weeks—what he would do is he would announce, hey, we got a peace agreement. Man, this should be signed any day now. We're close. We're so close. And as a result, what would happen? The price of oil would go down. The price in the stock market would go up. And so by shorting stocks or buying puts, you could profit off of these changes. So if I'm Iran, I'd set up a company where you can invest billions and just come out and say, nope, hey, the negotiations are off.

In fact, we're getting ready to deploy a nuclear weapon. Oh, man, the stock market would go crazy. They could cash in on that. Now, I don't think they're doing that, but that would be—it's just a reminder of the other spillover effects of this conflict, that if you've been watching the U.S. stock market, it has been behaving as if there is an actual deal almost in the bag. It's close, so close. And there have been some of us who are saying, no, no, that ain't happening. It's not true. Stop getting taken in by—this is another version of Donald Trump, like Lucy from the Charles Schulz Charlie Brown cartoon.

Lucy would hold out the football. "Come on, Charlie, kick it." Charlie would come running up and try to kick it. She'd pull the ball away. He'd fly up in the air and land on his ass. That's been Donald Trump now for 13 weeks. "Oh, we got a deal. It's almost—oh yeah, we're close, we're close." Now, as Ron said, we're not even talking to the United States now. There's nothing to talk about until the issues of the Palestinians and the Lebanese are addressed. Have a nice day. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

#Nima

Clearly, I think there is no way to continue with the current situation in West Asia, in the Persian Gulf, because having this blockade on Iran, sooner or later they're gonna have some sort of confrontation and escalation, and that's gonna be the war—the real war between Iran and the United States. Coming back to the main question, the same question that I asked before—you forgot to mention that in your response—which is the capabilities, the defensive capabilities on the part of Israel. Let's assume the war starts again. How is the United States going to be able to defend Israel?

#Larry

Well, defend it with what? Air defense systems, for example? We did that.

#Nima

We did the Patriot system. We know that Iron Dome is failing, you know, each and every time. They cannot intercept even these rockets from Hezbollah.

#Larry

Yeah, the Iron Dome is designed to intercept, let's call them subsonic rockets. It is not designed to deal with, uh, supersonic or hypersonic, uh, ballistic missiles. The fact of the matter is, neither is the Patriot missile, the PAC-3. It's not, uh, it's proven ineffective. But let's say it was effective. The United States doesn't have enough. They have effectively run out. All we can do is public accounting, and the total number of missiles in the U.S. inventory, under the most generous assumptions, would put it at about 6,400 at the end of 2025, so as of five months ago. Now, since then, they've probably added more.

Again, to be generous, another \$360 per month, five months maybe, because the other issue is China's cut-off of rare earth minerals, which are essential ingredients. It's like trying to bake a cake and not using any sugar or flour—you're not going to have a cake. So here's—but with that 6,400, and then when you do the math, you've got to fire two Patriots at a minimum to intercept an incoming threat. So that means that 6,400 is capable of defeating 3,200 missiles fired. That's assuming that all of that was retained by the United States, except we know for a fact that at least 1,500 to 2,000 of those PAC-3 missiles went to foreign governments—Saudi Arabia, South Korea, Japan, Australia.

So you subtract that. Well, now we're down to like, you know, 4,400, which means, okay, we can intercept 2,200 missiles. Okay, how many—and we gave 1,000 in addition to the, you know, the 2,000 sold to foreign governments. We gave another 1,000 to Ukraine. So 1,000 missiles, that means they could intercept up to 500 incoming targets by Russia. Well, hell, just last, you know, was it a week ago? Russia fired the equivalent of more than 500 missiles in one day. So, you see, the numbers just don't add up. So the reality is that Israel and the United States do not have an effective air defense system. They don't have it. It does not exist.