

# Larry Johnson: Iran FORCED a New Equation – And Israel Doesn't Want It

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**#Nima**

Hi, everybody. Today's Monday, June 28th. When was the last time we talked together?

**#Larry**

This is déjà vu, people, déjà vu all over again. What the hell? Johnson, can't you leave the kid alone? No.

**#Nima**

Larry, you mentioned before coming to this live that many people are so pessimistic about what is going on between Iran and the United States. Your understanding is that the situation, the negotiations, the talks, whatever is going on and on, are positive. The signs are positive. We had Donald Trump telling that he's going to—well, we had news coming out just moments ago that said Donald Trump told Benjamin Netanyahu, if you want to continue this war, it's going to be your war. He's not going to be part of it. Yeah. What is your take, and how do you see the situation right now with the latest sort of information that you have?

**#Larry**

Hang on for a second. My wife is waving a knife at me.

**#Larry**

So.

**#Nima**

Another piece of information, Larry, before going to your comment: a U.S. official told Axios that Bibi needs the war to continue to stay politically alive in Israel, and Trump needs the war to end to stay

politically alive in the United States. So, two different situations — the United States, Donald Trump needs to get out of the war, and Benjamin Netanyahu needs to stay in the war.

## **#Larry**

Yeah, and that was the message that Trump received from Rich Barris, a pollster, last week — that this, you know, even though he tries to claim that he never said he wouldn't start any new wars, you know, boy, there's a devastating piece out on social media showing exactly that, where he tells Kristen Welker that, and then, boom, there are like six different clips of him saying the exact opposite. So, in telling Bibi that you're on your own if you start this war, the Israelis talk a tough game. You know, they shoot their mouths off about we're going to do this and we're going to do that. But as we saw in the 12-day war in June, they don't have the power to sustain it.

And, you know, I could understand some critics in Iran who are complaining that the government's being too accommodating, because I think that Iran's in a position, unless they've grossly lied about it and overestimated their supply of ballistic missiles, that they could just tell Israel, say, we're going to give you until Tuesday, until tomorrow, to withdraw your forces from Gaza and withdraw your forces from Lebanon, or at least get it started. If they're not withdrawn, we are going to destroy your military bases. We're going to destroy your power infrastructure. We're going to destroy your oil refineries, and we're going to destroy your ports. And you'll be firing back at us, but we're going to destroy all of that, make life impossible for your people until the rights of the Palestinians are respected.

Now, that would be unprecedented, but I think Iran actually has the power to do that. Now, they haven't. They've chosen not to do that yet. But what Larijani said today about the actions of resistance — an attack on one is an attack on all — seems to be a step in that direction. But what will defuse the chances of the United States getting involved is if Trump does succeed in signing a deal with Iran in which Iran stipulates, we do not have a nuke. We'll allow these inspections to verify that we do not have a nuclear device. They'll come up with some protocols. But you've got to understand that coming up with those, they'll come up with a general accord. But getting down to the specifics of that — I mean, hell, the JCPOA took, what, a year and a half to negotiate. So they could resurrect the JCPOA and call it something else — the Trump PCOA, you know.

## **#Nima**

I don't think that he's going to get something like the JCPOA. It's going to be totally different from that because many people didn't like it. Even our friend, Professor Miranda, who was part of the negotiations, said that he didn't like it, but he let it happen. He was just, you know, the administration wanted this, and he went along with them.

## **#Larry**

Yeah, yeah. So, no, I agree. You know, Iran is playing with more cards now. It's not behind the eight ball. You can make the case that back in 2014, they were isolated. They didn't have a lot of economic options. They were struggling economically. And Russia and China were lined up against them. Not actively, but, you know, Russia and China were standing with the West and said, yeah, we'll go along with all these Western sanctions. Not today. It's just the opposite. Russia and China stepped back and said, no, we're not going to engage in this kind of bullying.

## **#Nima**

Yeah. Israel Hayom reported, Larry, that Iran has succeeded in creating a very disturbing equation. Any attack on Beirut will be met, as you mentioned, with, you know, Sadeq Larijani, will be met with an Iranian missile toward Israel. Israel's security sources admit that there was no possibility of Iran responding before the decision to attack the Beirut southern border. They're saying their assessment was not that Iran was going to attack them if they attacked Beirut. That's why they did that — to just evaluate, to see what would be the assessment on the part of Iran, to see the reaction coming from the Iranians. That's why they did that. They wanted to test the Iranian response. So Iran responded. And now the equation is something that is very disturbing for Israelis right now.

## **#Larry**

Yeah, well, that was, and add to that, it was also to derail, try to get the United States involved in the war against Iran, restart that, to derail any chance of this Islamabad accord being signed. But Trump refused to take the bait, and he has delivered some very direct messages to Netanyahu that, you guys want to get into a fight with Iran? You're on your own. We're not going to be part of that. That's what happened at the start of the 12-day war. Iran started that war. The U.S. wasn't backing it. The U.S. may have had a peripheral role, but nothing central. But now the United States is saying, you started it, we're backing out. We're not going to come save you.

## **#Nima**

Yeah. I don't know if you saw this footage that came out. It shows the satellite image of the Iranian missile striking Ramat David Air Base.

## **#Larry**

Yeah, just one. Yeah, there are a bunch of buildings there, and it got one. So, you know, again, it sends a message: we can do more damage if we want. But so far, they've chosen not to.

## **#Nima**

They're attacking, Larry, as we talked, they're attacking the southern part of Beirut, the southern part of Lebanon, in a city called Tyre, if I'm not mistaken. The city is called Tyre, but I've never

heard the name of this city. But they're attacking to show that they're not going to accept the Iranian equation. This is the message from Israel. And at the same time, Yemen is attacking Israel. They're using drones. I've seen many videos coming out showing Yemen is attacking Israel with drones. This is the new phase of the war. Yemen was not part of this so far. And it seems that, my understanding is, there's some sort of division in terms of the duties between Iran and Yemen. They're going to respond to the southern part of Lebanon. Iran is going to respond if some attacks happen in Beirut. And I don't know, what is your perception of that?

## **#Larry**

Well, yeah, I think they're partially assigning, I guess, different duties. I think ultimately Iran's going to have to be the lead in this, to say we're going to make all the decisions about retaliation and responses. But again, we've never seen this level of coordination and cooperation between these three entities—Hezbollah, the Houthis, and Iran. So, yeah, this is new territory, absolutely.

## **#Nima**

Did you watch the Fox News report about Iran? The protests, new protests in Iran right now. Iranian students are coming out in all of these cities that they mentioned in this report. It's all fake, Larry.

## **#Larry**

Yeah, yeah. The West continues its information operation to try to undermine support in Iran, and they're failing—absolutely failing.

## **#Nima**

They're using, Larry, I don't know if you've noticed, they're using those experts, mostly Iranians in the United States who are close to the son of the former Shah of Iran. Fox News is somehow cooperating with him. And that's why in this report, they brought some people close to the son of the Shah to talk about what's going on in Iran. What is it? What is their policy when it comes to the son of the Shah? I have never heard Donald Trump talking about how he's going to put the son of the Shah of Iran in power in Iran. I have, you know... They were talking about some internal—if you remember, with the attacks, he said, I'm going to do it the same way that I was doing in Venezuela. That was the rhetoric on the part of Donald Trump. But what is the meaning of this guy getting closer to Fox News, which we know, Fox News is so close to Donald Trump?

## **#Larry**

It's just a propaganda outlet. It's to convince the American public, or that portion of the American public that watches Fox News, that, oh, this is the man.

## **#Larry**

But, you know, he's a nobody. He has no recognition, no support in Iran. Yeah.

## **#Nima**

Before wrapping up, we came on because of your recent information about what's going on between Iran and the United States. But we had something happening in Russia, Larry — the attacks on a train.

## **#Larry**

Yeah, they killed an engineer, wounded another, and the passengers were hurt. But it's just a pattern of Ukraine's continued engagement in terrorist attacks, with terrorism being defined as an attack on a civilian target, using violence on civilians for political purposes.

## **#Nima**

What do they want from Russia? What are they seeking?

## **#Larry**

They're trying to force Russia into negotiations, and all they're doing is pissing Russia off. That's what's happening.

## **#Nima**

It's just amazing. I don't know how long Vladimir Putin is going to be patient with this sort of activity, because these attacks are putting a lot of pressure, by the way, on Vladimir Putin.

## **#Larry**

Well, they're putting some pressure. I mean, look, the kind of pressure that's coming is to step up, go to a greater extent, conduct stronger attacks against Ukraine. Some think that Putin's been too soft. That's sort of a crazy situation. But they are going, you know, saying, let's really step it up. Let's hurt them. So I don't see how that serves the interests of Ukraine. It just increases the likelihood, the speed with which they're going to get crushed.

## **#Nima**

Yeah. Benjamin Netanyahu said overnight that Israel carried out a historic strike to prevent a nuclear attack on Israel. Yeah, that was just... Who was going to attack them with nuclear bombs?

**#Larry**

Yeah, I know. It's just ridiculous.

**#Nima**

I think, I don't know, as time goes by, if the reports, if the optimism that we are somehow seeing on the scene, as you've just mentioned, if that happens, I would say Benjamin Netanyahu would do everything. He may do something so stupid, in my opinion.

**#Larry**

Well, he may, up to some extent. But, you know, let's also remember that he still needs the United States. He needs our money, and he needs our intelligence. He needs our military support. He can't live without it.

**#Nima**

Larry, thank you. All right, my friend.

**#Larry**

Double duty today. If I get some bigger news, I'll let you know. But right now, it looks like things are on track, that Trump may actually get his peace deal.

**#Nima**

Yeah. Let's see. Let's see what happens. All right, my friend. See you soon, Larry.

**#Larry**

Okay, bye-bye.

**#Nima**

See you on Friday. Bye-bye.