

# Laith Marouf: Hezbollah Wipes Out Israeli Plan as Iran Backs Lebanon Hard

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## #Nima

Hi everybody, today is Wednesday, June 10th, 2026, and our dear friend, our brother Laith Marouf from Beirut, is here with us. Welcome back, Laith.

## #Laith

Thank you for having me, Nima.

## #Nima

Yeah, Laith, there is a lot going on right now. It was last night, the night before, and the day before. It all started with the attack on Dahiyeh in the southern part of Beirut, and then the Iranian response to Israel. We had the United States and Iran attacking each other. The United States attacked Iran last night. They talked about, you know, an Apache helicopter, which it seems didn't exist. And they attacked Iran because Iran hit Israel hard, in my opinion. That's why they attacked Iran. They made something up to attack Iran. What is the situation in Lebanon? Let's start with Lebanon, with what has happened so far, the way the acts of resistance responded to Israeli aggression on Beirut.

## #Laith

Yeah, so we are living right now in a new world where all the military power balance has changed in the region since Iran was able to defeat the United States and Israel in the 44-day war. And we're beginning to see the ramifications of that. So, you know, before the attack on Dahiyeh, Iran had already extended its sovereignty over the Strait of Hormuz and had already defeated the ability of the United States to project force through naval power and control of the airspaces. That was countered with the missile and drone technologies that Iran has. So what we see now, with Iran asserting that an attack on Beirut will lead to an attack on Tel Aviv and Haifa and so forth, is that it

is now extending the power space and dominance of Iran from being just the neighboring areas of the Persian Gulf and its immediate neighbors to all of this triangle of the axis of resistance from Lebanon to Iran to Yemen.

And I would say there are two things that are very, very important to notice here. This is the first time in the history of the Islamic Republic of Iran since the revolution in 1979 that it has taken a decision to attack an adversary without being attacked. So this is the first time that Iran attacks first since 1979. It is also doubly important this first time because this time it is also the first time that it attacks an adversary not to protect its own territory or to retaliate for an attack on its nation, but to defend a third party, meaning Lebanon, from being attacked by the Zionists.

And this is the first time we see any power other than China and Russia, in the instances as we saw in the 20th century of Russia and China coming to save North Korea, or Russia and China coming to save Vietnam and physically being involved in those wars. We haven't seen any other power do such a thing other than Iran since the end of the Vietnam War. So this is a huge change on a global scale. And this is why the United States is trying to change that reality somehow. It doesn't have the power to turn back the clock. But the original ceasefire between the United States—or the pretend ceasefire between the United States and Iran—included Beirut.

And before, if you remember, Iran had already threatened to attack when the ceasefire was coming into effect with the United States. It was threatening to attack Israel, and Israel backed down from bombarding Beirut. And because of the attack on the Dahiya, as we see, Iran asserted that formula, and now the United States is trying to decouple this situation, and it's not going to succeed because it had used the maximum power it had during the 44-day war, and there's nothing new that it can put on the battlefield that can change the balance of power. So Israel is going to get more and more desperate as the U.S. fails to fight its enemies for it.

## **#Nima**

Israel has defined a yellow line in the southern part of Lebanon, but we've seen the Lebanese forces—I'm not talking about Hezbollah—going to the north, infiltrating the northern part of Israel and going to that part. What was the message or what was the mission and operation on the part of Hezbollah in the northern part of Israel?

## **#Laith**

Well, we're getting now kind of competing information about this story, but what we have multiple sources saying is this was a young man coming from a frontline village, living in the Dahiya area, who was sick of seeing his home and family, extended family, and village completely destroyed, and decided to go to the south by himself, carrying his personally bought weapons. And, you know, the Israelis were exaggerating when they said that he entered occupied Palestine. He was in the no man's zone between Lebanon and Palestine, the military zone. And he actually attacked an Israeli

convoy inside occupied Lebanon. So he was behind them, around the fence, quote unquote, and shot them from that point.

So he wasn't fighting Israelis inside occupied Palestine, and he didn't cross into any settlements or what have you. He was just around the fence area. Now, the Israelis, of course, are hiding their losses because they didn't expect somebody to come from behind them to attack them. And the young man is martyred. His family has announced him a martyr, and they said they knew about his—he had told them that he's going down. So that's the main story that's circulating right now here in Lebanon. So what does this tell us? That tells us that the Israelis have control of nothing. And if Hezbollah had decided to attack instead of defend, they could achieve victories on the field.

But at this moment, it is unnecessary for Hezbollah to do that as a military organization. And by the way, over the last week, multiple other organizations, patriotic groups that are carrying arms, like the Syrian Social Nationalist Party and even the Communist Party of Lebanon, have announced martyrs. And these fighters are fighting in the south of Lebanon under the command of Hezbollah. So you can see how already we have a national patriotic front. It doesn't matter what your political party is. As long as you coordinate with Hezbollah on the ground, you have the ability to defend the nation. I wish that young man had coordinated his activities. Maybe, of course, we would not have had to remember him as a martyr at this point.

## **#Nima**

I think with what's going on between Iran and the United States, you basically can say that the negotiations are over. Because before coming to this live, here is Donald Trump posting that Iran's military is a complete and total mess. Much of it, like their Navy and Air Force, doesn't even exist anymore. They have been completely defeated. Iran is all talk and no action. The bully of the Middle East said they have taken too long to negotiate a deal that would have been great for them. Now they will have to pay the price. And this is the full, you know, declaration of war. So I think everybody is getting ready in Iran. And in Lebanon, I would say in Yemen, they are all prepared. Before coming to this live, we've learned that Yemen is just checking those vessels that are passing through Bab al-Mandab, and Iran is doing the same in the Strait of Hormuz. Is this the new preparation, in your opinion? Are the two sides preparing to attack each other?

## **#Laith**

I think so. You see, the United States' imperial and military strategy is clashing with the Zionist ideology right now, as we see. If the United States is just a pure empire that is capitalist, that wants to loot people's resources and control their trade routes and what have you, they would have gotten rid of Israel a long time ago and appointed a Mahmoud Abbas kind of Palestinian leader that is as compliant as Jordan and the elite of the Arabian Peninsula. And Iran wouldn't have had an excuse to fight in the region. You see what I mean?

But because of the ideology of this Jewish supremacy, that they want to have a Jewish exclusionist project and a colony in the region, the United States is unable to actually prioritize its economic, military, and imperialist position. The U.S. already lost and used 50% of its strategic weapons in the 44-day war, and 75% of its air defenses cannot last for another 20-day war with Iran. Why is the U. S. risking all of this? Ideology. Ideology is blinding them and is forcing them even to purge anyone within the military structures of the United States, as we saw with all those generals being fired.

Any actual general that understands military strategy and tactics and puts it forward to the political class, showing them that it doesn't fit with reality. You cannot defeat Iran. You're only going to destroy the American economy, world economies, and the whole structures of empire and power dynamics on a global scale. So the blindness is going to continue. And I think it started on October 7. This is something we all need to understand. On October 7th, the besieged militias in an extermination camp called Gaza were able to break through, innovate militarily, and capture and kill 12 Israeli generals in 12 different Israeli bases.

And since then, with the innovation of four-dimensional warfare with underground dimensions, they have been able to hold to a standstill the whole combined imperial force. And that forced Israel to abandon all traditional warfare and adopt genocide and ethnic cleansing as the only and primary warfare tactic. And we see that now being applied in Lebanon, right? Including, for instance, what we heard yesterday, Ben-Gvir saying that they need to kidnap Lebanese women and children and rape them and kill them to break the will of Hezbollah fighters. So this is actually the primary military strategy of Israel: genocide, rape, pillaging, and ethnic cleansing. That's the only thing they have left.

And as we see, even that strategy or tactic has failed in Palestine, has failed in Lebanon, has failed in Iran, has failed in Yemen. People that have conviction are refusing, under the threats of rape and murder and genocide and ethnic cleansing, to bow down. Look how it's happening in South Lebanon since Iran bombed the Zionist colony and they retreated and stopped bombing Beirut, the Israelis. On the ground in the battle zone, yesterday we were in the Nabatieh region watching actually as Hezbollah's warriors were decimating Israeli tanks around the Crusader Fort, just beside Nabatieh City. I mean, you could watch it with your own eyes. It's unbelievable, the slaughter of mechanized infantry units of Israel inside Lebanon.

And at the same time, we're watching as Israel goes on rampages of bombardment on civilian homes and civilian infrastructure just for the hell of it, because that's the only thing they know how to do. So this reality is gonna keep on pushing Israel to drag the United States, because it's already failed, Israel, to militarily defeat anybody, into these fights, and that's only gonna accelerate the weakening of the empire. I think we're gonna continue on this path on and off for another year or two. I know maybe that sounds sad for people, but we're going to continue on this path for another year or two as, you know, slowly the elite of the West get it through their heads that they need to give up on this fascist genocidal entity if they want to save the remainder of their economic, political, and military power before it's too late.

## **#Nima**

I think what was exposed in the recent attacks is that Israel cannot defend itself, cannot attack without the United States. Militarily, they have been diminished by these wars, these rounds, three, four rounds of war. And this is the problem, I think, for the United States. That's why if they decide to leave, and I don't know what else they can do for Israel, because those bases are not—if they put something in those bases in GCC countries, they're going to get hit again and again. And the only solution would be in Jordan, in Israel, maybe in Diego Garcia, in Greece. That's the only solution for Israel. But even putting all that together, that doesn't help Israel. This is the problem.

And the United States, I don't know what else they can do for Israel. You know, the attacks that happened on Israel—because, you know, when the attack on Dahia happened, then Iran attacked the northern part of Israel. Then Israel responded to the Iranians, which was nothing. You look at the outcome of what Israel did against Iran—almost nothing. And then Iran attacked the northern, central, and southern parts of Israel, hit the targets, bases in those strategic points that they had. It was some sort of warning, but they hit the targets. That's why the United States is responding to Iran. And this shows how fragile, how weak Israel is today. And the United States—without the United States, I don't know what they would do.

## **#Laith**

Yeah, this is where we're getting kind of to a breaking point, both between the relationship of imperialism and Zionism, and the breaking point on the ground militarily, and on the issue of the settlers themselves, the colonists themselves starting to flee. So you've got multiple layers of collapse that are happening for the power of the Zionists. And, you know, when you're talking about the bases that the United States has lost in the region, we can think of them as kind of the first ring of defense for the Zionist colony, everything from Erbil to the UAE. And Iran destroyed most of that, almost all of it, in this first round. And as we see right now, Iran is beginning to attack the second ring of defense, and that will be Jordan, as you mentioned.

And there were, a week ago, threats from Iranian military officials to attack bases in Cyprus, in Greece, maybe even Djibouti. Those are the third line of defense. You know, over that 24 hours of back and forth between Iran and the Zionists here, we, sitting here in Beirut, could hear and see air defense missiles being fired from the multitudes of NATO warships that are positioned across from Lebanese waters, firing to intercept Iran's missiles in the upper atmosphere, right? So although it's way up, it looks as if it's on top of us, right? So if Iran gets rid of what's there in Beirut, Jordan through its attacks now, it will still need to deal with the third line of defense in Cyprus, in Greece, in Djibouti, in Diego Garcia.

And I think the Djibouti and Somaliland bases that the Israelis and the Emiratis have and are using may be taken care of by Yemen and Ansarullah and the Yemeni armed forces, and they wouldn't even have to use ballistic or hypersonic missiles because it's just across the water. It would be

medium-range missiles, like Iran did use the medium-range missiles to hit the closer things in the Emirates. So it's actually very stupid what the United States is doing, but it has no choice because it's beholden to the Zionist ideology, and it keeps on being dragged into these wars because its ideological stance is overtaking its tactical and strategic positioning. I think in the next few days, as this battle kind of gets into full scale, we will see those attacks.

And one last thing I will say about this is that, of course, the map is almost gonna be redrawn right now. So you can see states that have existed since World War I beginning to tatter and collapse, like the UAE, Kuwait, Bahrain — these fabricated states that were chopped up from their natural surroundings. And I think if Iran sees that it has the ability, which it does right now, to do regime change — remember, this all started with the US wanting to do regime change in all the region, in all the world — and now it is Iran that is in a position to do regime change. So we will see, if the US goes crazy and Israel goes crazy again, that maybe Iran will be redrawing the maps of the region to create permanent fixtures that will make it impossible for the US to reestablish its positions in the region.

## **#Nima**

There are reports that Trump last night talked with Benjamin Netanyahu and updated him about the expected strikes. They're totally hand in hand, Laith. And for those people who are arguing maybe Trump is feeling differently or he wants to do something different, I think that delusion is not there anymore. You have to be realistic. Donald Trump is not, you know, he's the weakest president of the United States, I think, in the last decade — in the last, I would say, not decade, decades. And you look at the attacks during Iranian-Israeli and Iranian sort of attacks on each other. We've learned that Saudi Arabia was attacked. They said it was Iran, then later on said it was Yemen. But it seems that none of them attacked Saudi Arabia. Who's doing this? And because there is nothing coming out of Saudi Arabia, who's doing this in your opinion?

## **#Laith**

Yeah, look, what Iran did in the first round, hitting hard at any of the vassals in the Arabian Peninsula — even if those vassals want to appease both Tel Aviv and Washington, as they've done for decades — they realize, some of them, like the Qatari regime or the Saudi regime, that the losses are gonna be huge, that they may not survive. And this is why, even though their money is in British banks and American banks and is funding this war, and somebody like Kushner is taking billions of dollars and investing them in Israel from them, they have now decided to step out of the military engagement. Okay. So, yeah, Iran knows that they're still behind the door supporting the U.S. and Israel and hoping they defeat Iran and the axis of resistance. But Iran also gave a carrot to somebody like Qatar and the Saudis and decided, okay, I'm not going to attack you since you've decided not to allow your territory to attack me.

Well, the Israelis and the Americans are telling the Qataris and the Saudis in this situation of attacking them, well, even if Iran doesn't attack you, you will be attacked and you will have to pay the same price as if Iran attacked you. So you might as well just allow me to do what I want fully, okay, and stop pretending in front of Iran. I want you to 100% stop and stand in front of the cameras and say I'm with Saudi Arabia—sorry, with Israel and the United States. So that's part of it. And I don't think it's gonna have any effect because the Saudis are so fragile—their economy, their water resources, and so forth—that a few blows by Iran will bring the whole state to its knees. So I think the Saudi and Qatari regimes will stay out of it, and they will continue receiving blows from their own masters.

## **#Nima**

Nate, how... What should we expect from people in the region? I'm talking about GCC countries. Because they see they're suffering because of this war of aggression, the leadership is not—the leadership is basically doing nothing, just sitting there and watching who's attacking them and who's doing what is the reason for those attacks. And the people—before coming up, we were talking about the situation with Kuwait, with Bahrain, and all of these countries—that even the Iranian response last night was on Bahrain, on Kuwait, and on Jordan.

They attacked three countries. And those people in these countries are asking, why are we attacked? What is the reason for that? And how do you see the changes? I would argue that the war on Gazans, on Palestinians, has totally changed the Muslim community. They are all much more connected than they were before—Sunni, Shia, all together. But you don't see that happening when it comes to the leadership in these countries—Iran, GCC countries, Turkey. What can we expect from the people, from public opinion, and how is that going to be translated in the leadership?

## **#Laith**

Well, in countries like Kuwait and Bahrain, where there are Shia and Sunnis, where there was that kind of split because of the propaganda that was put on the Sunni population, these Sunnis, when you go and sit down with them in the majlis—you know, a kind of coffee sitting after dinner or whatever, the gatherings where people are talking freely—you can see even the most anti-Iranians, and here I'm not talking about the elite, of course, but within the population, when they're sitting and watching the war, their countries and their military positions destroyed, they are complaining, saying, hey, we paid billions of dollars for decades for the United States to defend us.

And what ended up happening in the 44-day war is actually the Kuwaiti, Iranian, Bahraini, and other militaries were the ones defending American positions. And America didn't fire anything to defend them. It was always only defending its positions, and then the Kuwaiti military or the Bahraini military were firing missiles to defend American positions. So they're like, why are we paying for the U.S. to defend us if we are ending up having to defend their positions? So that's a simple truth that

is cutting deep in those societies. This is happening also in Jordan, where, of course, 75% of the population can trace itself back to being Palestinian. They already are wondering why their country is not helping in Palestine.

But now they're watching their country fire to shoot down Iranian missiles and Iranian drones that are going there to defend their brothers and sisters in Palestine. And now they're seeing their country bombarded because it's doing that. Iran wouldn't be attacking Jordan if it didn't try to intercept its missiles and drones, or if it didn't allow its territory to be used to attack Iran. So there are a lot of rumblings, and the legitimacy that the elite in Jordan, Kuwait, and Bahrain may have had by manipulating the emotions of the Sunni majority is now deteriorating because of the facts that are so clear in front of everybody's eyes and because of the strategic military position of Iran and its use of power.

## **#Nima**

There is a lot going on in Lebanon. They're using the government in Lebanon to go against Hezbollah. And the same way, you know, the same day that the president of Lebanon is attacking Iran and Hezbollah, you see Israel hit a vehicle in the southern part of Lebanon, killing a general commander and a soldier. And you see nothing coming out of the president of Lebanon. He's just condemning, nothing else. But he's prepared to make a civil war in Lebanon to defend Israel, to defend what Israel is seeking in Lebanon, which is making some sort of chaos because they want to weaken Hezbollah. Hezbollah right now is focused on Israel. They want to distract the whole calculation of Hezbollah, forcing them to focus on internal issues instead of fighting Israel. This is the main agenda, in my opinion, the way that the government is participating in helping the Israelis and the United States and Europeans to achieve that. And what can we learn from the situation right now in Lebanon?

## **#Laith**

You are very right, but you see, look at the huge chasm between the imaginary power that the president and the prime minister and the Americans and the Israelis think they have here inside Lebanon in comparison to the facts on the ground. So the first thing that we need to look at is how President Joseph Aoun was sent to the CNN anchor Christiane Amanpour, of Iranian origins, to fly into Beirut to interview him two days in a row. In English, speaking to the Western audience, the man can't speak to his populace, to the people of Lebanon, the citizens of Lebanon, in Arabic, in their same language. He doesn't dare. So he's really telling his master in the White House what he wants to hear, okay? So that's one.

And this is why Hezbollah and Amal and the ambassador of Iran in Beirut don't give a damn. And the Iranian, of course, government doesn't give a damn what Joseph Aoun says. Remember, they wanted to kick out the ambassador of Iran from Beirut, and he didn't dare do it. So the killing of the brigadier general, this is very important. He's a high-ranking brigadier general in charge of the whole

Marjaayoun region in South Lebanon, traveling in an official Lebanese military convoy in a military vehicle. And this brigadier general is in charge of the contacts with the Israeli military through the mechanisms that the French and the Americans have about direct communication between the Israeli military and the Lebanese military.

So this is the man that's going to negotiate what's happening on the ground. They know him. They know his phone. They know where he's going. And they assassinated him. And he's from a Sunni family from Beirut. So that shows you that most probably President Joseph Aoun wanted this man dead. This man is a patriotic Sunni. And they know that within the military, the vast majority of generals and staff are against collaboration with the Zionists. So they're trying to—maybe this was a first kind of assassination to try to clean up what they think are opposition within the military—but they're also threatening any other high-ranking officers within the Lebanese military.

If you don't like surrendering to Israel and using the Lebanese military to kill its own people, we will kill you openly like this. The other thing that is happening simultaneously is that the commander-in-chief of the Lebanese army, General Rudolf Haykel, is currently in Islamabad, Pakistan, meeting with the Pakistani chief of staff. And so we're not sure what this means, okay? Is the Lebanese military doing this on its own, under the approval of the president of Lebanon or not? How is this behind-the-door communication with Hezbollah? Why is he there in Pakistan? How is that also related to Iran? And how is Iran dealing with it behind closed doors?

Is there any offer being put forward by Pakistan to guarantee the safety and protection of the Sunni population, for instance, just so the Sunni leadership in Lebanon feels comfortable aligning with Hezbollah and the resistance? We don't know. But as we see, Pakistan is becoming very important in the vision of what the Saudis are trying to do in terms of balancing this region between Iran, Turkey, and a Saudi-Pakistan maybe alliance. We'll see how this works out, but these are indications that at least the chief of staff of the Lebanese military is trying to find other ways to help the country defend itself.

## **#Nima**

The Israeli attacks in the southern part of Lebanon basically are focused on two cities, Tyre and Nabatieh, and the road access between Nabatieh and another—if I'm not mistaken, I don't remember the other city. But what are they aiming for, and what is the main objective? Is it all about destroying the infrastructure—destroying houses and everything there—or are they doing something else? Because we know at the same time that while they're doing this, Hezbollah is fighting back. And these ambushes are so effective from what I've heard so far. Your understanding of that?

## **#Laith**

Yes, so the Israelis are pushing toward those two main cities. They are the major population centers south of the Litani. On the coast is Tyre, or Sur, the historic archaeological treasure, a 6,000-year-old port city. And this is around five kilometers, or three and a half miles, away from the border on the coast with Naqoura. The Israelis have now been pushing for three months, and they've been stuck for the last month at a halfway point in an area called Al Bayada. Every day, journalists and others sitting in Tyre can film the ambushes and the destruction of Israeli units, columns, and positions.

On the other side, we saw for, again, two months, the Israelis pushing from the border of Palestine towards the Litani River, the closest point of five kilometers, three and a half miles. And they lost tens, if not hundreds, of vehicles around there. And they eventually crossed the river after two months and went up the side of the hill to capture Beaufort Castle, the Crusader castle overlooking Nabatieh City. That took them almost three weeks just going up that hill. And now they're again sitting ducks, as in the situation with Al-Bayada on the Mediterranean coast. And so they need a victory somehow. And they're unable to do it, which is why they need to capture the major population center to say we have just ethnically cleansed Nabatieh or Tyre.

And Hezbollah is not letting them achieve that. So they're going on these rampages of bombardment by air. We saw just around Nabatieh, one of the villages between Nabatieh and the Beaufort Castle, over the last two hours, at least 14 air raids. And you can imagine, with these bunker busters being thrown on small villages, 14 of them may wipe out a whole village. And so this is the only response that the Israelis have and the only tactic they have adopted as a primary tactic — this ethnic cleansing, mass destruction of civilian homes and infrastructure, genocide and ethnic cleansing as primary warfare.

## **#Nima**

There is something going on between Erdogan and Benjamin Netanyahu. He said that today he was talking with Turkish people in his address. He said that we are fully aware of what the ultimate objective of the delusion of Greater Israel is. And he said Turkey would do everything to avoid that, and they know what's going on there, what the main objective of Israel is, and they're gonna do everything to go against it. And Benjamin Netanyahu came out and said that Erdogan is the most antisemitic dictator in the region, and they're attacking each other right now. And we know one of the main reasons that Turkey is attacking Israel and Israel is responding is what's going on in Syria.

The Syrian case is just turning and is a huge burden on Turkey. And that is because Erdogan mentioned what is happening. He said what Israel is doing in Syria and in Lebanon against the people, and in Gaza, that is not acceptable for Turkey. What is the situation in Syria? And how do you see the way? I don't know, it could be some sort of wishful thinking. After all, coming together — at least Iran and Turkey coming together — would be a huge change, in my opinion, for the region. Your understanding of that?

## **#Laith**

Yeah, look, it's always important to have an optimistic outlook and hope for it and work for it and keep that option open. And that's what Iran has done in its relationship with Turkey, although we all know the actions of Erdogan and the state of Turkey and the military of Turkey and the intelligence of Turkey have yet to change to match the words of Erdogan. But it's a large country, ninety-some-odd million people. It's a central Muslim country, and you cannot just – and it's a neighbor. So it's a different way of dealing with them, let's say, than little Bahrain or little Kuwait that are fabricated countries that have small populations and so forth.

## **#Nima**

Sorry for interrupting you. I don't know if you saw the recent polls about the situation, how the people are feeling about Israel. You look at the polls in Turkey, it's 97% against Israel, totally against Israel. This shows how the people are feeling about Israel and what Israel is doing. Sorry for interrupting you. Go ahead.

## **#Laith**

No, no, no, don't worry about it. And, of course, all that is happening on the ground with the collapse of American imperial power in the region and the beginnings of the collapse of the Israeli project, and the fact that the other big nations in the region didn't take any position that is even in words closer to what Erdogan does. There's a competition where Erdogan can say words and then he can look better than the Saudis or the Emiratis, right? And can situate himself as speaking on behalf of the Sunni population. And this is partially what is happening with his words on Lebanon, specifically more than Syria — his jostling with the Saudis over who is the main sponsor of the Muslim sect in Lebanon.

And I'm sure the leadership in Iran knows these intricacies of the situation. But that doesn't deny that it's the same thing about imperialism and Zionism. We all know the imperialists created Israel so it can shatter the Arabic continuity in the Muslim world and put us into war and everything. That's a fact. But right now we're seeing more and more of the imperialists, including white supremacists or people that don't hate Muslims or Arabs, beginning to say that Israel is costing them too much. Okay? And they're going to try. So it's fine that we work with that because it's not our societies. I don't care what the American or European societies decide, who's going to rule them, as long as it's not somebody who's killing me, right?

Similarly, with the split that we may begin seeing of former vassals of the United States that are seeing the ship sinking and don't want to sink with it. So it may come to a point where the Turkish state and Erdogan decide, you know what, it's better if I now abandon my relationship, military alliance with the United States and Israel, and look towards better relationships with my neighbors that are Arabic and Muslim. And so this is why Iran keeps the door open. And it's a smart thing. And

at one point, we need to maximize the conflict between Turkey and Israel if we want to break that relationship.

## **#Nima**

Do you see, Laith, in your opinion, who's closer to the acts of resistance? Is it Turkey or maybe Qatar as an outcome of what has happened so far in the Middle East? I don't know about Saudi Arabia. Saudi Arabia is so tricky. But Qatar is—the reality is forcing Qatar to change its policy. But who's closer or getting closer to the acts of resistance?

## **#Laith**

Believe it or not, neither. I think there's a bigger chance of swaying Egypt towards the axis of resistance than swaying any of the Arab monarchs and/or Turkey. And I say this—why? Because as we see right now, Egypt is the poorest of those countries, and the money that was flowing from the Emirates or Qatar or Saudi to keep the economy of Egypt afloat has dried up. Right, so—and Egypt has a military force. Egypt has been, you know, kind of overshadowed and/or minimized in its effect in the Arabic world since the assassination or poisoning of Jamal Abdel Nasser in the 1960s. So there is a possibility to put a fig leaf and olive branch to the Egyptians and begin helping them escape their being beholden to Gulf money.

We remember martyr Ayatollah Khomeini, how he spoke about Egypt and the inspiration of Egypt as a nation, and how it's special within the Arabic world, and the relationship that Iran had as a people with Egypt, and the intermarriages that are there and so forth. So I think... And it's quiet, if you noticed. It's the most quiet out of all of the states around the issue, and it didn't have its territory used to attack Iran, which is another plus. Turkey had its territory used to attack Iran. So we'll see probably, inshallah, if there's a rapprochement with Egypt, it may be the most successful to make them break away from American control.

## **#Nima**

But with the current government, do you see... You remember we were talking about Egypt, and Egypt is so interesting. I think that was smart to bring it up. And how do you see the political parties in Egypt? Are we going to see some sort of change, or is Sisi going to continue there? And how is that going to help the axis of resistance, what's going on in Egypt? Because nobody's talking—as you mentioned—nobody's talking about what's going on in Egypt and the people, how the people feel, how the political parties are acting. What do we know about that?

## **#Laith**

You know, all around Egypt there's war — in Libya, in Sudan, in Gaza.

## **#Nima**

And sorry for interrupting you. Egypt is so important because they're close to Gaza, they're close to Palestine, and their strategic position is the most important, in my opinion, for the axis of resistance, if they can do something about it.

## **#Laith**

Yes, yes, and as you see, it's the Emirates, the Saudis, the Qataris, and the Israelis that are causing all the wars, except in Gaza. Well, the Israelis are causing that war. But in Libya and Sudan, which is destroying Egypt's ability to do trade and spilling all of these refugees into the country. And also the main revenues coming from the Suez Canal are trickling down because of the wars that Israel is conducting. And so there is a way to entice Egypt right now, including with the current president, without having to interfere in internal issues of Egypt, to entice them to escape this hold.

And that will require, you know, something to be given to Egypt. And I think, you know, whether it's a technological association or trade deals, something that Yemen can step in and do to help stop all the problems that are happening in Libya and in Sudan. If, for instance, the Egyptian military is helped to defeat the RSF in Sudan, in the border areas with Chad and Libya, Egypt can see a lot of revenue come from just peace on the southern border.

## **#Nima**

Thank you so much, Laith, for being with us today. Great pleasure. Before wrapping up, please go to [freepalestine.tv](http://freepalestine.tv). I don't know why it was always in your headline, but it's not there anymore. And yeah, go to [freepalestine.tv](http://freepalestine.tv) and support what Laith is doing.

## **#Laith**

It's not video, I think. Sorry.

## **#Nima**

It's just because I was on a different show. Here is the link, [freepalestine.video](http://freepalestine.video). Go there and follow Laith. He's doing an amazing job reporting on the ground in Beirut, in the southern part of Lebanon, which is so important for all of us to know what's going on there. Thank you so much, Laith, for being with us today. Great pleasure, as always.

## **#Laith**

See you next week, Javi.

**#Nima**

See you next week.