

# Larry Johnson: The American ATTACK on Iran has BEGUN - Iran's Upscale Retaliation Coming

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## #Nima

Hi, everybody. Today is Wednesday, June 10, 2026, and our dear friend Larry Johnson is here with us.

## #Larry

Welcome, Larry. Well, these are dark times, and I'm not trying to make light of it. But I'm thinking about resigning in protest. You didn't wear the shirt. Usually, you're like kicking my ass with your shirt choices, but today you decided to wimp out, to surrender. Not like a Brazilian-Iranian in my book. I'm too busy with the news. Actually, what concerns me is you knew this was going to happen because you sent me a message early this morning and said, hey, can you show up later? And I said, all right. And so what did you know? How did you know this was going to happen? Let's turn this in. I'm going to interview you.

## #Nima

Yeah, but right now you are here to answer our questions. Okay, all right, all right. Okay, let me give you what has happened so far. The attack is happening as we talk, Larry. What we know is the air defenses are active in the western part of Tehran. The naval base on Sirik Island was reportedly targeted by two strikes, and one strike hit close to Minab — that city where those kids were killed, five kilometers from Minab. And Iran, at the same time these attacks are happening, is attacking Iraqi Kurdistan in Erbil. They're attacking them with drones and missiles.

And there was some sort of report that the United States Navy carried out attacks on Syria from warships in the Gulf of Oman. And there is a confirmed strike on Qeshm Island, and they tried to hit a petrochemical plant in Asaluyeh. It seems that the air defense system intercepted it, and there was

some sort of limited explosion, but because of the air defense system hitting the missile, it didn't achieve anything so far. There are explosions in Bandar-e-Kangan. Bandar-e-Kangan is close to Asaluyeh. Asaluyeh and these are close to Bushehr, that nuclear power plant.

## **#Larry**

So they're on the coast, the west. Exactly.

## **#Nima**

All of these — Sirik, Qeshm, you know, Kangan — they're all close to the Persian Gulf. And a U.S. official said that the strikes on southern Iran will continue, including hundreds of targets, and continue for hours. Right now, as we talk, Iranian army Mi-28 helicopters are active over Tehran to intercept these little drones. And Mehr News reported, you know, that the fighter jets — they reported some activity of Iranian fighter jets in the sky over Iran. And here is the latest news, Larry — the attack is happening as we talk. Your understanding of the situation, and what is the main reason for this? Donald Trump said, we want to change Iranian decisions, we want to force Iran, our terms on Iranians. I don't know — what is your assessment of these attacks? Are they going to change it? What would happen? What would come through these attacks for the United States?

## **#Larry**

Well, a couple of things come to mind. The attacks that Iran launched last night in response to the U. S. attack must have done some serious damage. Otherwise, if it was light damage and inconsequential, I don't think the United States would be responding. Now, the United States, as you notice, doesn't talk, doesn't actually describe damage that has occurred. So there's that. But it comes back to the point I was making yesterday on some other shows, which was the attack yesterday combined with that leak to the New York Times, David Sanger, about the negotiations surrounding the nuclear issue. I think all of that was designed to stage, to create a narrative so that Trump can now walk away from peace talks.

I think over the weekend, it was a battle for the mind of Donald Trump. Initially, there were those who thought he would sign on, that there was a deal that would have required some concessions from the United States. But the Zionists — not just Bibi, the Zionists, which covers both the Jews that are Zionists and the Christians who are Zionists — they mounted a full-court press on Donald Trump. And whatever inclinations he previously had to support Bibi, the agreement that was being hammered out in Islamabad, he decided to blow it up. That is exactly what he's doing. This is the end of the negotiations, the end of the agreement. I think this will now spark a sustained escalation. I think, you know, Iran hit them last night and then didn't continue.

It limited its response. It had a limited response last night, just going after Bahrain, Kuwait, and Jordan, the Muwaffaq Salti Air Base. But I would think now, in light of what the United States is

publicly— I mean, they come out and say it in public— yeah, we're going to hit them hard tonight. It's like, I don't even begin to understand that. You know, there's no justification. Again, there's no justification for this attack. So this is the end of the ceasefire, and we'll return to battles until we see, at such time, that the United States will come begging again for Pakistan or whoever to see if they can talk Iran into another ceasefire. And hopefully, from my standpoint, Iran tells them to go fuck off.

## **#Nima**

Yeah. Here is the latest news, Larry. The Iranians shot missiles toward a U.S. warship in the Sea of Oman. And that report here, from Mehr News in Iran, just confirmed that they have intercepted a cruise missile that was supposed to hit, you know, petrochemical plants in Al-Saluyah.

## **#Larry**

And that's important right there, that they've now—they are intercepting a cruise missile. We weren't seeing them do a lot of interceptions of cruise missiles previously.

## **#Nima**

Yeah, it seems that the improvement they were talking about in terms of their defense system is working. Because with all the attacks—the Israeli attack on Iran and last night's American attack—they didn't get close to the Iranian borders. It's far away from the borders. They're trying to hit targets inside. That's why you see most of the attacks happening close to the Persian Gulf, close to the borders.

## **#Larry**

Yeah, no, I think part of it is also premised on the belief, U.S., if they destroy enough, you know, sensors, weapons systems, and communication systems that are right there on the line, the Strait, that that will then prevent Iran from being able to stop the U.S. from sending ships through the Strait. And, again, I think it's—the U.S. grossly underestimates and misunderstands Iran's capabilities, which extend not just—they're not right there on the coast, but extend inland and underwater.

You know, we haven't seen any of the engagement yet from underwater drones. Of course, Iran now does have those Chinese, reportedly Chinese, anti-ship missiles that might have a range of more than 200 miles. So they could conceivably start engaging U.S. ships offshore. I think now Trump and his team have screwed themselves. They really think that this is going to break Iran. They really do believe themselves when they say, oh, Iran's army is broken, the military is defeated, they have no capability, the economy is a disaster. So it's up to Iran to help.

## **#Nima**

Breaking news, Larry. Yediot Ahronoth, the Israeli publication, the Israeli media, just reported that it seems the U.S. warship got hit by an Iranian anti-ship missile. And it's reported on Israeli media that they hit the U.S. warship. And there are some reports that at the airport in Bandar Abbas, again, close to the Strait of Hormuz, close to the Persian Gulf, they hit the airport in Bandar Abbas. And that remains to be confirmed—the Iranians hitting a U.S. warship. But it was reported in Yediot Ahronoth. Yediot. Yediot.

## **#Larry**

Israeli. Israeli. Yeah, there it is. I see it.

## **#Larry**

Ahronoth. Ahronoth, I think it is.

## **#Nima**

Ahronoth, yeah. Yediot Ahronoth.

## **#Larry**

Yeah. Yeah. Hey, that'll be... If that happens, and, you know, again, if it sets the ship on fire, if they sink a ship, good Lord. You know, this is... this is going to really bring the pressure on Trump because, again, he initiated this. They tried to create—I think they absolutely lied about—Iran didn't fire on that Apache helicopter. So that was used as an excuse, a pretext, because I've said all along, if the United States was really serious about negotiating with Iran and about ending this through negotiations, they would have overlooked it, even if Iran had done it. I think it's, you know, one possible scenario is that the helicopter shot hit a drone, it exploded, shrapnel from that drone got sucked into the engines of the Apache, and that's what caused the helicopter to go down.

Trump's explanation that the head of the drone, you know, because it was one of these big-ass drones, was embedded in the cockpit—you know, this is a complete lie, a complete fabrication. But, you know, the other big news of what we're seeing today is we've now got confirmed interceptions of cruise missiles by Iran, something they were not doing 12 weeks ago. So that's going to—and maybe the U.S. saw the deployment of these new systems. Because I bet you these are—they're either Russian or Chinese. And now Iran has deployed them, and maybe that's what the United States is going after to try to destroy. And instead, the U.S. is losing its cruise missiles, which it doesn't have a lot to lose.

## **#Nima**

But when it comes, Larry, to that story about the Apache helicopter, is it possible for a drone to go after a helicopter and hit the helicopter? It's too difficult.

## **#Larry**

No, it's possible. But if it hits the helicopter, the helicopter is coming down. If it's a drone with an explosive warhead, that would cause that helicopter to fall from the sky like a brick. And the pilots would have been killed. So the story they're telling doesn't make sense.

## **#Nima**

Israel literally has an objective in this war, and they want to change the equation that Iran has established in the region—the attack and Iranian response to any Israeli aggression on Lebanon. On the other hand, Donald Trump is talking about the only reason that he's trying to do this. He said that today he wants to change the Iranian position in the negotiations. If that was going to happen, it would have happened during the first round of war—I mean, the second round of war.

## **#Larry**

Okay, yeah. So I'm negotiating with you, and you're not giving me what I want. So therefore, I'm going to kick you in the balls and punch you in the nose in order to get your cooperation. He's been watching too many mobster movies. Yeah, that's what you do to somebody who's weak and can't punch back. But when you are wrong and you're quite capable of punching back, you're strong enough, all of a sudden doing that is only going to further enrage. It's not going to make you want to cooperate with me.

It's going to make you want to destroy me to stop me from hurting you. You know, God is, you know... I can't express enough my complete disgust with what Donald Trump has become. Maybe he was this all along. But he's now starting the war up. I guess he waited until the markets were closed today. I just wanted to check here to see. Well, yeah, the NASDAQ went down 950, almost 1,000 points. So the chip sell-off worsens. Trump threatens more attacks. Oh, there's a good idea. Well, what's oilprice.com doing? Have you looked at that?

## **#Nima**

Let me check it. But what's so amazing to me is that today we had the Qatari delegation in Iran talking with Iranians, trying to make...

## **#Larry**

What is that? Trump waited. They waited until the Qataris had left the area, right?

## **#Nima**

Yeah, exactly.

## **#Larry**

They waited until they left and said, okay, now let's attack them. So this is—I don't see the other Gulf Arabs, including the UAE, starting to line up and say, by God, we're going to have to, we're going to stand by the United States. This is, you know, I think this is headed toward a level of escalation that will go on for, you know, another couple of weeks. And then the United States will be begging to stop it, which will send a further message that the U.S. is much weaker. I mean, for Trump to do this, it darkens—it puts a cloud over the World Cup, you know. It puts—and plus you've got the coming up, the 4th of July celebrations now are less than three weeks away, three, four weeks away. So you've got three weeks—yeah, exactly four weeks away. So—and the United States is going to be embroiled in a war of choice.

## **#Nima**

Israeli Channel 11 reported that Israel is not involved in the attacks on Iran. And this is just amazing, that Israel is putting the United States on the front line, then saying that they're not part of this, when we know the whole agenda is the Israeli agenda.

## **#Larry**

I mean, this makes no sense. I mean, it really does. It's like, what is Trump doing? Why are they doing this? Because, you know, it's not like yesterday I thought Iran could have, because of the attacks that took place in southern Lebanon and on Tyre yesterday, that Iran, under its new doctrine, would have attacked Israel as well. They stood off. They didn't do it. As I said, they had a limited response yesterday. So I guess I'm curious to see what they're going to do today. Are they going to expand their attacks, or are they going to again limit them?

But, you know, yesterday Jordan said, oh, we took down five out of five missiles. Not a one got through. I don't believe that for a minute. And, in fact, maybe, as I said, the U.S. did more damage yesterday than they've admitted, which is one of the motivations for this strike. The one thing Iran has is it's got intelligence support from both China and Russia, including the location of U.S. ships, including inbound attacks, turning aircraft, taking off. And I suspect they're getting it in real time now.

## **#Nima**

I think the reason they're saying Israel is not part of this operation is because of Ben Gurion Airport, which is full of American aircraft. And I don't know if Iran would attack Israel at their airport, Ben Gurion Airport, which is full of refueling tankers and aircraft all over.

**#Larry**

I mean, just from a pure tactical standpoint, yes, they should. They should wipe it out. Sorry, I just got a notice—one of my older cousins died. Wow. You know, she had a good long life, but she was a big fan of the blog. Of course, she was yelling at me recently for being anti-Trump.

**#Nima**

Wow.

**#Larry**

Now that she's passed, she may discover the truth. So anyway, sorry.

**#Nima**

Iran is, right now, the second round of attacks is happening in Iraqi Kurdistan, it's attacking them. I don't know what is happening in Erbil, because every time something happens, they're attacking Erbil. Right now, there are two attacks on Erbil.

**#Larry**

My guess is it's a CIA operation that's equipping and training Iraqi Kurdish fighters to be able to penetrate Iran and take territory, assassinate officials, et cetera. And I think, I don't know if Iran got it through its intelligence or through Russian intelligence, but whoever provided it, they are certainly going to preempt it. And it would be interesting now to see what Turkey does in light of the latest threats from Israel—you know, the fact that, hell, Bibi Netanyahu threatened them today. You muted yourself. Can you hear me? No, I hear you.

**#Nima**

Here is the footage. It seems that the footage is coming out from the region. I don't know if that's... Let me just bring it up. The footage of the American warship being hit. Yeah, being hit by, you know, an Iranian missile. The footage of the ship on fire—no, off the coast of Oman. It's not a warship; it's a ship off the coast of Oman on fire.

**#Larry**

Yeah. Isn't that the ship that the U.S. hit? No, it didn't say who did it. No, I'm telling you, the U.S. earlier today off the coast of Oman hit a ship. That wouldn't—I mean, look at the—it's dark over there now. So that picture doesn't make sense because it's clearly light, the sun's still up. And if I'm not mistaken, it's six—it's 6:30 here, is it not? Yeah, it's not—it's because it's not—yeah, 2 a.m. in the morning. Yeah, it's 2 a.m. or something like that. Yes, it must be six—yeah, it's gonna be.

**#Nima**

Yeah, 1, 1:30. 1:30 a.m. Something like that.

**#Larry**

Go ahead.

**#Nima**

Israeli media reported that Iran hit the warship with a hypersonic missile.

**#Larry**

Uh-huh.

**#Nima**

Yeah, it's still unconfirmed. It's still unconfirmed. They're saying that. It's still unconfirmed, the Israeli media—Yediot Aharonot. The name is so difficult to pronounce. And I think, Larry, what happened last night with the attack on Sirik Island—they attacked two water tankers, the water supply on Sirik Island. If things go in that direction, because as we talk, a new attack is happening on Bandar Abbas. If the United States is starting to attack the water supply in these cities, we're going to see the same thing happening with the GCC countries, maybe going to Israel. I don't know if Iran would hit desalination plants. My understanding is that's not their policy. But if the United States continues with these sorts of attacks on water supply, they may change their attitude. Well, yeah.

**#Larry**

I guess I don't see Iran punishing—if the Saudis were not involved with these attacks or the Qataris—then I don't see Iran punishing them for the sins of the United States. But Iran could—if they retaliated against anybody, it would probably be against Israel, knock out Israel's water supply. And so that would, well, send a message. This thing, it's escalating. And for no good reason. I mean,

that's what's crazy about this. This is another war of choice by Donald Trump. He had a ceasefire—well, it was sort of a ceasefire. The United States has been violating that ceasefire for weeks. But now it's escalated to a new level.

## **#Nima**

Trump on Fox News says the next targets will be bridges and power plants. I wonder what he's seeking with those targets. What does he want from these sorts of attacks if he does that? But he's talking about it. I think he's getting serious with those attacks.

## **#Larry**

So, yeah, this is just simply to inflict pain on the civilian population. But let me draw a parallel with you, to compare that. If in Ukraine, the Russians are knocking out bridges that are behind the front lines, they are trying to cut lines of communication so that new supplies cannot be brought to the troops on the front line, which will then weaken those troops and force them to surrender or retreat. That's not the case here. It's not like the United States has an invading army. This is just simply to cause harm and hit targets that right now have no military relevance. Because the underground factories—their power plants, I'm pretty sure, are also buried underground. So they're not, you know, they can continue operating while the civilians above ground are gonna be hurt. Yeah, this is—we're at the start of something big and terrible.

## **#Nima**

Politico reported that the President of the United States, Donald Trump, will not attend the first U.S.-hosted match of the FIFA World Cup between the United States and Paraguay in Los Angeles on Friday. He's going to be busy with the fight. I don't know. They said for hours, it's going to be hours, less than one day, less than 24 hours. It's going to be two days, three days. How is that going to work? Because if it lasts more than five or six days, it's going to be a full-out war.

## **#Larry**

Is that right? That's how Iran's going to have to look at it. You know, the Pakistanis are desperately trying to salvage the Islamabad Accord, but I think even now they're realizing that's not going to happen. I honestly don't know why Iran is even negotiating with the United States, because the United States has been agreement-incapable, to quote Sergei Lavrov. So what I think is, the next time the United States comes begging Iran for a ceasefire and to sit down at the negotiating table, I think Iran should say, okay, you've got to do two things. You've got to lift the sanctions immediately, unfreeze our assets. Then we'll sit down and talk. You've got to show something in good faith that you are serious, because we've been through your bullshit now for three months, and you're not a serious country. I mean, they've had repeated agreements that they thought were ready to go, and then Trump walks away from it.

## **#Nima**

Yeah. Here is the footage of... Here is footage of an F-14 Tomcat active in Isfahan. And it seems that they're getting in the sky to take care of the drones, I don't know, maybe, or maybe fighter jets. Are they going to get to the borders to fight?

## **#Larry**

No, I don't think you're going to see F-35s coming in to fly over Iranian territory, or even F-16s or F-18s. It would be insane to do that now because I think, you know, as we're seeing with the reported interceptions of cruise missiles, Iran's air defense system has been upgraded. And I don't think they want to send in some new aircraft to find out how effective it is.

## **#Nima**

Larry, I think the Israeli aim and objective, which is impunity with the ongoing war, is that they want to attack Iran and all these countries around them. Basically, I'm talking about Lebanon. They want to attack Lebanon without having any sort of response, without having any sort of attack in response to what they're doing to Lebanon. That's why the main goal of the Israelis right now—today we had the Israeli prime minister and Israeli president talking with the Lebanese people and with the Lebanese president—saying that, we don't consider you our enemy. You are not our enemy. Our enemy is Hezbollah. We want to hit Hezbollah. We are at war with Hezbollah, but we are friends of the Lebanese people and the Lebanese government. And they're trying to do their best. They did everything. You remember the way they did before the war against Iran started. They said, we are the people of Iran, we are your friends. The enemy is your government. We're going to remove your government. They're doing the same in Lebanon.

## **#Larry**

Yeah, well, the Lebanese people, all they have to do is look out their window and see how friendly Israel is. They've been killing not only Muslims but Christians. So, you know, Israel's destroyed its credibility.

## **#Nima**

Can this war achieve the objective of Israel, which is impunity with the ongoing war, with ongoing attacks on Lebanon and other countries?

## **#Larry**

Let me start with what I don't think will happen. I don't think the United States and Israel combined can inflict enough damage on Iran that it will push Iran to the point of saying, okay, we're going to

need to surrender, we're going to need to cut off aid to Hezbollah, we're going to need to give up all of our enriched uranium, and we may have to get rid of the mullahs. Okay, that's not going to happen. So a more likely scenario is as the U.S. steps up this attack, the financial tsunami that's been approaching since the closure of the Strait of Hormuz is finally going to start hitting.

And like today's dramatic fall in the stock market, you know, close to, you know, down almost 1,000. If that continues, and it looks like it may, then the United States is going to be facing severe economic headwinds—let's call it that. The oil crisis is going to spike because everybody who's been draining their reserves is going to run out of reserves, and all of a sudden there's going to be intense competition for a smaller batch of oil out on the market. Trump was bragging that the CIA snuck out, you know, 100 million barrels of oil. See, I wonder whose oil that was.

## **#Nima**

It was Iran's oil.

## **#Larry**

He's been helping fund Iran. Yeah. That's the other thing about this—it makes no sense. So what we're looking at here is that if this escalation continues, and if Iran now engages in the complete tit-for-tat—the United States hits, Iran hits. If the U.S. hits again, then Iran hits again. And if the U.S. responds, Iran hits again. And it will focus its targets on key military infrastructure as well as, you know, if they could go after the water source now in Israel as a response for what they did on Camp Shiloh, because Israel was involved with some of those attacks. So, you know, I'd be fascinated to watch what the Iranian military is going to do in response.

## **#Nima**

When Beirut was attacked, Doha was attacked, the Iranian National Security and Foreign Policy Commission spokesperson, Ebrahim Rezaei, said the moment the attack happened, "Tonight we're going to attack Israel." And I remember when I did my video, I went live and said, maybe Iran is not going to respond. Maybe Yemen is going to respond to that attack because nothing happened—it was an empty building.

## **#Larry**

Yeah, yeah.

## **#Nima**

Today he tweeted again. He said, during the 40-day war, the extent of Iran's territorial waters increased, and in the next war, perhaps the extent of Iran's land will increase. He's basically, in my

opinion, talking about Bahrain. Kuwait and Bahrain, yeah. Kuwait and Bahrain could be part of that because these two states are so fragile. They're so, you know, the situation is so critical in these two states. In Bahrain, majority Shia, and they're against the government. In Kuwait, the same way, they're so connected to the Iraqi people. They were part of Iraq. They feel right now more isolated.

## **#Larry**

Iran's effort could actually be to return Kuwait to Iraq. And again, you look back—I don't mean to get us off topic—but if we go back to the start of the war, the first Gulf War against Saddam in 1990... But that made no sense. Again, at that time, I didn't really know the history of the United States in the previous ten years providing covert support, both with precursor chemicals for chemical weapons, biological agents for biological weapons, money, helping raise money from the Gulf Arabs to assist Iraq, as well as providing intelligence—the best intelligence Iraq could use to attack Iran. So, and over that, you've got to—there was a relationship with Saddam. I mean, the ambassador, I'm sure, had pretty regular meetings with Saddam to coordinate all of this and to talk about the war, talk about U.S. support.

And so when he then invades Kuwait after talking again to Ambassador April Glaspie, the United States' response should have been to call him up and say, hey—sit down. Let's sit down and talk. We know we told you we didn't care, but actually we do care. So there would have been a way to peacefully resolve that. Instead, we used it for a dick-measuring contest. We're going to show him that invasion was completely unnecessary. Completely. And then the ensuing 10, 12 years were just maybe a pretext to do what we did finally in 2003—invading Iraq and destroying the regime of Saddam Hussein. And then, again, putting it now under greater control or greater influence of Iran, with all the Shia involvement. So like I said, the United States—if people think they're working according to some grand plan—it's a grand plan of a madman. What do you got, something new?

## **#Nima**

Yeah, it seems that the IRGC says that it detected an F-16 breaching Iranian airspace and then launched a surface-to-air missile at it. They tried to, you know, force it to retreat. You know, the F-16 retreated from the Iranian airspace. They tried to breach and come into Iranian airspace, but it was forced out of Iran.

## **#Larry**

So we're seeing something new. Iran wasn't sitting on its hands over the last 12 weeks. They've upgraded their capability. I saw reports that the Chinese and Russians were helping them. I think we're starting to see evidence of that. I mean, you've had reports tonight of intercepting cruise missiles, now reports of basically intercepting an F-16, and reports of a hypersonic missile hitting a U. S. ship. But that clip you were showing before, that was the ship that the U.S. hit off the coast of Iran. That's not a ship that Iran hit.

## **#Nima**

No, no. Yeah, you're right, because it was written that that was the ship that was hit off the coast of Iran.

## **#Larry**

Repeat that word. I'm what? I'm right. You're right. Yeah, I'm sorry.

## **#Nima**

Get this on. Larry, what's the story behind this sort of allegation on the part of Trump that millions of barrels of oil were stolen from Iran? Later on, the U.S. Energy Secretary, Chris Wright, told a congressional hearing earlier today that he's not aware that the United States has taken millions of barrels of oil out of Iran, as President Trump reported it had. What is that? Is he making things up, or is he serious, or does he feel that he did it?

## **#Larry**

Well, remember in the early days of the war, Trump lifted restrictions, sanctions on Iranian oil. Remember that? Why? So Iran could sell oil, put some oil out there on the high seas to try to keep the world from collapsing and having a major crisis. That's all he's talking about. You know, somebody fed him a story and he believes it. He really doesn't know what's going on.

## **#Nima**

The new report shows that in the last 20 minutes there were no attacks or strikes on Iran. And it seems that the first round of attacks somehow was concluded. Let's see if they're attacking again. But Larry, in the region, something strange has happened during the fight between Iran and Israel before the United States attacked Iran, which was an attack on Saudi Arabia. There is no statement on the part of Saudi Arabia about who attacked them, who hit the targets in Saudi Arabia. Why are they so silent about it?

## **#Larry**

But this is from the other day, right?

## **#Nima**

Yeah, the other day, exactly, before the attacks between Iran and Israel.

## **#Larry**

So, yeah, it turns out what I heard, and I thought it came out of Saudi sources, was they finally said that, A, Prince Saud Air Base had not been hit, that the Houthi missile that landed in Saudi Arabia was headed toward Israel and ran out of gas or malfunctioned or whatever. So it wasn't really an attack. So to my knowledge, there hasn't been an attack. And it's interesting that so far, you know, last night it was reported that Saudi aircraft were involved with refueling planes that were attacking Iran, yet Iran didn't respond and attack the Saudis. And that may have a lot to do with Pakistan's coordination both with the Saudis as their defender and with Iran recognizing the United States is trying to provoke Iran into attacking the Saudis.

## **#Nima**

Larry, have you heard about that airplane going from the UAE to Iran?

## **#Larry**

Yeah. Yeah, so – and there was some – I think it was just the delegation talking. Some have suggested that \$3 billion were being sent. It was not a big plane. I don't think it was a plane capable of carrying the weight of 300 people. So if it was \$3 billion in gold, I checked that out today, that would have been equivalent to like 50 tons, something like that. Or if it was \$100 bills, you know, \$3 billion worth of \$100 bills, that would have filled up like a tractor-trailer container. So it wasn't that. So I think it was just talks between, you know, the UAE trying to make nice with Iran and saying, look, okay – we're sorry for all the Israeli ass-kissing we've been doing. We want to make amends. Because notice, they've been very, very quiet over the last couple of weeks. They haven't been acting like these jerk-offs that they were before.

## **#Nima**

We had some sort of fight between Erdogan and Benjamin Netanyahu today. Erdogan came out and said the Israeli agenda should be stopped, which is the Greater Israel. And he mentioned the south—they have a province close to the Syrian border. He said that Beirut, Damascus, and Aleppo are the same as the southern provinces of Turkey. They are as important as Turkish territory. So we're going to respond to what Israel is doing. But somehow, I don't know if—we had Benjamin Netanyahu coming out, responding to him, saying, "You are the biggest, you are the most anti-Semitic person on this planet," telling Erdogan. Behind the scenes, you see the trades.

## **#Larry**

It's part of that incredible Israeli Zionist diplomacy. I mean, they're all about making friends and influencing people. God, you know, just the arrogance and obnoxious attitude of Bibi Netanyahu. I wish I could say that his arrogance and, you know, that he's not representative of a lot of Israelis. Au contraire. He is the quintessential expression of what a lot of Israelis are like, unfortunately.

## **#Nima**

Breaking news. Iran's Khatam al-Anbiya Central Command announced the full closure of the Strait of Hormuz, allowing zero ships to pass from now on, with or without tolls. Every single movement through the Strait will be targeted. This is the full closure of the Strait of Hormuz. I think we're getting back to the initial days of the second round of war, and we're going to see the price of war just going up.

## **#Larry**

Yeah, it should. Yeah, I mean, Brent—the price of Brent should really be well over \$100. Instead, it's \$93 right now. But West Texas Intermediate is up now, so they're both \$92, \$93 apiece. That's right now. So we'll see what happens in the coming hours. You're right, it should go up significantly.

## **#Nima**

We had Houthis, Larry, today checking the Bab al-Mandab, just controlling Bab al-Mandab and some sort of vessels. They had their own ships, boats to go and check these vessels. And it seems that they're gonna come into the game. Today they were doing this, you know, verifying who's passing through the Bab al-Mandab. And it seems that we're heading toward, you know, Yemenis joining the fight. The Strait of Hormuz is closed. We had some reports today that the Suez Canal traffic is just getting worse because, you know, everybody wants to get out of the Red Sea, going to the Suez Canal. And I don't know how this new movement on the part of the Yemenis would influence that.

## **#Larry**

Well, again, we'll see—will Yemen allow Saudi oil out through the Strait of Hormuz? I mean, through the Bab al-Mandab Strait. And we get back to this question of behind-the-scenes coordination, communication, diplomacy to keep tensions between Iran and Saudi low. You know, I keep hearing a lot of people talk about the Saudis and Iranians being at each other's throats. It's like, haven't you guys been paying attention the last two years? Two years ago, Iran and Saudi Arabia basically buried the hatchet and started meeting and pledging to support each other. So the relations, I don't think, have soured. That was one of the consequences of the work done by the Chinese and the Russians to promote that reconciliation.

## **#Nima**

If Erdogan tries to do something against Israel, he has public opinion behind him. He has something like 97%. Looking at this, Larry, on the right side, you see Turkey, 97%. They have a negative sort of opinion on Israel, and they would be happy if Erdogan does something against Israel. But the government, it seems that as they're trying to talk, their talking points are so tough. But when it comes to action, they're doing nothing. I don't know how long it's going to last for them.

## **#Larry**

So Israel reminds me of this drunk guy at a bar. He's now picked a fight with two of the patrons, and there's this big guy sitting over on a stool who's not in the fight—he's just watching. So Israel, while busy trying to fight these other two, comes to the guy and goes, "Hey, your mother's a whore." The guy gets up and comes over and starts. That's what they're doing to Turkey. They are deliberately provoking the largest army in that area, much larger than Israel. And it's, you know, because it's tied to NATO. And here's Israel basically threatening to attack a NATO country. They've lost their minds. These Zionists are out of control, like a rabid dog. There's only one cure for a rabid dog, and it's not putting it in the kennel and feeding it more hamburger meat.

## **#Nima**

I think it's serious, Larry. Iran hit the warship because the attack has just stopped. There could be something happening. That's why they stopped the attack, because they said it was going to take hours and hours of attacks, and they were preparing for that. Right now, they stopped attacking Iran. Maybe.

## **#Larry**

Well, we'll see. Maybe it's paused. The tankers have to return to base, get refueled so they can take off and then be available to refuel the aircraft again. And we haven't yet seen Iran's response, okay? So Iran's going to respond within the next, I would say, hour—maybe less. Or they should. Now, it's true that during this, they weren't sitting on their hands. They were actively shooting. And, you know, if it's true that they hit a warship, if the United States is stupid enough to put a destroyer close enough to shore that one of the hypersonic missiles could hit it, you know, let's hopefully hope they learned a lesson. No guarantee, but it will be a wake-up call or a reminder that Iran's not a weakling. Iran's got a lot of options.

## **#Nima**

Did you watch the interview that the President of Lebanon had on CNN with Christiane Amanpour?

## **#Larry**

No, I didn't see it.

## **#Nima**

He was saying basically that Iran is using Hezbollah as a bargaining chip. We don't want this war. We've been used as some sort of tool for Iran in this war. Later on, Israel attacked and hit targets in southern Lebanon and killed one of the major generals of the Lebanese army, together with a commander and a soldier.

## **#Larry**

Yeah, yeah. And here's this president who just doesn't give a shit, right? Yeah. He should be blaming Israel for that, but no, he's not. He's blaming Hezbollah.

## **#Nima**

The main objective, Larry, with what's going on with the two messages today from the Israeli prime minister and president, it seems to me that they want to somehow get Hezbollah involved in domestic policies. They don't want Hezbollah to be focused on the fighting in the southern part of Lebanon. That's why they're making these sorts of moves. They say to the people in Lebanon, we are with you, we are your friend, the government, we are with you. They want to make some sort of civil war in Lebanon to get Hezbollah, you know, somehow say Hezbollah is not doing good, it's not beneficial for you, they're trying to do what Iran is asking them to do. So if Hezbollah is distracted from the southern part of Lebanon, then they can advance. This is the main objective. I don't see Hezbollah being tricked this way because they know what the objective is. That's why they're trying to calm everything down in Lebanon in terms of, you know, these sorts of interactions with the government.

## **#Larry**

Well, look, my understanding of Hezbollah and that, you know, the way you're talking about it—and I'm not saying you're saying it this way—but you're describing this attitude as if they are a one-note pony, that they're basically a militia, and they can't do social services and government, take care of government affairs while fighting a war. That's wrong. They are a de facto government. In fact, they're probably a more effective government than the actual government of Lebanon.

And they've got so they do social services and they take care of people's domestic needs while also at the same time fighting off the Israeli army. And they have, you know, the Israelis, I don't think they've consolidated and held territory north of the Litani River. I think they've been forced to retreat. And they've already had to withdraw some units because of casualties. So, you know, Israel is now going to find itself in at least a three-front war, with Hezbollah attacking from the north, Iran attacking from the east, and the Houthis attacking from the south.

## **#Nima**

Two ships—Iran blew up two ships attempting to cross the Strait of Hormuz. I don't know what is happening in the minds of these people who want to cross. The war is happening, and they still want to cross the Strait of Hormuz.

**#Larry**

Well, they trusted the United States. And I said, oh, we got this under control. Go ahead. And I watched the insurance. If these ships were insured by any Western insurance companies, there would be a big payout on that. So I'll give you a four-minute, three-minute warning. I got to go, so.

**#Nima**

Okay.

**#Larry**

Go ahead.

**#Nima**

Just to wrap up, do you feel that the United States is going to continue this attack?

**#Larry**

I take them at their word. They said they were going to. Now we'll see if they reverse that. But you still didn't answer my question—how did you know this morning this was going to happen?

**#Nima**

That was my guess. I was just guessing that it was going to happen.

**#Larry**

Kahlil Gibran, wasn't he like an Iranian poet? Who? Kahlil Gibran. He wrote a book, The Prophet. I'll just call you The Prophet. All right, my friend. Thank you, Larry. We'll see you, if not sooner, at least early Friday morning.

**#Nima**

Let's see. Let's see.

**#Larry**

All right, take care.

**#Nima**

It depends on the attacks. See you, Larry.

**#Larry**

See you soon. Get some dinner. Yeah, sure. All right, bye.

**#Nima**

Sure, bye-bye.