

Larry Johnson: \$150 Billion of Iran's \$300B Reparations Is ALREADY Spent!

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#Nima

Hi everybody, today is Tuesday, June 16th, 2026, and our dear friend Larry Johnson is here with us. Welcome back, Larry.

#Larry

Howdy! Nice shirt. Okay, good. I was saying, you know, you didn't give Morandi the shirt treatment, you know, but that's our special relationship.

#Nima

You have to force him to wear the same shirt that you gave him. You remember that shirt. Yeah, yeah, you gifted him.

#Larry

Yeah, did he wear it? No.

#Nima

Yeah. Oh, he did wear it. Just once. Yeah, just once. Good on him. We can force him again.

#Larry

I'm glad we can. It's better to talk and laugh about shirts than about the world blowing up.

#Nima

Yeah, exactly. Exactly. Larry, I want to bring up something that was reported moments ago on Reuters. And here is the article that they put out today. It seems that—what is the argument in this article? That \$150 billion of Iran's \$300 billion reparations is already committed. How?

#Nima

What is that? I don't know what the source is, but it seems that they have a pretty good source from American officials or somewhere, you know, within Trump's circle.

#Larry

Where did that appear?

#Nima

On Reuters.

#Speaker 03

Okay.

#Nima

And this is—I think this is bombastic, if that was—you know, my understanding is, because so far, looking at the points of the MOU, the memorandum of understanding, you see nothing coming out from the Iranian side or from the American side. But we had two versions today: one coming from Saudi Arabia, from Al Arabiya, the media of Saudi Arabia, and the other from Axios. And both of them, in my opinion, are not giving us the reality of the MOU, because the foreign minister of Iran, Araghchi, in his latest comment, said Lebanon was mentioned in the MOU three times. None of these two versions are presenting that to us.

#Larry

Let me look at the article here just real quick. I just want to see what they say the source is. You know, the one that said that half has already been committed. Yeah. So, okay, what they're saying is that companies—private companies in South Korea, Japan, Singapore, Malaysia, and the U.S.—have made financial commitments to invest money, to put money into the Iranian economy. That's how I'm reading that. And that means they've got pledges at this point up to \$150 billion. Well, remember all the money that was pledged for the Board of Peace in Gaza?

#Nima

Yeah.

#Larry

How much has actually shown up?

#Nima

I think the last time we heard it, it was empty.

#Larry

Yeah, yeah. So hopefully Iran keeps that in mind when they don't want to have a bunch of empty promises. You know, you don't want to be dealing with Wimpy from Popeye. You know, he always says, "I'll gladly pay you Tuesday for a hamburger today." Give me the hamburger now, and I might pay you when I see you next.

#Speaker 04

Which may or may not be the case.

#Larry

So, yeah, again, the point out of all of this is Trump still has not released the memo, the memorandum of understanding. Why? Why hasn't he released it? Is it because, A, there are still areas of disagreement with Iran that they haven't fully reconciled, and so they need a couple more days to get that ironed out?

#Nima

They have released something else. Here is what the White House has released so far—the talking points of the MOU. The first one: Iran will never have a nuclear weapon. The second: President Trump ended the fighting on every front, including Lebanon—no forever war. The third is free of charge. And the fourth is so important. The fourth is much more important than the other points: Iran's reward comes from its own frozen money, not from the United States taxpayers, and only after it performs. What is written below that is: no nuclear weapon, no full relief. It means that Iran needs to not make nuclear weapons.

#Larry

Right. Yeah. Yeah, this, well, this is called SPAN. So I was laying out the other options for why he hasn't released it. You know, they still haven't released the memorandum of understanding. So is it because there are still issues to be discussed and they're still debating and discussing, trying to work out a compromise? Or is it that, yeah, it is finished, and he was afraid that if they released it before Friday, the backlash from the Zionists, the neoconservatives, would be so great that it could possibly derail the signing of an agreement? So I think it may be more the latter.

#Nima

I think your point is quite correct. Right, because today we've learned it from two sources in Israel—Channel 12, and later on one of the Israeli reporters confirmed that Israel asked the United States to give a copy of the MOU, but the Trump administration rejected that. They said, "We're not going to." And so it seems that they don't know what's in it. I don't know what.

#Larry

Stop. Stop. I have no doubt. That's what Israel is saying. Do you believe them? No. Or do you believe that they actually have spies inside the Trump administration that are passing it on? So Israel, they know exactly what's in it. They're playing this card now to try to make themselves look like the victim. They haven't told us anything. We don't know nothing. They know everything, which is why they're pissed off and panicked. So that's why I think it's important to do that. But, yeah, no, I'm just giving you a hard time because—I think your point is—yeah, yeah, you're making the point.

#Nima

The key point is that Israel knows everything. But I don't know, why are they asking the United States officially? What is that?

#Larry

Well, it's designed to embarrass Trump so that they can present themselves as the victims. "Oh, we were blindsided. We had no idea this was going to happen to us. And that nasty man, Donald Trump, did this to us." You know, if you watched—I don't think you've had a chance, and I wouldn't encourage it because, you know, it's bad for your brain—but if you've watched any of Mark Levin's comments or Ben Shapiro's comments, you know, here are these guys, they were so busy kissing Donald Trump's ass over the last couple of months. "Oh, Donald Trump's the greatest president ever because he's going in and he's, you know, kicking the hell out of Iran." Now it's like, "I hate Donald Trump." So they're very mercurial.

And it is—Trump's—I think Trump decided to do this and press forward with this because he's been given the polling news, and the polling news is bad. And so he knows if he doesn't do a turnaround now—so they say, oh, you're going to lose Jewish support. Well, the pollster will say Jews are not that big of a voting bloc anyway, and they don't vote monolithically. You'll have many that will support you for cutting a deal like this. And, you know, I think he recognizes that if he—this came out in the news yesterday—that the Strategic Petroleum Reserve in the United States is now 360 million barrels. That sounds like a lot, but then you ask the question, how many barrels of oil a day does the United States consume?

The answer: 20. Well, to do the math, that's about 18 days' worth of oil. And if they run out—and they've been using that reserve to try to drive the prices of oil and gasoline down around the world, particularly in Europe and the United States—and create the illusion, "Oh, it's not bad. They said that this was going to be terrible, that it was going to create riots in the street. No, see how prices come down." Well, in 17 days, it's likely going to skyrocket. I think that's one of the things he's looking at. It was interesting that he did fulfill the promise. They lifted the blockade. And yesterday I started checking—the number of Iranian ships now moving through the Strait of Hormuz is just a significant number.

#Nima

The blockade is gone, yeah. But they're still controlling the Strait of Hormuz. Yeah. And today I talked with Professor Manning. He said for 60 days there would be no charge, no fee or toll in the Strait of Hormuz. But as Axios reported today, there is a new mechanism for the Strait of Hormuz. They said that, as mentioned, Axios reported that as part of the MOU, Iran is going to be in charge of the Strait of Hormuz together with Oman, and they're going to charge, you know, whoever wants to use the Strait of Hormuz.

#Larry

A resort fee. Now, if you go to Vegas, they used to almost pay you to go to Vegas to gamble. Now that the corporations are involved, by God, you're going to pay for your hotel room rate, and you're going to have to pay for breakfast, and they charge you a resort fee, which sometimes can be like, if a room is \$200, you've got another \$50 to pay per day. So, you know, you stay 10 days, all of a sudden you're up, you know, \$500. So yeah, that's what Iran—Iran is doing the same thing to the ships that want to come in and out of the Strait of Hormuz. You pay each time.

#Nima

I think the problem is that, as CNN reported—I don't know if you saw the article on CNN—the U.S. intel assesses that Iran can shut down the Strait of Hormuz at will.

#Larry

Mm-hmm.

#Nima

You know, from now on, their assessment is that if Iran—he says their assessment indicates it would be impossible to open the Strait of Hormuz without Iran's consent. And one U.S. official told CNN, "We have now handed Iran de facto control over this strait, a weapon more powerful than any nuke." And this was reported on CNN today.

#Larry

Yeah, I don't know whether they said the U.S. had done anything. Iran has had de facto—well, not de facto, they've had control over the Strait of Hormuz. Now, the question becomes, is the world, what other countries are ready to recognize Iran's claim as legitimate, as legal? So you still have the Europeans, the Germans, and the Brits saying, no, no, no, that's illegal. That's an international waterway. But now it sounds like, in this, the United States at least has conceded that, yes, this is a legal act for Iran to do.

#Nima

Larry, how much of what's going on between Donald Trump and Benjamin Netanyahu is real? Look at the new attacks from Donald Trump, calling Benjamin Netanyahu, telling him, "Everybody hates you, and everybody hates Israel. You're surviving this sort of chaos because of me. Israel is alive because of me." And this sort of trash-talking Benjamin Netanyahu—even if we assume it's all fake, it's all some kind of show—it's so humiliating for Benjamin Netanyahu.

#Larry

Well, yeah. I don't understand how they think this could be a staged event, staged to say that Trump is really talking bad about Netanyahu. Because what's interesting is when you look at the comments of other Israelis, they are excoriating Netanyahu for being too soft, too compliant with Trump. So this isn't helping Netanyahu's political position at all. And even if he comes back, he's caught. If he goes along with what Trump's doing, it's going to lose him votes in the electorate. If he pushes back and tries to oppose Trump on this, it's going to leave Israel in a vulnerable spot where they'll likely be fighting Iran again and be fighting by themselves. You know, the U.S. would say, okay, we're pulling our KC-135s out. Well, Israel doesn't have a lot of robust backup for that.

#Nima

And the attacks, or his attacks—I don't know if you saw today what Donald Trump said about Israel—said removing Israel, putting Syria in charge, and saying Israel is killing too many people. There is no necessity for that. And here is what he said today, Larry.

#Speaker 04

Too long, and too many people are being killed. And you don't have to knock down an apartment house every time you're looking for somebody, because there are a lot of people in those apartment houses, and they're not all Hezbollah, that I can tell you. And I suggested to Israel to let Syria take care of Hezbollah, because to be honest with you, I think they'd do a better job of doing it. Without us, without the United States, there would be no Israel. Without me, there would be no Israel, because no other president was willing to do what I did. I've had a great relationship with Bibi, but now Bibi has to be more responsible with respect to Lebanon.

Lebanon used to be a great country. It was a country where you had professors, doctors, lawyers. The great intellect was in Lebanon. Now it's just, it's terrible. I would say of all countries, they've been treated the worst. And they can't defend themselves. And they have Hezbollah, which is a problem for them. So, no, I'm not happy with the way Israel has handled themselves with Lebanon and with Hezbollah. They should have been able to do this faster. It just goes on forever. And when that happens, it throws a negative light on the big deal, and that's the deal with Iran.

#Nima

Yeah, I think he's putting out many facts, by the way.

#Larry

Somebody say it. Is that Donald Trump? Let's get a urine test quick. Make sure he hasn't been replaced by some alien, you know, a doppelganger — a Trump doppelganger has come in. He's now admitting that, yes, Israel is engaged in genocide. It is killing innocents just to try to kill one person. And, you know, we'll see how long Trump... The more he says that, the more it just drives the neoconservatives crazy. And, you know, they'll put the Ben Shapiros and the, you know, Mark Levins into head-exploding territory. We'll hear what sounds like, oh my God, in Washington, D.C. tonight, they're reporting explosions. Then a few minutes later, never mind. Those were the heads of prominent neoconservatives and Zionist newsmen who were covering the president, and they have disagreed, and their heads exploded as a result. So it's not a terrorist attack. Thank you, and have a good day.

#Nima

I think what he said, nobody would have done what Donald Trump has done for Israel. Basically, he's talking about the war against Iran, I think. That was the dream of Benjamin Netanyahu for many years. So he has it right now, and he has to own the outcomes of that war. Basically, what he's facing right now is the outcome, is the reality of the war that he wanted for such a long time. Right, right. He has to embrace those outcomes. There is no way for Israel.

#Larry

Yeah, I think I shared this with you earlier today or earlier yesterday, that Israel is almost dependent on the United States for air refueling operations. Yeah, they do have some, but they don't have planes as capable as the KC-135 is, in how much it can hold, how much it can refuel, and how many planes can operate. I think it's at least six. Each KC-135 can handle up to six planes. But Israel needs that and also needs U.S. intelligence, overhead imagery, and satellite intercepts. Their own unit, 8200, has some of that, but not quite like what the CIA has.

#Nima

There is a CIA-based report. The head of the CIA is reporting that what Iran is saying in their communications with Americans about their nuclear program is not honest. The way they're talking with the United States is different because, behind the scenes, based on the intelligence that the CIA gathered, they're talking differently. Their assessment is different behind the scenes. And okay.

#Larry

Did he say how different?

#Nima

Yeah, he said that Iran—he didn't mention, but he says it's totally different, you know, what they're arguing in the ongoing negotiations on their nuclear program and what is happening behind the scenes—totally different scenarios. It was reported, citing the head of the CIA, John Ratcliffe. And later on today, from Israeli sources, Israel Hayom reported that Donald Trump is considering firing those people who are against the agreement.

#Larry

So I saw that they're talking about firing Ratcliffe, Hegseth, and Rubio.

#Nima

Yeah, it said Rubio less than Ratcliffe and Hegseth. Maybe Ratcliffe and Hegseth are gonna be the first two options to be fired.

#Larry

Okay, so here was, I just looked up quick, the DNI assessment, which is the intelligence community assessment, which means that the main collectors, they talk about 17 intelligence agencies. Now I've heard the new number, 18. Just for the record, it's really only about five. You've got the Central Intelligence Agency as the human collection, and they do some, let's call it electronic collection, but primarily human collection. I put the Department of Defense as a whole because within DOD, you've

got the Defense Intelligence Agency, which has analysts and also has collectors. The defense attachés overseas collect information. And then within DOD, you have some top-secret intelligence organizations that are not readily or publicly acknowledged but operate.

So those are the two sort of human. You've got the State Department, which provides information through its diplomatic channels. You've got the National Security Agency, which supplies information by intercepting like a vacuum cleaner, sucking up every email, every phone call, any spoken conversation that can be recorded. And then you've got the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency, NGA, I think it is now. And so they do, again, overhead imagery, but maps and such. So those are the five big ones. So when you do an assessment, you go to each of those five, since they're original collectors, and say, hey, what's your information on Iran's nuclear program?

And the conclusion was, she said, Iran is not currently building a nuclear weapon. The Supreme Leader has not reauthorized the weapons program that was suspended in 2003, and the intelligence community continues to monitor for any decision by current or new Iranian leadership to pursue one. So, the CIA assessment remains the same. So that's why I'm saying this: for Ratcliffe to come out now and claim that, oh no, the CIA now has a completely different point of view—well, wait a second, what is the specific intelligence you've seen in the last 12 months that has caused you to do a complete volte-face, you know, turnaround, reverse course?

#Nima

Yeah. It seems J.D. Vance is coming on the scene again. I don't know what the meaning of that is. Not only did he do three or four interviews recently in the last two days, but today he was on Megyn Kelly's show. And here's what he said, Larry, about Lebanon on her show.

#Speaker 03

It is a regional peace deal. It's going to include the Gulf. It's going to include Israel. It's going to include Lebanon. The idea is this is a true regional peace deal. How do we do that without Netanyahu?

#Nima

Sorry, forgive me for interrupting.

#Speaker 03

No, no, no. The idea is that if the Iranians comply, then we are going to have a truly transformative deal for the Middle East. And if not, they don't get any economic benefit.

#Nima

By the way, she asked about Israel. Yeah.

#Larry

So what about Ned? Did he ever answer the question?

#Nima

No, no. He didn't mention it. I think he's so afraid because it seems to me that J.D. Vance is preparing himself for 2028.

#Larry

I agree with that. And he's also being prepared to be the sacrificial lamb if this thing goes sour. He'll be the scapegoat.

#Nima

That's why he's coming on the scene. Maybe with the ongoing negotiations. I don't know if they're going to get something positive with the MOU. Because as of today, Israel was attacking the southern part of Lebanon. They bombed. And we had the Iranian military announcing that more than 84 times Israelis have attacked Lebanon since the ceasefire started. So... I don't know how the Trump administration can manage the situation in Lebanon. Because as you've just seen, Donald Trump is attacking Benjamin Netanyahu or Israel, saying, you're not capable of doing the job. That's why we have to bring the Syrian government in. I don't know what the capability of the Syrian government is. Basically, he's talking about making some sort of civil war in Lebanon because they're not capable militarily of going against Hezbollah.

#Larry

Well, okay, so a lot of this, again, it shows the lack of understanding, lack of history. So back in 1975, when the civil war started in Lebanon... I don't recall what the proximate cause was, but it did boil down to sectarian strife between Christians, Sunni Muslims, Shia Muslims, and then the Alawites, which is a form of Islam, and the Druze, another sort of form, a blend of Christianity and Islam. So at that time, Bashar al-Assad's father, Hafez al-Assad, sided with a Shia group later called Amal.

And, you know, they were working with, you know, the Syrians were supporting them all and meddling in the civil war back in 1975 and all the way up through the attacks on the Marine barracks back in 1983. So, you know, for at least eight years. And so the leadership, you know, Syria has always been involved, meddling in Lebanon. Now, on paper, do they have enough strength to go in

and take on Hezbollah? Oh, hell no. But what I found fascinating, and I don't know if you did, was basically the claim or the response reported from Al-Julani, who basically said, no, no, no, we're not doing that. No, no, no. Thanks for the invite. That's nice to know, but we're not doing that. Not at all.

#Nima

But he's going to meet Al-Julani during his visit to Europe for the G7. Right now he's there. It seems that there is some sort of communication between Donald Trump and Syria, and Turkey is involved in that communication to bring Al-Julani to Europe to meet with Donald Trump.

#Larry

But Al-Julani has already said no.

#Nima

Yeah. I don't know what his understanding is.

#Larry

I think he understands. He'd be signing a death sentence for himself. Yeah. Hey, thanks for the invitation. No, no, boy, I'm really busy here. Gotta hop to.

#Nima

Larry, today Donald Trump had two meetings with the head of Qatar, the Emir of Qatar, Sheikh Tamim, and later on with MBZ, the head of the UAE. Both of these meetings were focused on how to resolve the issue in West Asia with the ongoing war. Both of them were supporting the deal. They said, we are here for the deal, we are prepared to invest. Basically, that \$300 billion they're talking about is coming from these GCC countries. And here is what Sheikh Tamim of Qatar said.

#Speaker 06

A couple of months or weeks, I think that was it. We were not interested in, you know, what are the opportunities, economic opportunities in Iran. Our interest, both of us, was, first of all, to find a deal to stop this war. This is our main target. But looking at the economy and opportunities, I'm sure there can be huge opportunities. You know, as I said, this is a very important momentum to keep working like that to reach the final deal. After that, Iran will be, you know, of course, open for any kind of investments. And I'm sure there are going to be huge opportunities. But to be honest, you know, we never thought of it. You know, our target, you know, is to try to find a deal.

#Speaker 04

Well, they're going to need something because we blew them up.

#Larry

See, the banter went on for a while, you know.

#Nima

But the importance of what he said is that we have to move on. We have to do something about the case of the media. We cannot continue with this endless war. They're so desperate. They don't want this war. That's why they're forcing the Trump administration to do something about it. I am sure that Israel is not happy at all with what's going on right now.

#Larry

Well, again, we don't know what's – the UAE meeting with Trump, I believe, is more important than Qatar's for the simple reason that the UAE has been most closely tied to Israel. And yet the other day, last week, it was reported that on the 9th, I guess, which was last Tuesday – Qatar flew to Israel, allegedly carrying \$3 billion, \$12 billion, some incredible amount of money.

#Nima

Flew to Iran.

#Larry

Yeah, flew from the UAE to Iran to supposedly pay it. Now, that was reported in three different newspapers, sources, and it was strenuously denied by the United Arab Emirates. Wow. But the point was, there was still high-level diplomatic interaction between Iran and the UAE, which then Qatar—what are they going to talk about? Well, they've suffered massive damage, and they may be telling the United States, per what I was hearing, that, hey, it's been fun, U.S., but we're going to go our own way, and you need to close your bases and get out.

So, and I think I've heard that report from the Pakistanis who are reporting that these are conversations both with the diplomats, but it's all, you know, they're not just making it up. So, I see Qatar and Saudi Arabia distancing themselves from the U.S. military. The UAE now, for whatever reason, went from being a shill—S-H-I-L-L—of Israel to now actually being an opponent or pushing back. I don't see them begging for more Israeli air defense. I think they realized Israeli air defense—they probably got charged some money for it—and they realized it's crap. It doesn't work.

#Nima

Bloomberg reported today that their estimation is that in two months Qatar can get back on track with their LNG, because you remember Iran destroyed 17% of their production capacity. But it seems that they can get back in two months. I don't know how optimistic that is.

#Larry

Yeah, and maybe I recall Stanislav, who's worked in the oil and gas industry, indicated it looked like the damage that was inflicted at Ras Laffan, is it? The fields in Qatar, or the facilities, suffered serious, serious damage. That is just not a matter of shutting it down and opening up another time. It's going to take a while to get all the repairs in place.

#Nima

Larry, how far can the United States play with the case of Iran and the MOU considering the ongoing war in the southern part of Lebanon? Because sooner or later, we may see some sort of escalation on that front. People are getting back to their homes, but Israel is not backing down. And Benjamin Netanyahu said today, yesterday, and the day before, we're not going to leave, we're not going to withdraw from Lebanon. That's not going to change. We're not part of the MOU. We were not part of the negotiations.

#Larry

Well, and we'll find out if Iran means what it says. I think, based on what Iran has previously said about protecting the Lebanese people and wanting to stop Israel's attacks, that if Israel doesn't stop and Iran doesn't retaliate quickly and decisively, the killing will continue and Iran will have discredited itself. That's where the credibility is so critical. Don't make promises you can't fulfill, and if you do make the promise, then by God, keep it.

#Nima

How is that going to influence the Trump administration and the response from—because today J.D. Vance was somehow bragging about how influential they have been in putting pressure on Iran not to respond to the Israeli attack last time?

#Larry

Yeah, well, that is—this, again, will bring the pressure to bear on Israel. You know, Trump is supposed to come back to him and say, hey, I warned you. You know, so I think what would be effective—I don't think Trump would do this—but what would be effective is Trump would come back on and say, okay, I warned you not to do this. You've done it again. So, effective immediately, we're withdrawing all U.S. tanker fleets and combat aircraft from Israel. Have a good day. And then

start that process moving, at which point I think Israel would come around to its senses real quick because it realizes it can't be the sole—if it lives in that neighborhood and is trying to protect itself without the U.S. full support, very, very limited what they can do.

#Nima

I think if he's willing to put pressure on Israel, he can just give the green light to Israel—Turkey, stop sending oil and gas to Israel. Iran, if they attack Lebanon, you can respond, and we're not going to help Israel attack you. If he's really willing to do something on that front, he has to do this, because he's not going to be able to defeat these Zionists in the United States and in his administration. Let's assume he's not part of those people. He's honest in the way that he's expressing himself. Let's assume that, which I don't believe, but let's assume that. And he can get help from Turkey and Iran to put Israel in its place.

#Larry

Well, let's go back. You know, this has been going on now for almost 51 years, the civil war back and forth. You know, Israel has made several entries, exits, entries, exits, entry, exit. This will be another exit if I think Trump's got it in his power to force them out. And if once forced out, you know, they'll be hard-pressed to get back in without U.S. support. Yeah, U.S. support in this is crucial, but the fear I have is that the U.S. forces are so compromised now by the association with Israel, they're not going to be able to actually easily separate themselves. But again, this will derail the signing ceremony for Friday. So if I had extra money laying around, I know which way I'd bet.

#Nima

Here is what was reported, Larry. A significant number of Israeli military vehicles have withdrawn from the town of Qiyam in southern Lebanon, heading toward the Sarda and Al-Amra area. This movement could correspond to an operation to redeploy Israeli forces or signal the initial stages of a more extensive withdrawal from this sector, according to the Lebanese Al-Akhbar correspondent. Al-Akhbar is so important, it's so valid. I was talking with Professor Mlandi—when it comes to Lebanon, one of the most important sources is Al-Akhbar from Lebanon, basically Al-Akhbar of Lebanon. If that's happening, it's significant. I don't know if that could be a positive sign. They're withdrawing from one part to another part, going to another part of Lebanon, or it's significantly important because they're withdrawing from Lebanon.

#Larry

It's a way to say, hey, we're working on complying. You're asking that, but we can't do it. We're not miracle workers here. We can't do it all in one day. That would be their argument. They're going to try to string this out. It's a way to delay where they can claim that they're complying. And from Iran's standpoint, they're going to look and say, yeah, the Gilani Brigade was apparently withdrawn

yesterday for R&R, rest and recuperation. So as long as there is still some movement, and movement in the sense of Israel withdrawing personnel, even though they are continuing to attack in other areas, I think that Iran will continue to hold its fire. We'll see how many, you know, but as is typical of the Israelis, they get out of control and they're going to do something more and more violent. Then they'll cross the line, and then Iran will feel it has no other obligation, no other choice but to retaliate. So we'll see.

#Nima

If they achieve something with Iran, Larry, how is that going to boost J.D. Vance's position for 2028? And how is that going to be helpful for the Trump administration and later on for J.D. Vance? Because it's going to be a success for the administration, I would say, since the withdrawal from Lebanon is a huge task. It's not going to be something easy. Many people may find it delusional, even thinking of it. But if they achieve it, what does that mean for the administration?

#Larry

If this stops the war and restarts economic growth around the world, then Donald Trump will take all the credit for it. It is Donald Trump's idea. This is his baby. If it turns into a disaster, Trump will say, this was J.D. Vance's proposal, and I listened to him. I made the mistake. I listened to him. It's all on him. He'll blame J.D. Vance. That's the way it works. He gets the credit for everything that goes right, and Vance gets the credit for everything that goes wrong. Not really a healthy relationship at all.

#Nima

Do you see the moment Donald Trump threw Pete Hegseth under the bus?

#Larry

Oh, yeah, yeah. Hegseth is easy to do just because he's such a dummy.

#Speaker 07

But—

#Larry

It'll be tougher with, say, Ratcliffe. It'll be tougher with Marco Rubio. Again, all three rumored to be gone, and then his own national security team. His national security advisor is Marco as well, Secretary of State. So, you know, could ostensibly can him. It's just, I don't see, you know, it doesn't make Trump stronger. It just reinforces the notion that, man, he made crappy choices in the first

place, and then it will help those people get new jobs with the Zionist lobby because they were seen as being so pro-Zionist that, hey, they've got to be good people. They're part of us.

#Nima

Netanyahu's position in Israel is getting worse. And one of the main problems is the war on all fronts. As he mentioned, in Lebanon, in Gaza, and the worst one, which was against Iran, that is totally failing, not achieving any objectives, is putting Iran—Iran today is more powerful than it was before the war started. That's a huge loss, a strategic loss for Israel. GCC countries are getting closer to Iran somehow, or they have no other option but to get closer to Iran or make a better relationship with Iran, because the whole calculation with the Strait of Hormuz has changed. That's why the Strait was mentioned in the MOU based on Axis and Iranian sources. So this is the new reality.

#Larry

Well, no, I just say this has been in the works for several years. It was March of 2023 that the Saudis and Iranians basically put all their past conflicts behind them. They've been fighting a proxy war against each other in Yemen, and now they came together. So that relationship has stood up, you know, even though Iran, you know, bombed inside Saudi Arabia in the past, as well as the Prince Saud Air Base, and is bombing inside Qatar. But its diplomatic relationships with the Saudis are, you know, still intact. Then it's reached out to Bahrain. Bahrain, I think, will be a tougher nut to crack simply because the ruler there is going to have to be taken out.

And so I think that's what will happen to him. You know, he may get arrested with the assistance of the United States, of all things. It could be surprising. Both Qatar and Saudi Arabia have told Pakistani sources that they're going to be out of this relationship with the United States in nine months to a year. So that would be bad news for Al Udeid Air Base in Qatar and Prince Saud Air Base in Saudi Arabia. And then it would be up to the UAE to see, do they want to be the only place in the Gulf region that's standing up on behalf of Israel? It may not be a healthy kind of relationship.

#Nima

Do you see anybody in Israel replacing Benjamin Netanyahu and being as powerful as Benjamin Netanyahu has been during his 16, 20 years in office?

#Larry

Yeah, no. But let's also understand that even if whoever comes in and is, quote, stronger, maybe more, appears to be more moderate, doesn't irritate the hell out of people like Netanyahu, nonetheless, most likely they're going to have a position vis-à-vis Gaza and the Palestinians that the Palestinians are Amalek and need to be destroyed. So I think whoever is elected is going to be

farther to the right of all the good folks that are on, you know, Crosstalk with YouTube and the social media accounts. So I, you know, we'll have to— The way this message handling is going to go in the next few days is Trump is trying to keep the conservatives at bay. He's keeping the actual substance of the message secret. Now, will he be able to pull that off with the Senate, with Congress? I don't know. I guess it wasn't you. Someone else played me the video of Mark Levin talking about the Constitution. That wasn't you, was it?

#Nima

No, it wasn't me. I don't play Mark Levin videos.

#Larry

Well, yeah, that's a good, healthy choice for you.

#Nima

It's so toxic.

#Larry

Yeah, but he was saying that any agreement that Trump signs with, say, in this case, Iran, has to be treated as a treaty and therefore has to be brought before the Senate and debated, and the Senate has to approve by two-thirds. Well, actually, I said that would be a great idea, but you'd have to work the Senate to get their support. But yes, that kind of agreement backed up by the Senate would make it really a strong agreement, one that's enforceable and could be used and enforced in U.S. courts by virtue of being an actual treaty, not just a memorandum of accord. But I noted, while I agreed with Levin on that, I didn't hear him making the same constitutional argument about Trump's decision to attack Iran and start a war.

Because the Constitution also has something to say about that — that the president basically can't go out and start killing whoever the hell he wants, that it's an obligation to go to Congress. Only Congress can declare war. Well, he didn't do that. Let's think about it. If Trump had done that and the war had actually never started, Iran would be in a weaker position today than it is. I think it's in a much stronger position by virtue of that happening, because what it did is Iran discovered, hey, we control the Strait of Hormuz. We didn't realize we had this much power. And then they take on the U.S. Air Force and the Israeli Air Force and withstand these horrific bombings, and then are able to retaliate in ways that are very, very costly for both Israel and the United States. Well, the whole law of unintended consequences is at work.

#Nima

Larry, before wrapping up, it seems the only option that could replace Benjamin Netanyahu is Naftali Bennett.

#Larry

He's basically calling Netanyahu a pussy. You wimp! You chicken! Whoa, whoa, whoa. Take Netanyahu out of the picture. It's not like you're replacing him with some moderates who say they're going to show up with Yoko Ono and they'll be saying, "All we are saying is give peace a chance," you know, and then we're clapping and chanting. No, that's not happening. These guys, they want more war. That's what's shocking. So yeah, that disabused a lot of people of what they think is going on with Israel. Israel is falling apart internally. And yet they've become a war. Right, left, middle, center, they're all committed, the vast, vast majority committed to warring against their neighbors. And, man, that's not healthy for the heart or mind.

#Nima

I cannot wrap it up without playing a clip of Naftali Bennett talking about Iran, because it's so funny.

#Speaker 07

So funny. There'll be a new government. Hopefully, I'll lead that new government. And I want to tell the Iranian regime from here, the regime, I'm going to be your worst nightmare ever. I won't relent until we free your people and ensure you don't have a nuclear weapon. So you've got no hope. We won't let up on this effort because it's fighting for our freedom, for our security, and for the benefit of the entire Middle East. Yeah.

#Larry

Yeah, I mean, and we thought Netanyahu was crazy. I mean, really, that's sort of shocking.

#Nima

Exactly. Thank you so much, Larry, for being with us today. All right, my friend.

#Larry

We'll see how things unfold this week. It's like riding a frigging roller coaster. Oh, and so, yeah, check out my channel, my blog, sonar21.com. And our new channel, Pepe and I, with Zulfikar Ali, it's called Transition Protocols. And Pepe just did a session with Zulfikar about three hours ago. Worth watching. Tomorrow, Pepe and I will do one, a joint panel discussion. Again, we'll figure out where we are tomorrow at this time. Certainly lots of changes.

#Nima

Yeah, sure. Everything is fluid.

#Larry

Yeah, yeah. Gotta be flexible.

#Nima

Yeah, exactly.

#Larry

Yoga, yoga. That's what we need. All right.

#Nima

Thank you. Later.

#Larry

Bye.

#Nima

Cheers. Bye-bye.