

Johnson & Marandi: BREAKING: US and Iran Reach Deal – Full Details Inside

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#Nima

Hi everybody, today is Sunday, June 14th, 2026, and our dear friend Larry Johnson is here with us. And Professor Marandi, in a moment, he's going to join us because we were waiting for him. He didn't join, but he's going to join us as we talk. Larry, let me start with what is going on right now between Iran and the United States. We had the Israeli attack on Dahiya in Beirut again. Again, they couldn't achieve the objective. They couldn't kill, assassinate those Hezbollah commanders because they wanted to assassinate some people there. Right. Then Iran said they're going to attack, they're going to retaliate. The retaliation... it didn't come.

And just moments before coming to this live, we've learned that the United States and Iran have reached some sort of deal, and they're going to sign it on Friday. And just imagine, you're negotiating as the President of the United States, talking and reaching a deal, and he was so serious. I think he thought he was going to get it on his birthday, you know. And that's why he was so serious about it. And you see Benjamin Netanyahu attacking Dahiya to destroy just everything. Right. What is your understanding of that before getting to the deal, what's going on between them? Because we have the 14th point of the deal — it was published by Iranian media. We're going to discuss it later on. Go ahead, your take on that.

#Larry

Well, let's see the U.S. publish its version, and then let's compare the two and see if they match, number one. What we have right now is, it looks—I do think the press reports that the Trump administration was busy making promises to Iran, you know, oh, we're going to lift the blockade, oh, we're going to let you get money up front, \$12 billion, oh, and then the Strait of Hormuz is open. Now, notice, all of this is predicated upon—we got an agreement with—but we haven't seen it from both sides yet. We got the Iranian version. We haven't seen the U.S. version yet. We have seen Trump say things that are at odds with what Iran's saying. Iran said, hey, you're reopening the Strait of Hormuz on Friday. There'll be tolls, you know, fees, whatever you want to call it.

They'll be paid, and we'll get business back to normal. Whereas Trump's saying no tolls will be paid. Trump's saying, oh yeah, we're lifting the blockade, but we're going to continue to intercept Iranian ships that are carrying Chinese military equipment. That's called a blockade. So I think what we have is the promise of an agreement that isn't signed yet, and with still lots of, you know, five days away, lots of time for mayhem, reversals, betrayals — a lot of potential stumbling blocks to derail this whole thing. So they got, you know, Israel took its best shot today to derail it. I don't think they're done. I haven't had a chance to monitor the Israeli press, but I suspect they're not a bunch of happy campers right now.

#Nima

Yeah, I'm sure they're not happy. I don't know if you saw the post by Yair Lapid today. He said that for Israel, Benjamin Netanyahu said if the United States and Iran reach a deal, that's a total disaster for Israel. Israel lost everything. And right now that deal—it seems they're going to sign it on Friday. They announced it just moments ago. They announced that they're going to reach it. But when it comes to the content of the deal, the details, I think that's so important. And they said that Iran didn't attack Israel because they had a new concession on the part of the United States. I don't know what that means when it comes to it. It could be, it must be related to the situation between Israel and Lebanon. What's your speculation on that?

#Larry

Well, again, the five red lines for Iran have been: immediate lift of sanctions, unfreezing assets, lift the blockade, recognize their control over the Strait of Hormuz, and end the fighting in Lebanon and Gaza. Those, as I understood it, were Iran's five red lines. Those had to be given. I don't see Iran making concessions on those. So then you get into the details of, okay, when are those things actually executed? As you saw with the JCPOA, Iran was supposed to get sanction relief and effectively did not. And, you know, the other thing that's sort of hovering over this agreement is the fact that you've got United Nations sanctions that haven't even been addressed yet. And you've got indications from France and the UK that they're doing all they can to sabotage this deal as well.

#Nima

Yeah. Here is what was reported by Mehr News. Again, that same news agency as before—you remember that 14-point plan that I sent you the other day. And they just announced it. This is official. This is official. Let me send it over to you. You can look at it. And I'm going to read it here for our audience. This is the new 14-point plan MOU, Memorandum of Understanding, to be signed on Friday. Yeah, it doesn't take all of these descriptions, but it mentions the important points—14-point plan. One of them, the first, is the permanent and immediate halt of war on all fronts, including Lebanon.

Today, as we talk, Israel was attacking the southern part of Lebanon. Israel was attacking Gaza, the West Bank, and they attacked Dahiya in Beirut. Do you see any sort of sign, Larry? Let's assume that this can happen. The first point of this plan that is going to be signed on Friday—they have already announced that they have reached an agreement. There were two phone calls today between Donald Trump and Benjamin Netanyahu, and in one of them, Benjamin Netanyahu, it seems, said that he's not going to abide by the agreement between Iran and the United States. And Israel is not going to withdraw from Lebanon. That's not going to happen.

#Larry

Yeah. Trump is in a position where he has the power to shut off all support to Israel. He can do that. And if he does that, Israel is going to be forced to toe the line. What we don't know is whether Trump has the actual spine to do it, the willingness to do it. So that's what we've got to wait until Friday to find out. And, you know, that's why I say this—I describe it as, this is like, they've announced there's going to be a wedding. The wedding's going to be on Friday. We still haven't signed the prenuptial agreement, either side. And nobody's exchanged rings. There's not even an engagement ring yet.

But promise me it's going to be a great wedding. Okay. I ain't holding my breath. I think five days is a long time. I think this can get derailed pretty quickly. Okay. But, you know, I see J.D. Vance doing his best to spin this for Trump, to say, oh, look, man, you are bringing—you've got this, you've got the nuclear deal, you've guaranteed that Iran's not going to have a nuke. You know, number nine on those conditions, Iran reiterates its commitment under the NPT not to produce nuclear weapons, which, you know, I forget when Iran foreswore, but that's been their commitment all along.

#Nima

Yeah, I think with the case of Lebanon, if the United States is serious, they can do something about it. You know better than me that in the latest Iranian attack on Israel, without the United States, Israel is not going to be able—correct me if I'm mistaken—without the help of the United States, they're not going to be able to attack Iran, because their fighter jets must be refueled by the United States, and the help of the United States is substantial if they decide to attack Iran.

#Larry

Yeah, yeah. They've got a few tankers of their own. They could still probably do something, but not on a very massive scale. And they'd do enough to get Iran retaliating on them big time. What really hasn't got a lot of reporting is the significant damage that Iran did to the U.S. bases in Kuwait, Al Udeid, and I forget the name of the Army base. They hit the Fifth Fleet headquarters, what's left of it. Hit it very, very hard, destroying some more critical radar systems. They hit Prince Saud Air Base. That didn't get any attention. Nobody talked much about it.

#Nima

This is Bahrain. These two are in Bahrain. And this is Ali al-Salem in Kuwait, which was the air warning radar system that was attacked and destroyed in this picture. The left one and the right one—you see in the right one that it was destroyed.

#Larry

Yep, it's gone. And then you had the attack on Muwaffaq Salti Air Base in Jordan. Again, significant damage. Now, Russian and Iranian channels were reporting the destruction and damage of up to 12 F-35s. Now, they could be exaggerating, but what's interesting is the United States is not coming out with this battle damage assessment at all. You know, it looks like they're covering it up. So, you know, we'll see. Friday is, you know, a long ways away, five days away.

#Nima

But when you're talking, they're limited in their refueling tankers, it seems like, because if they go to attack Iran, they have to bring something like 20 or 30 fighter jets to attack Iran, or they're going to go with 10 or 15, something like that. And you have to have, at least for 10 or 15, at least six or seven refueling tankers. Is that right?

#Larry

Yeah, I think a refueling tanker can handle up to six aircraft, the KC-135. So five tankers would allow you to handle 30 aircraft. And, you know, again, to reach the Persian Gulf from there, they've got to go at least two air refuelings, because the F-35s have about a 500-mile combat radius. And so, you know, they would actually, just to get out to the edge of the Persian Gulf, need two refuelings. And then to get back, they're going to need two more. So, yeah, it'd be a big... So start with six air refuelers, and six more would need to take off. I don't know how many Israel has in its inventory, but I think they may have enough to do that. But the issue is they're going to have to overfly Jordan. I don't think the Saudis, particularly with the announcement of this deal at hand and Pakistan taking a victory lap, will allow them to fly over Saudi Arabia, the more direct route.

#Nima

It seems that Donald Trump was somehow under pressure from the GCC countries as well. He said that, at least. He mentioned a little bit about how the five countries were somehow putting pressure on the United States to achieve it, to make the deal. I don't know what the reality of that is. Do you see any sort of reality in that?

#Larry

No, I think the United States is definitely getting pressure from the Saudis and Qataris in particular. And it looks like, you know, Iran's diplomatic efforts with the UAE have been successful. You know, at least tensions have calmed down there. You know, again, I can't emphasize enough that this is—they've announced the intent to sign an agreement that will take place on Friday, but right now we've got an Iranian version out there. We don't have the U.S. version. Show me the U.S. version, and then let's compare them. If they're the same, then I'd say, okay, yeah, we are on—at least now we're on solid footing. We know that they both agree to the language. But, you know, Trump has said things in the last couple of hours that would indicate that the United States has a radically different view. And the view is that, you know, for example, instead of tolls being paid to get through the Strait of Hormuz, it's toll-free. No payments.

#Nima

You know what's strange? Donald Trump, in his tweet, said that the blockade is gone, the Strait is open. But in this 14-point document that I'm seeing right now, it says they have to lift the naval blockade, or the blockade on the Strait of Hormuz, on the part of the United States and Iranians, within 30 days. So it's not going to be something done immediately. It seems it takes time, and the two sides are somehow looking at each other to see what the other side is doing. And the whole thing somehow seems to me like a fantasy.

#Larry

Well, it's, again, you know, somebody that's been married two or three times is getting remarried. One of the things they want is to have a prenuptial agreement. So in this case, we look at the Iranians and the United States. They both had bad marriages. They've both been through divorce. So they want a prenuptial agreement to figure out how things are going to go. That's not signed yet. They're getting ready. All they're going to do on Friday is sign a memorandum of understanding, like in this document, outlining general guidelines or goals.

Yeah, we're going to reopen the Strait of Hormuz within 30 days under Iranian arrangements, which means Iran charges the toll, working with Oman—tolls that are going to be paid in Chinese yuan. The U.S. is going to commit to withdraw its forces from the areas around Iran. Okay, when? You know, now, three months from now, a year from now, five years from now—so there's no time, no deadline on that. A complete lifting of the naval blockade. I know that the one Iranian channel called Powerful Iran said that the United States is, okay, yeah, we're going to lift the blockade, but we're going to continue to intercept any Iranian ship carrying weapons from China.

#Nima

Yeah. It seems on Friday, Larry, we're going to have J.D. Vance together with Ali Bagheri, the head of the Iranian parliament. These two will sign the deal in Geneva. This is what has been said just moments ago. And the second point, Larry, getting to the second point, that the United States is not

going to interfere in Iranian internal affairs. I think that basically is talking about the way that the United States and Israel were preparing for this war. And the Israeli media is extensively reporting on the way the plan was prepared before the attack. It was all about the United States and Israel attacking Iran and using the Kurdish terrorists in Iraqi Kurdistan to come in and to do the regime change, you know, making some sort of chaos by using these people. And here is Professor Marandi joining us here. Welcome, Professor Marandi. Hi, Nima. Hi, Larry. How are you doing?

#Larry

There's a familiar face. You're the hardest-working man in television there, brother.

#Mohammad

Well, I'm glad I didn't wear your shirt. I would have looked very awkward.

#Larry

No, no, you would have looked in style, man.

#Mohammad

No, because actually you're not wearing the proper shirt.

#Larry

Yeah, exactly. I chose the blue one. I'm sorry.

#Mohammad

I'm glad I didn't wear the shirt because I would have looked very different from the two. Oh no, look at him.

#Nima

Pursuing the goals of this program is me.

#Mohammad

Yeah, yeah. He's the only one who got the memo.

#Larry

Yeah. Well, we were just discussing, you know, I'm glad that, you know, as I told Nima, this is like, you know, you've got an invitation to attend a wedding on Friday, and the bride and groom still have not signed a prenup, and they haven't exchanged rings yet. So, you know what, the words on paper are nice, but it's not an agreement yet. And I personally am skeptical. I don't doubt that, you know, Iran's put out its version of what the agreement is. The United States still hasn't. And, man, Trump, the Zionist lobby is just beating the hell out of Trump right now. You know, he's taking a drubbing. And I don't know how long he can stand up to it. And the other thing is, you know, Iran says, okay, yeah, we're going to lift the blockade in 30 days. And they'll be under Iranian arrangements, which means they're going to pay a resort fee.

I like to use the language they use in Las Vegas. You pay a resort fee, okay? You didn't have to, you know, 25 years ago in Vegas, you didn't have to pay a resort fee. Now you go to Vegas, you've got to pay a resort fee, which is usually, you know, like one-third the cost of the hotel room to start with. In the United States, Trump said, no, no, no, it's toll-free. And so I'm saying, a little bit of disagreement there, or we're lifting the blockade immediately, except we're going to continue to stop and inspect Iranian ships that might be carrying Chinese technology, military equipment. And I'm saying, I don't know. Last time I checked, that's still called a blockade. So show me the actual. Let's see the money. Let's see the withdrawal of U.S. ships. Let's see the lifting of the actual sanctions. Then I'll be a believer. Right now, I'm still from Missouri. You've got to show me.

#Nima

Professor Marandi, I think the point that Larry just raised is so important. But before getting there, we had an Israeli attack on Lebanon, and Iran has decided not to attack Israel, not to retaliate. What was that? Can you explain?

#Mohammad

Yeah, sure. Well, as you know, the two sides were somewhat close to an agreement, but they still had significant differences. And then the Americans tried to impose new conditions. This was like a couple of weeks ago or so, and Iran said, we're not discussing these. And then there was a stalemate. So the Israeli regime bombed Beirut. Iran responded and struck the Israeli regime. The Americans maybe attacked Iran on multiple occasions. The Iranians responded in a heavy-handed way. And then on Wednesday, I think—sorry, it's 3 a.m. right now, it's Wednesday. Out of fear of Nima and out of my friendship with Larry, I'm on the show. But it's really Nima's threats that forced me to come on at 3 a.m. God bless you. Thank you. And you too, and Nima. So the gap between the two sides continues. The Qataris on Wednesday sent a delegation informing the Iranians that those demands were withdrawn.

So we went back to where we were a couple of weeks ago. But the gaps remain. Now, what Trump said, yes, the day before yesterday, I guess—I don't know, it's 3 a.m. here, so I don't know—but,

you know, earlier, not yesterday, the day before, depending on which calendar we're looking at. Yeah, because here it's Monday now. Contrary to what Trump said, there wasn't an agreement. Contrary to what the Pakistani prime minister said, with all due respect, there was not an agreement. There was not a final text. So, there was a stalemate. And yesterday, meaning your today, I spoke with a couple of people who were involved, and they were saying it's unclear what will happen. This is like 12 hours ago, 10 hours ago. Then Netanyahu makes the biggest and most stupid mistake possible. He goes and attacks Beirut at a time when we were in stalemate.

And Iran had demands, and the Americans were not accepting them. And Iran was not going to back down. So this fool bombs Beirut, and the Iranians say, we're going to hit you. And it was clear as day that Iran was going to strike. And the Iranians were preparing. And then in the negotiations, Trump, out of deep concern—and I think the only thing I can think of is that Trump knows that the United States is going to fall off a cliff. The U.S. economy is going to fall off a cliff, and he knows this. So he's just saying, no, please don't attack. And the Iranians said, we're going to attack. And so at the negotiations, which ended two and a half hours ago—yeah, they ended two and a half hours ago, roughly—the United States conceded key demands by Iran.

The Israeli regime has to end the wars on all fronts, and it has to end the occupation of Lebanon. And the siege on Iranian ports has to end immediately. And on Friday, Iran will allow the ships to move through the Strait of Hormuz. But the point is, and there are other things too, but I don't know everything because no one's answering phones from now on. A couple of people who I did call, they didn't pick up, and they'll probably curse me tomorrow. So I don't have too many details. But the important thing is that the United States conceded these points because of Netanyahu. Now, either Netanyahu abides by his side, abides by Trump's commitments, and it's a catastrophic defeat for Netanyahu.

Or he doesn't, and he humiliates Trump. And the world sees him as the reason for the imminent economic crisis, because he is the one who's impeding the implementation of the deal. So for Netanyahu, it is a lose situation. If Netanyahu does not abide by Trump's commitment, Iran will not abide by his commitments. So whatever happens, Trump loses and Netanyahu loses. If Trump does not implement, it doesn't look good for him. If Netanyahu does not implement, it looks horrible for both of them. But Iran does not have any expectations. Iran's demands have been met. They must be implemented immediately—like Lebanon, Iran's assets, and the end of the siege.

If it doesn't happen, we won't carry out our side of the bargain for obvious reasons. So even if Trump does not implement the deal, or if Netanyahu doesn't implement the deal, Iran wins. But Iran will punish Netanyahu. More importantly, Netanyahu will be seen as the one who, for almost three and a half months, has been pushing the world towards a catastrophe. And now, right before the global economy falls off Niagara Falls, Trump is trying to hold it back, and Netanyahu is saying, nope, let's just let it go over the falls. So it will be a political victory for Iran either way. Yeah.

#Larry

Yeah, just a point I made earlier before you got on was that Trump has the power. He does have the levers to coerce and force Netanyahu, but I'm not sure he's got the will. And I don't think he's got the political spine to do it.

#Mohammad

I agree. The Iranians are not at all counting on, you know, smooth sailing. That's not what they expect. But in any case, we now have an acceptable deal for the Iranian people, major concessions by the United States. And if the United States chooses not to implement it, the world will not blame us. They'll blame the United States and the Israeli regime. The Iranian people will see that we've negotiated a good deal. Some people are still unhappy. They're saying we should, I don't know, continue with the war. But I think that this agreement, for now, is better than striking the Israeli regime, because if the Israeli regime, now that they're committed to end the killing and to end the occupation, that, I think, is preferable.

We don't want any—because they're massacring women and children every day, day and night. They're just slaughtering people across Lebanon. This is another Gaza being repeated. And so if Iran can force the Netanyahu regime and the Zionist regime to prevent it from continuing this genocide in Lebanon, that is a huge defeat. It's much better, it's much greater than lobbying and striking targets in Israel, although I'm sure people across the world would be very happy to see Iran fire those missiles. But if Iran could get something much bigger instead, I think that's an even bigger achievement. And what is best of all, perhaps, is to see this clash between Trump and Netanyahu. Because either way, Iran's adversaries and the world's adversaries, they lose. Both of them lose.

#Nima

I think the crucial question right now is, Professor Marandi, if Israel continues with the attacks in the southern part of Lebanon, if they do something new in Dahiya, in Beirut, does that mean that Iran is going to close the Strait of Hormuz and then attack Israel? Does it mean that?

#Mohammad

Yes, they will definitely close the Strait of Hormuz. And in my opinion—of course, I don't know this, I'm speculating—just as yesterday, or today, I said that Iran will punish the Israeli regime. I didn't have information, but I thought it would. No one told me that they're going to attack, but I assumed that they would, based on my understanding of Iran. And they plan to do so. So Iran will continue the siege, and Iran will punish the Israeli regime. Iran has already fired missiles at the regime, and it has hit them pretty hard—hit them much harder than the Israeli counterstrikes.

And then, of course, Iran responded to those counterstrikes. The Israelis have already lost. But even this confrontation that we had a few days ago, it was not Iran that asked for it to end. And so right now, we are in a situation where the ball is in Trump's court. Trump either has to implement the

deal—and that means Netanyahu has to implement the deal—or there's no deal, and the world sees Trump as incapable and incompetent, and Netanyahu as unwilling or determined to destroy the global economy.

#Nima

I think, Larry, you can come in with the case of Trump. I think that what Professor Marandi just mentioned is so important for Donald Trump. If he doesn't control Israel, they're going to get back to the same thing they were having before.

#Larry

Yeah, I'm not sure how long Iran will wait to see if Trump fulfills his promise. Because, again, when you go through the document that the MERS folks released, there's a lot of ambiguity in there. And it's going to be up to Iran to say, no, we've got to tighten up on all of this as we're talking. So, permanent, immediate halt of war on all fronts means now—not tomorrow, not next week, but now. So if by the end of Monday Israel is still carrying out attacks in Lebanon, that'll be a violation of that. The complete lifting of the naval blockade within 30 days—well, yeah, that's one that should have been immediate, in my view.

#Mohammad

It is immediate.

#Larry

Okay, the one that Mehr News Agency put out said complete lifting of the naval blockade within 30 days.

#Mohammad

No, that was an older one. One of the concessions that Trump gave is the lifting of the blockade now. And he tweeted that. Yes, he did. He corrected his previous tweet. So Iran will not open the strait until Friday, but the lifting of the blockade is immediate.

#Larry

Now, the other thing, and this came out of the Powerful Iran Telegram channel, said that the blockade would be lifted, but the United States would continue to interdict Iranian ships carrying cargo from China or military equipment from China. Well, in my book, that's still a blockade. They're just trying to dress it up as something else.

#Mohammad

I don't think that's in the agreement. It's the end of the blockade. Right, no, I agree. If Trump does not abide by... I don't know all the details, but that's not what the Iranians are saying.

#Nima

Professor, let me read what Donald Trump himself tweeted just moments ago. He said, the deal with the Islamic Republic of Iran is now complete. Congratulations to all. I hereby fully authorize the full, free opening of the Strait of Hormuz and simultaneously herewith authorize the immediate removal of the United States naval blockade. This is what he tweeted. Go ahead, Professor. I'm sorry for interrupting.

#Mohammad

Yeah, again, since it's like 3 a.m., 3:12 now, I have, unlike—I mean, I didn't have people to call before we came online. So my information is based on one phone conversation with someone who's well-informed, but I was in a rush because I had to join you, and so I didn't ask him too many questions. But what I know is that the gap between Iran and the United States, which existed till yesterday my time and today your time, ended—what did I say—two and a half hours ago? Sorry, I'm sleepy. So the negotiations ended two and a half hours ago.

So all that talk that we had a deal yesterday, or in my time, the day before yesterday, is all nonsense. We only had the deal two and a half hours ago. And what broke the deadlock was Netanyahu's stupidity and Trump feeling the need to end this now. So he gave all those multiple concessions to Iran, and that closed the gap. Now, that means an end to the occupation. It means an end to the war. It means an immediate end to the siege. In my opinion, Iran won this by far. But what Larry said is absolutely correct, that who knows what Trump will do if he wakes up in the morning and feels that if he doesn't feel well, he may change his position.

He may refrain from carrying out his commitments. And then Trump may say, well, in Lebanon, this has to happen. Then, of course, everything will fall apart. But the important thing is that at least, if it is not implemented, this is a diplomatic victory for Iran and a big defeat for Trump. Because this text will come out, and it will be a humiliation for Netanyahu, and a defeat for Netanyahu and for Trump. If it is implemented, so much the better. So in any case, whatever happens, this, I think, is an important moment. But that doesn't mean that the deal is going to be implemented, and it doesn't mean it's going to last very long.

#Nima

I think here is the answer to the question that Larry just asked you, Professor Marandi. I don't know if you saw the new statement from Iran's Supreme National Security Council, in which it says,

according to the agreements reached, the war and military operations on all fronts, including Lebanon, will end immediately and permanently starting from tonight. And furthermore, the naval blockade against Iran will be immediately and completely lifted. Larry, the answer to your question.

#Larry

Yeah, they're going to, you know, Iran will test it immediately. Do the United States mean it or not? And, you know, the United States backs up. You know, I think one other factor that was at play here is really not getting much coverage. But Iran really inflicted significant damage on U.S. military assets — both, let's call it radar communication systems, early warning systems, and aircraft in Kuwait, Al-Salem, in Bahrain at the Fifth Fleet headquarters, what's left of it. The other, the Army base in Kuwait, Prince Sultan Air Base — that's the one that I was told of. PSAB got hit, and we've hardly seen any reporting on that. And then the Wafq al-Salti base in Jordan got clobbered. You had both Iranian and Russian sources say, hey, they destroyed or damaged 12 F-35s, which is a significant number.

So I think Iran's success, and I know that the general staff, I was told, was panicked and blaming Russia and China for providing Iran with better intelligence for targeting. And I guess that's been the case since the outbreak of the war. They started providing shortly after the 28th of February. But in that interim period, I think we've seen a significant upgrade in Iranian anti-aircraft assets. I had noticed that during one of the last strikes, when the United States fired like 49 Tomahawks, at least at Bandar Abbas, they took five down with Iranian air defense systems. Significant. So the cooperation between China and Iran and Russia and Iran, I think, has led to a significant upgrade in Iranian capabilities. It's also weighing in the back of the mind of at least the advisors around Trump.

#Nima

Yeah. Here is Professor Marandi. What is so important to mention is that the blockade would be immediately lifted in this document. But when it comes to the Strait of Hormuz, there is nothing like that happening in the document. It seems that regarding the Strait of Hormuz, Iran would decide about it on Friday when they finally sign the agreement. Is that the case?

#Mohammad

Yes. And of course, Iran will be looking to see if the siege is truly lifted, and if the Israeli regime discontinues the genocide in Lebanon. And by the way, I hope I'm coherent, but it's 3:18 a.m., so I hope tomorrow you don't contact me and say I said a lot of nonsense.

#Larry

I'm trying to be coherent. Okay, okay.

#Nima

The Israeli media here, by the way, I-24, says that this agreement is a strategic disaster. The Americans give the Iranians plenty and get nothing in return. The most absurd thing is that this war ends with sanctions relief for oil sales, something that didn't exist before the war. And I think there is a lot to be said about the case of the new agreement between the two sides. Let's see what will happen. Professor Marandi, I think one of the most important parts of the deal is that the United States is not going to interfere in the internal affairs of Iran, which we know they had been doing before the war started with Iraqi Kurdistan. They sent a lot of weapons. They said how they did that. They had agents on the streets with those protests. What is your understanding of that? And how is Iran going to measure that the United States is not doing this?

#Mohammad

Well, this is important, but it's symbolic. I don't have any faith in the United States ending its interference in Iranian affairs. And of course, Iran also promised not to interfere in U.S. internal affairs. So I guess the coups in the United States and the uprisings that the Iranians have been paying for during the last 10, 20 years will have to come to an end. But no one's going to trust America. And Iran has never been interfering in U.S. internal affairs. So it is important, it is symbolic, it is an acknowledgment of sorts that the United States is interfering in our internal affairs. And it is legally important, it's symbolically important. But I don't expect any memo being sent to the CIA saying, "Listen, Iran is now off limits." For some reason, I doubt that's going to happen.

#Nima

I think you have to ask Larry how the CIA is going to behave.

#Larry

It'll be business as usual. Yeah, I don't see them backing off yet. The other thing to watch is, is the United States going to start withdrawing military assets from the region? You know, they've been on this uber alert and these assets have been forward deployed. Will the United States start withdrawing them again as a sign of good faith? Or are they just going to keep them there in place?

#Mohammad

Larry, I think everything will depend on Netanyahu. If Netanyahu abides by Trump's commitment, I think Trump will withdraw. But if Netanyahu refuses to do so, this is going to be a big problem because the American people and people across the world will see Netanyahu as pushing the world over a cliff. And it will be humiliating for Trump. It will not be good for Netanyahu either way. But if Netanyahu does end the occupation and end the slaughter of women and children, then I think probably the Americans will begin, at least they'll begin withdrawing. But if he doesn't do that, I

don't think that's going to happen. There won't be a deal. So I think these troops will have to stay in the Arabian Peninsula with the humidity and heat that we all know how devastating it is.

#Larry

Oh, yeah. Let me ask you sort of a related question. Sanctions relief from the United States is one thing. Has there been any discussion about sanctions relief from the U.N.? The U.N. lifting its sanctions?

#Mohammad

Yes, that is. I haven't heard anything today, but yes, that will be in the second phase, because the nuclear issue and the sanctions and all that will be left for later. And that will be negotiated. But that will mean that the laws have to—if there's going to be a comprehensive deal, that means the House and the Senate will have to remove sanctions. Again, this is not something that I believe is going to happen. If the world is lucky, in my opinion, if the world is lucky, Netanyahu will be forced to obey Trump, and he'll back off in Lebanon, and he'll try to compensate by doing horrible things to the people in the West Bank or so. I don't know. These are monsters.

But he will... This is like the best-case scenario. He ends the slaughter, he ends the occupation, and then, of course, the siege is lifted, the Strait of Hormuz is opened, and then there are negotiations. And this lasts for two months. That, I think, is the best case. And then the two sides will start, during these two months, they'll start negotiating, and they'll see that there are big problems. Because the Iranians are not going to accept sanctions relief or concessions over the nuclear program. They're going to say, the UN sanctions—gone. U.S. laws have to be removed. So maybe there will be some provisional deals, bits and pieces.

Again, this is, like, for me, the best-case scenario, where the United States lifts sanctions that are not linked to the House and the Senate, that are not in law, and the U.N. sanctions are removed. This is, like, a best-case scenario. And the Iranians give some limited concessions on the nuclear program. But, you know, for those people who think that the 60—you know, Iran's enrichment at 60%—giving that up is a catastrophe, Ron, I don't at all see it that way. From the very beginning, those who've been following the Iranian nuclear story—and I would advise people to read Gareth Porter's book **Manufactured Crisis**, and Peter Osborne's book—you know, I'm sleepy now—**Dangerous Delusion**.

These two books are books to read on the nuclear issue. And of course, **Going to Tehran**, as I said, by Flynt Leverett and Hillary Mann Leverett, and Alice O'Crook's book **Resistance**. These are books to read. But anyway, on the nuclear program, these are two good ones. Everyone who's been following the nuclear issue knows that Iran enriches uranium at 60% only to force the Americans

and the Europeans back to the negotiations. Because after the nuclear deal in 2015 and U.S. constant violations, and ultimately Trump tearing up the deal, the Iranians waited for two years before fully restarting their nuclear program.

And then afterwards, they started enriching at 60% to put pressure on Western countries to remove the maximum pressure sanctions. So that was the intent all along. So if the Iranians put the 60% enriched uranium on the table in order to force the other side to give concessions, that was the plan all along. But also, in order to—I don't know what the term would be called—but to lessen the enrichment levels, they will have to use their centrifuges. So that would automatically mean that the United States will have to accept enrichment, because if they want to take it down from 60% to 20% or to 3.67% or whatever, they're going to have to enrich.

So in any case, the first phase, which is totally unclear if it will be implemented, is the easy part. The second phase is the hard part. And the second phase, if we're lucky, we're going to have partial deals. If the world is lucky, we're going to have partial deals. A full deal, I don't see that happening unless there's some enormous, world-shattering change in the United States. Like, you know, what happened in the Soviet Union. I'm not saying the United States splits apart, but some enormous change where the nature of the state changes—not necessarily with the changing of borders—but where the U.S. state changes as a result of economic crisis or whatever. Unless something like that happens, I don't see a comprehensive decision.

#Nima

The United Kingdom, France, Germany, and Italy said in a joint statement that they are prepared to lift relevant sanctions on Iran if Tehran takes clear, verifiable steps regarding its nuclear program.

#Mohammad

Nothing about what the Americans have to do. Remember, the German chancellor last year around this time, during the 12-day war—right after the 12-day war—he said, "The Israelis do our dirty work for us." So have no expectations of these pawns. But Europe is irrelevant. Who cares what they say? This is between Iran and the United States.

#Larry

Iran couldn't care less what the Germans, the French, and the British say.

#Mohammad

They can print whatever they like. This is between Iran and the United States. The Europeans have made themselves irrelevant for a host of reasons. One is after what they did with the JCPOA, but also after the war in Ukraine. They've weakened themselves so much that no one cares.

#Nima

Yeah. Thank you so much, Larry. Do you have anything to add before wrapping up?

#Larry

No, I just wish my good friend well. Get some sleep, brother. You know, you're working too hard, but you're doing good work. You're keeping people informed to think rationally about this. And, Nima, thank you for doing this, and I'll see you in the morning.

#Nima

Exactly. All right, bye-bye, guys.

#Mohammad

And hopefully I'll be asleep and won't be watching, but then I'll watch it later on.

#Larry

Yeah, do that. Make sure you get some sleep.

#Mohammad

Okay, I'll watch it later then.

#Larry

Bye for now. Bye, guys.

#Nima

Bye. Bye.