

# Larry Johnson: **BREAKING: Iran Forces Trump Into Concession**

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## **#Nima**

Hi, everybody. Today is Thursday, June 11th, 2026, and our dear friend Larry Johnson is here with us. Welcome back, Larry.

## **#Larry**

You know, I'd only do this on Thursday for you, and that's because you wore the shirt. So I congratulate you on your style. Actually, your wife did it, I'm sure. She picked out the shirt. Yeah, you hit the nail on the head—a woman of excellent taste.

## **#Nima**

Oh, yeah. Larry, let's start with what we've learned from the Iranians. They said that because Donald Trump said today that we are getting to some sort of agreement, J.D. Vance is going to be in Europe—somewhere in Europe—they're going to sign it, they're going to make the announcement next week. This is the story on the part of Donald Trump. What I have learned from the Iranians, it seems that two weeks ago they had prepared, you know, by these messages that they're sending back and forth, they had prepared the text. They sent it to the United States through the Pakistani government, and the United States somehow agreed on it. Then they said, no, we have to add some more points, some more, you know, some more power, because they wanted to add something to the text. They wanted to change it, they wanted to put their own sort of understanding into the text.

So they added some points to the text, then Iran said, we're not gonna agree on those points. We just agree on the original text. Then the attack in Lebanon started—an Israeli attack on Lebanon. Iran responded, then the attack on Iran last night by the Americans, while the Qatari delegation was in Iran, because the Qatari delegation went to Iran to say that the United States agreed on that original text. So they gave up on those points that they wanted to add to the text. Then the attack happened last night while the Qatari delegation was in Iran. They didn't leave Iran last night till this

morning. So they were there while the United States was attacking Iran, and Iran was responding. And in the morning they left Iran. And here is the situation. Let us know what we know about the United States and what the situation would be tonight.

## **#Larry**

Well, we will see additional attacks by the United States tonight and probably continuing for the next several days. They're not going to be intense. These will be—I don't know if they're symbolic—but they're still trying to identify and attack targets there on the Strait of Hormuz. I don't think they're going to, they're not going to go in-depth to Tehran and try to bomb strategic targets. In fact, I think I was told—stand by here, let me just double-check—that I'm told they're looking at like a three- to four-day mini campaign that Trump has authorized.

It will consist of limited surgical strikes focused almost exclusively on the Strait of Hormuz, going after what they call the coastal defense cruise missile sites, which are buried in the caves, and ground missiles and radars, jammers, launch vehicles, etc. But I've heard that the dual-use military-civilian targets are strictly off-limits, which means no bridges, no energy. So meanwhile, I did an interview earlier this afternoon with Garland Nixon. You ought to go watch the opening because I wore a neck brace for it, because I said, man, I've got whiplash on my neck from Trump does this and then Trump does that. And he does, you know, he's going back and forth.

You know, one minute he says, quote, not my words, his words, "I'm going to bomb the shit out of Iran," to, yeah, he said, "Hey, we got a deal. We're going to be signing any day soon." Now, this is number 39. When I watched Tucker's interview with John Mearsheimer and Tucker's speech beforehand, it was at 37. Now we're up to 39 times where Trump is saying, "Hey, it's imminent. We're going to sign tomorrow, sign soon." We'll see. I think, you know, there's still a lot of obstacles. But what is clear is that Iran has significantly upgraded its air defense systems and that it inflicted significant damage on the U.S. at Muwaffaq Salti Air Base in Jordan.

## **#Larry**

One Russian and an Iranian source, separate sources report, both report that at least 12 F-35s were destroyed and/or damaged, which would be significant. So there's—Trump's erratic behavior, I'm sure, is not lending confidence to the Iranian side because they're looking and trying to figure out what—I know many Americans who are very knowledgeable are quite confused trying to figure out what Trump's doing. So I can only imagine what foreign leaders are saying. It's like, will the real Donald Trump please stand up? You know, they ought to start playing the Eminem rap song "Slim Shady," because Trump is certainly Slim Shady here. We don't know who he is. He keeps going back and forth.

## **#Nima**

Yeah. Looking at the targets last night, Larry, they tried to hit the petrochemical plant in Asaluyeh, which it seems they tried two times with cruise missiles, which were intercepted. No damage was reported in Iran. No damage to that petrochemical plant, which is so important. And I would say in these two, three days that you mentioned, they're going to attack again and again, as in what Sir Joe reported, that they're going to continue with these attacks. Right. What is the objective of those attacks? If what is reported from Iran is right, then what is the objective of that? I don't know. What is your understanding of that?

## **#Larry**

Look, I think what it is, is Trump thinks that these attacks can put pressure on Iran to make concessions, because that's all Donald Trump knows right now in terms of his negotiating plans—if you want to call it a negotiating strategy—fear and intimidation. But I don't see Iran being fearful nor intimidated. I think without Israel in the mix, without Israel bombing Lebanon and continuing to attack the Palestinians, they would be able to reach a deal. But I think Iran must contend with the fact that Israel ultimately may or may not hold the veto power. Let me explain why I say may not. If Trump comes to the conclusion that this is the only way out, that he's going to have to make these concessions, and he's going to have to compel Israel to stop the attacks, then I think he will do it. But, you know, I'd say that's 50-50, really.

Because the social influencers that Israel's paying, they've been attacking Trump relentlessly. And the Zionists in America, they're going crazy. And people like Mark Levin and Ben Shapiro are losing their minds over this. But, you know, I believe—well, the other interesting twist of this is Pepe and I are being told that the Pakistanis were playing a leading role in this. But what we saw last night, and apparently what the key mediators now appear to be, are the Qataris. And as you noted, the Qatari delegation was in Tehran yesterday, and I guess they left early this morning. The day before that, the Emirati delegation traveled to Tehran. So I see Iran looks to be working all of the key diplomatic angles with the Emiratis, Qataris, and I'm sure they're in regular communication with the Saudis. Yeah. And you come back to what are Iran's five key demands. The first one is lift the sanctions, return the frozen assets.

Number two, accept Iran's control over the Strait of Hormuz, lift the blockade. And last, and the most difficult one to implement, force Israel to retreat from Lebanon, to impose a legitimate ceasefire that they're not going to break, and stop the violence against the Palestinians. That could be the whole stumbling block. Now, that doesn't even get into the nuclear stuff, which... Right now, the decision on whether to proceed or not proceed is in the hands of Ayatollah Khamenei. He's the ultimate one that gets to make the decision here.

And if I sit there talking to him, I'd say, look, the United States has yet to demonstrate that they can commit to any kind of agreement. And so I think what Iran's opening negotiating position should have been is that if we're going to have any further talks, if you're serious about talks, we need you to immediately lift all oil sanctions. Lift those. That'll tell us you're serious. If you don't lift those,

then we know you're not serious. And we'll just, we'll continue, you know, you continue trying to destroy us, and we will continue, and we'll destroy Israel and your military presence in the Gulf. I don't know if he, you know, I don't know if he'll do that. So, you know, because he's also weighing—I'm sure he's weighing in his mind—the prospect of more violence visited upon the Iranian people.

And they have seen very clearly that the United States has no objection at all to killing civilians. So, you know, but this—you saw—we went from this morning, Washington, D.C. time, so, you know, say 9 a.m., 10 a.m. my time, or actually about 9 a.m. my time, Trump said, we're going to hit them harder today. We're going to, you know, destroy them. We may put troops on Kharg Island. And then five hours later, he goes, okay, yeah, we're not going to bomb. And, in fact, we're ready to sign an agreement—almost ready. But I'm telling you right now that there will be attacks tonight. In fact, I think there are already reports of attacks, some minor air defenses engaged. So, you know, this isn't over by any stretch.

## **#Nima**

No, it's not over. What Donald Trump said, you know, the attack last night, Larry, was interesting—the Iranian response. They're not attacking the UAE, not Saudi Arabia, nor Qatar. It seems that something, in terms of the negotiation, as you mentioned—we had the Qatari delegation, we had a delegation from the UAE going to Iran. I don't know what is the nature—at least we know what is the meaning of the Qatari delegation, what was the mission of the Qatari delegation—because the source in Tehran said that they were, you know, talking about the differences they had, the differences that Iran had with the United States, with that text. But when you look at the situation in the Persian Gulf, Donald Trump, he said today that the strait is open. He said many strange things. The strait is open. We have taken out 100 million barrels of oil. We stole it from Iran. The meaning of that was that we stole it from Iran. They don't know that we did that to them.

## **#Larry**

You do realize how silly that was because, you know, 100 million barrels of oil represents five days of normal flow out of the Persian Gulf. So go back to like February 26th, February 25th, before the start of the war. Every day, 20 million barrels were coming out. So that's only five days' worth of oil, number one. Number two, that much oil would require probably between 70 and, let's say, 110 oil tankers, depending on the size of the oil tankers. And put it in terms of U.S. use, that's how many barrels of oil the United States uses every day. So, you know, 20 million total is five days' worth, or 20 million per day is five days' worth. So that really, that's an inconsequential amount.

It doesn't kill Iran from a financial standpoint, assuming that all of those barrels of oil were Iranian. There is no evidence that the United States captured 60 to 110 ships. So, you know, I don't know what he was doing. But think through the logic of this. So he's telling you it's a covert program, correct? You know, that it's secret. And he's telling you that it's successful. Why would he then go public, blowing, essentially, you know, exposing this successful secret program or top-secret

program, so now it won't be successful? What... what sort of logic is that? I don't get that. So this is, you know, this has more twists and turns than a soap opera. In Spanish, they call them telenovelas. Do they have that kind of drama on Iranian television?

**#Nima**

Yeah, they have. They call it, it basically means soap opera. It means the same as what you use. What is it in Farsi? We call it novela. In Brazil, we call it novela.

**#Larry**

Right, in Brazil you call it novela. What do they call it in Iran?

**#Nima**

They call it seriale eshghi, something like that.

**#Larry**

Yeah, exactly. So, you know, that's what we're watching right now, man. This is like a telenovela on steroids, you know, complete with explosions and other things. So the United States will continue to launch, let's call them pinprick attacks, which means Iran will respond with pinprick attacks.

**#Nima**

Yeah. Larry, the point of invading Iran in the Khark Islands — for many weeks they were talking about this, right? And here today, even Senator John, Republican Senator John Kennedy, was asking, what do you feel about it? And he said he's so concerned because little by little, if you put troops on the ground, it's going to turn into Vietnam. It's not going to be easy. It's a huge commitment on the part of the Trump administration if they go that far. It's not going to be easy because when you start it, you cannot back down. You have to do something. And doing something means casualties, people being killed. And there is no way to—by the way, the Khark Island is gonna be a trap, simply a trap. It means that you want to kill your forces. You put them there to be killed.

**#Larry**

Yeah, apparently the Iranian forces have already placed mines and, you know, anti-personnel mines in the open areas. And anybody that's seen a map or seen a photo of it — I saw a great photo earlier today — it's tiny. It's not big at all. And, you know, how many troops are you going to land to, quote, take control of it? And once they're there, they're going to be targeted. And they don't have any good cover, any place where they can hide and be protected against drone attacks and short-range ballistic missiles and maybe intermediate-range ballistic missiles. And we're not even

talking about how to get them on the island without getting them killed. And once you get them there, how do you keep them resupplied? Because it's very hot now, and they're going to need lots of water just to stay hydrated. Right. And, you know, so you start adding up the — as I've said before — ground invasion, never going to do it.

**#Nima**

Yeah. So, I don't know, if he decides — so far, have you seen any sort of change in the oil market?

**#Larry**

No.

**#Nima**

Yeah.

**#Larry**

It's still being—it's come down a little bit. Let's see, I did have it up here. Let's see, where is it? Yeah, so it's \$92.74 for Brent. Now it's below \$90 for West Texas. So, you know, the speculators are having a big time with all this. They're able to make money just betting on Trump being erratic.

**#Nima**

Yeah.

**#Larry**

Well, let me ask you a question. Go ahead. The foreign ministry spokesman, Ismail Baghi?

**#Nima**

Baghi, yeah.

**#Larry**

Yeah, Baghi. So he said that reports of a finalized agreement with the United States are speculation and that nothing has been finalized. And he says Iran has not yet reached a final conclusion regarding an agreement. Okay. He says much of the draft text had already been completed, but the Americans kept changing their positions. And he reemphasized Iran does not compromise on what it

has defined as its red lines. And we talked about that at the outset. You know, no sanctions, lift the sanctions, unfreeze the assets, recognize Iran's control over the Strait of Hormuz, lift the blockade, and then stop the fighting in Lebanon and Gaza.

## **#Nima**

CENTCOM today announced, posted on X, that they're somehow helping some tankers to pass through the Strait of Hormuz close to the Omani border, close to the Omani coast. And it was denied by the Iranian media. They said nothing of that sort is happening. And the Trump administration is trying to make these sorts of arguments to manipulate the market. That's the whole point with the Trump administration. But as we talk right now, we are hearing that some tankers, a few tankers, are being attacked by Iranian drones, and they were hit in the Strait of Hormuz. It seems something is going on there. I don't know if it's going to be—still, there is no fight.

There is no attack still. I don't know if you find something there being reported, but here as I check. But the point about Baghi, as you've mentioned, the source that I talked with says basically the same thing. He said that the final decision is coming from the Supreme Leader of Iran. Even the text is prepared by Iran, and then later on the United States wanted to do some sort of changes. But right now the decision is on the part of the Iranian leader. He decides, he finalizes that, gives the green light to the delegation, to the Iranian negotiators. And that didn't happen yet, because I think they're still monitoring the U.S. behavior in the region.

They're waiting to see if the United States will attack. What would be the meaning of those attacks? And what are the targets? Because it's so important, Larry. For example, two water tanks were attacked on this Syrian island, and those were huge for the island. You know, many people today and the day before didn't have water — the water supply was somehow disrupted. This is the problem. If they decide to do that, to continue with that concept of attacking infrastructure — you mentioned that report, the guy who sent a message to you — he said they're not gonna do that. They're not gonna attack infrastructure, bridges, power plants. But they did that before.

## **#Larry**

That's as of today. So when these orders, called air tasking orders, come out, they direct the aircraft on what their targets are, what they're going to hit, what the rules of engagement are. And right now, those rules of engagement say don't even hit the dual-use stuff that could be used for a military purpose but is also civilian — don't hit it. So that means stay away from the power plants, stay away from the bridges.

## **#Nima**

Trump's difficulty, his difficulty comes from Israel. It's not coming from the U.S. position. I don't see, because he said as soon as they're signing the deal — next, he said that — he's going to lift the

blockade, the Iranian blockade. That's the point of the blockade. But when it comes to Israel, it's too difficult, Larry. It's almost impossible, in my opinion, to do something with Israel. And they have 36 new regions in the West Bank to send the settlers there. Just yesterday they announced that they have new areas, 63 areas, to send the settlers there, whatever is happening in the West Bank.

Nothing is good on that front — in the West Bank, in Gaza, and in Lebanon as well. But Lebanon is fighting back. The problem is there. And the other point, Larry, correct me if I'm mistaken, my understanding is the Iranian attack on Israel — they said nothing happened. They said they intercepted each and every missile and drone. Later on, we learned, for example, one of the footages that came out, one of the photos that came out today, was this photo that you see. They hit the Ramat David Air Base in Israel — you can see the building was destroyed.

## **#Larry**

And this is one of the targets.

## **#Nima**

Yeah, on the right, exactly. You see on the left, before the attack, and on the right, after the attack — it was destroyed. So they're not telling us the truth, the Israelis I'm talking about. Based on what we've learned, the attack was a sort of serious and significant retaliation on the part of the Iranians. And then it seems that's why ISIS needed to attack Iran. I don't know what is going on. It's all about an Apache helicopter or something happening. But do you think that was related to the Iranian attack on Israel, or was it something else?

## **#Larry**

No, no, no, no. I think this was a deliberate effort by Donald Trump to try to blow up the talks and, in the process, placate the Zionist lobby. But, you know, Trump's tone from, you know, two weeks ago, May 30th — that was the day after Marco Rubio got the call from the Pakistani foreign minister saying, "Hey, Iran's going to withdraw from talks on anything dealing with nuclear. They're not going to embrace any kind of framework." So, you know, it was at that point that Donald Trump's tone changed. That's Friday, May 30th.

And it stayed changed, sort of conciliatory. "Hey, I want to sit down and, you know, chat with the Ayatollah." It's like, what? It's a good thing Trump's a teetotaler, because otherwise he'd say, "Yeah, I want to sit down and have a beer with Khamenei." That's verboten. No, that's not going to happen. Yeah. But then his just extreme turn today was shocking, frankly. And the more I watched it, it looked like a deliberate plan — you know, create all this mayhem and then, "Oh, here, here, we're the savior, we'll stop this."

## **#Nima**

And they're using cruise missiles, Larry, to attack Iran — the attacks in the southern part of Iran. And what do we know about these cruise missiles? What is the stock? How is the situation with the stockpile of the United States in terms of the cruise missiles that they're using right now? Last night it was 45 cruise missiles, something like that.

**#Larry**

45 or 49?

**#Nima**

49, yeah. You're right — 49.

**#Larry**

So... the important part last night for me was the interception of those missiles, because Iran hadn't done that before. That tells me they've got some new technology. Is it from Russia? Is it from China? Did they develop it in response to the last round of attacks? You know, maybe. The Iranians absorbed the blow, but again, they were limited in their response. They didn't go whole-hog attack, because they could have justified bombing Israel last night, but didn't. And they've, you know, the mixed messages coming out from Trump — I mean, one minute he's going to bomb them to oblivion, and the next minute, hey, I can't wait to talk and sit down and sign an agreement. Or that J. D. Vance will sign the agreement. And I'm not sure if J.D. Vance is in Islamabad right now talking with the Pakistanis as intermediaries, or if he's in Qatar, you know, talking about it. So it's just very much in flux.

**#Nima**

Here's what Keith Kellogg said today, Larry, on Fox News. He's somehow suggesting the use of nuclear weapons against Iran.

**#Speaker 03**

Finish the job. Having a protracted war is not the American way of war. It's a war we've been conditioned to in the last few decades, where we've done things in Afghanistan or Iraq. We ought to go back to the way we did it in World War II or World War I — just finish the job, total war, obliterate them, and say, when you need to come to the table and you want to talk to us, you've got our phone number, but until then, we're done. Because right now we're playing their game, not our game. Let's play our game and force them to come to us.

**#Larry**

Yeah, he's crazy. I mean, okay, let's use World War II. How many American soldiers were mobilized? Soldiers, sailors, Marines, airmen? Sixteen million. Okay? The United States right now has 470,000 soldiers in the Army. I think it's 110,000 Marines. So we're nowhere close to the kind of manpower resources they had in World War II. And they had lots of advantages — you know, the Germans weren't firing hypersonic missiles at them. And the U.S. actually had some fairly effective air defense back in World War II. We don't have it now at all. Zero.

## **#Larry**

You're muted. You're muted.

## **#Nima**

He said, we don't want something like Iraq and Afghanistan. We want something—he wants to put an end to the war as soon as possible. But the use of nuclear weapons, it doesn't mean that you're going to win the war if they use nuclear weapons. And he doesn't consider that. If you go that far, what would be the repercussions of the use of those weapons? And what would be the reaction on the part of Iranians? I think he's just missing the whole picture by pointing out that maybe the nuclear plan is the ultimate solution. As Netanyahu said, the final solution.

## **#Larry**

The problem Israel and the United States have is that the locations where, if you want to take out the nuclear capability, are built in underground shelters that were specifically designed to withstand a nuclear blast. So hitting them with a nuke, which was apparently suggested to Donald Trump—he was asking about whether we could be successful using a nuke on those targets—and the basic answer came back saying, no, we can't. So don't even think about it. Stop thinking about it.

## **#Nima**

Larry, do you think there is some sort of disagreement within the Republican Party? As you heard what Republican Senator John Kennedy said about, you know, I just mentioned what he said about the use of ground forces to capture the Heart Island. What is the situation with the Republican Party? Are they united? Because on Fox News, when you watch these guys coming on Fox News, they say, "We are all united behind the President of the United States with anything that they decide." But is that the case?

## **#Larry**

Yeah, I think so. Again, they're still trying to figure out the erratic policy. According to Robert Barnes, they've had at least five agreements, and Trump's backed away from them every time. And as the Iranians have acknowledged, they send a document over, and then the United States turns

back and changes it in a way that's unacceptable to Iran. But at the same time, the U.S. turns around and starts attacking Iran, which is a violation of the ceasefire. So, you know, the Iranians are trying to accommodate both the Qataris and the Pakistanis and maybe the Saudis. I don't think Iran wants to see the war expand to those Gulf countries and have them be damaged or destroyed.

## **#Nima**

Do you feel that the United States is somehow perceiving, the Trump administration is perceiving, that change is happening in the region and they want to be part of that change? In the case of the Qatari government, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE—because the UAE was not part of this—UAE was so close to Israel. I don't know what has happened in the UAE, but they became part of these sorts of talks, and they went to Iran. That's a huge question, a big question, in my opinion. But it seems that the United States is behind the scenes doing something to facilitate that.

## **#Larry**

The United States to an extent, but the more important actors behind the scenes are China, Pakistan, and now Qatar. And I don't know to what extent Qatar is working with the Chinese and working with the Iranians or not.

## **#Larry**

If anybody is saying, okay, we're going to be done with this, the attacks will stop, they're not going to restart—no, they'll be doing it again tomorrow. They're doing it tonight. We'll just see if it is a pinprick or if they go for something bigger and bolder.

## **#Nima**

But I can guarantee you, if they do this, there would be no agreement, because right now they're waiting. At least what I've heard from Iran is that they're waiting. The United States is waiting for the Iranian response—basically, not the Iranian government, the Iranian supreme leader's response to the agreement, to the deal. That's why they're waiting. I don't know what would be the point of attacking Iran. Let's see what would happen. Yeah, I think that's interesting to see. Donald Trump, after all, if he makes a deal with Iran, he wants to show that I am the big guy. I forced them. I forced my terms on them.

## **#Larry**

Yes. And that's part of what we're seeing here, is him trying to create a—because the United States, to get a deal, is going to have to make some really—what the Israelis will view, or the neocons will view, as shocking concessions. They will just be beside themselves that Trump would make this kind of deal. On the other hand, I don't think Iran is going to make a deal unless those conditions that we

outlined earlier are met. We don't have to make this too complicated. That is... you know, it's really up to Trump to sign off on it. And so far, he hasn't.

**#Nima**

Have you heard what Mertz said today? He said that Iran has to remove the nuclear program totally, and there is no way to accept that. I don't know, who cares about Europe anymore?

**#Larry**

Yeah. What do they get? What's Europe going to do? They can't even send ships to the Strait of Hormuz to try to force it open.

**#Nima**

On one side, they're begging Iranians to let their tankers pass through the Strait of Hormuz. On the other side, they're trying to back Israel in its agenda with the nuclear program of Iran.

**#Larry**

Let my tankers go. Let my people be free.

**#Nima**

Yeah, yeah. Let's see what—thank you, Larry. And we're going to talk soon.

**#Larry**

Yeah, I guess we'll talk in the morning. Yeah, and stay on afterwards. I'll tell you what's up.

**#Nima**

At 9 a.m. Eastern. Yeah, tomorrow, together with Colonel Wilkerson.

**#Larry**

Will he be on at that time? Good.

**#Nima**

Yeah. He's going out of town. Yeah, he's going to be with us. Then after that, he's going to be out of town for two weeks. See you soon, Larry.

**#Larry**

All right, my friend. Yep.

**#Nima**

Take care.

**#Larry**

Yes.

**#Nima**

Everything is good. You're classy, Larry, with that hat, with that cigar, and everything. It's like a boss.

**#Larry**

Yeah. Don't develop vices like this until you get older.

**#Nima**

See you soon, Larry.

**#Larry**

All right, my friend. Bye.

**#Nima**

Bye-bye. Thank you.