

# Seyed Marandi & Larry Johnson: Iran SHUTS DOWN Geneva Talks Over MoU Implementation

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## #Nima

Hi, everybody. Today is Friday, June 19, 2026, and our dear friends Larry Johnson and Professor Marandi are here with us. Welcome back.

## #Larry

Hi there. I am upset. I mean, none of you are wearing this shirt, okay? So I'm insulted personally, but that's okay. I'll suck it up. I'll figure out a way to cope.

## #Seyed

Yeah, it's not my fault, Larry.

## #Larry

Yeah. Well, look, I seriously joke about this, but we're talking about really deadly serious things. And, you know, I don't want people to think that I minimize it or dismiss it.

## #Seyed

Everyone knows that.

## #Nima

Yeah. Yeah. And let's start, Professor Marandi, with you, because what's going on between Israel and Lebanon is so critical right now. Just in the last hour, we've learned it several times — we have a ceasefire, we don't have a ceasefire, the ceasefire is broken, the ceasefire is in place — and it's crazy what's going on. Israel was bombing last night and today in Nabatieh and all the regions

around Nabatieh. More than 47 people were killed and 106 were injured so far, based on what was reported by Lebanese sources. Then we have four Israeli soldiers who were killed on the part of Israel. The attack is happening as we talk. They say the ceasefire is in place, but the attack is happening. And Israel Channel 15 said, if Hezbollah tries to confront Israeli advances in southern Lebanon, we will defend ourselves and retaliate. This is just... Go ahead, Professor Marandi, your understanding of that. Well, first of all,

## **#Seyed**

I just received news a couple of hours ago — more than a couple of hours, a few hours ago — that a young man who I helped get a postdoc at a prestigious university in Beijing, a Lebanese man, told me a few hours ago that his father-in-law's house has been bombed and that he's under the rubble. And the Israelis won't allow — the drones are flying overhead and hunting people — so no one can approach the building. And then later he told me that his father-in-law was killed. So this is what is going on. They're murdering women and children. They're slaughtering families. Western media, in order to help the Israelis — Western journalists, Western media, legacy media, state media journalists — they call these Hezbollah targets. All these little babies and children, these are all Hezbollah. And they are flattening the towns and cities. This is not being reported widely.

What the Minister of Defense of the Israeli regime has said is that they're flattening all the villages and the owners will never see their homes again. The Zionists are saying, cabinet members are saying, that for every woman in Israel who's shedding tears, thousands or a thousand Lebanese women will shed tears. This is a genocidal regime. But the Western media and Western governments and Western diplomats, they're criminals and they're complicit, whether it's The Guardian or Fox News. It doesn't make a difference. They're all complicit in this genocide. And so really, it's just... and so are regional regimes. They're all fake supporters of the Palestinian people, except for Iran and Sadr. It's extraordinary how some people keep contacting me and saying, why is Iran doing nothing? I mean, Iran and Hezbollah, they've been victims of war after war.

They're helping as far as they can, but they should look to their own governments, who are transporting oil to the Israeli regime, doing trade and business, and have embassies there. Instead of criticizing Iran, which is confronting a coalition of supporters of the Israeli regime, these people should look to their own governments every now and then and see what they can do to bring about change in the capitals of their countries. What we're seeing today is just an indication of how seriously we can take the agreement between Iran and the United States.

And we discussed this before, Larry has also said this before, that despite the fact that the MOU is an important document, it's a symbol of Iran's victory, it's a political victory that has shown the military victory and also the siege warfare victory. But anyone who thinks that it's going to be the end of the story is being naive. The United States is supposed to stop the genocide. It's doing nothing of the sort. The Israeli regime is advancing, and it says if Hezbollah resists, that is a violation of the ceasefire.

So it's going deep into Lebanon, or attempting to do so, and if Hezbollah strikes them, then that is a violation. This is the upside-down world that we're living in. This is what the West supports, and this is what the United States supports. So the very first part of the MOU is being violated. And then this morning, Trump said that Iran is not going to see any of its money. I just heard that Al Jazeera said that money has been transferred to Iran. Right before coming on your program, I asked, and nothing has come to Iran. So the United States is in violation at multiple levels of the agreement, and that is exactly as expected. Now, some people are saying that Iran was naive to sign this deal. I don't think so.

I think that Iran is showing the world that, again, the United States is untrustworthy. It's unreliable. Ayatollah Khamenei, in a letter last night, in a statement, wrote that he is very skeptical, and he only accepted this course of action because the president insisted. Ayatollah Khamenei's skepticism has been proven right. And the negotiators are going to be tough. They're not going to be flexible at the negotiating table, if they ever get there, because right now there are no negotiations due to the ongoing genocidal attacks in Lebanon and because Trump has openly said that he's not going to hand over Iranian assets. And I don't know why Al Jazeera insists on fabricating this news, whereas nothing has yet happened.

## **#Nima**

Larry, we were supposed to have a summit in Geneva, Switzerland today, which later on, we've learned from Iran's foreign ministry spokesman, Ismail Baghaei, has been suspended and postponed to a later date until the MOU terms are implemented. And we know the behavior of Israel before the MOU — they attacked Beirut. And right now the attacks are getting worse. Do you see any time soon these two sides getting together?

## **#Larry**

I think what's going to happen over the next three days is going to be pretty consequential. So let's look at what is happening on the U.S. side. The military had set up what are called Tactical Operations Centers and Joint Operations Centers. They call them CATs, Crisis Action Teams. The main one, I believe, was at Central Command, and the backup was at the National Military Command Center in the Pentagon. And then there were several others that were set up. These started operating about two days before the start of the war on the 28th of February.

So that was an indicator that something was going to happen, that an attack was coming. And those CATs, we'll call them, were operating 24/7. The men and women staffing it would come for a 12-hour shift and go home, come back, 12 on, 12 off, seven days. So it was a pretty brutal schedule. I'm talking about that because those have now been taken down. So the United States right now is

not standing up, geared up militarily to do anything. The only unit that's active is called the Air Combat Command. They're withdrawing. They're working on how to get all of the U.S. aircraft that were sent to the region to pull them out.

So I'm raising this because the United States right now does not look like it's, that in the event that Iran strikes Israel, the United States is not gearing up and being prepared to strike back on behalf of Israel. So let's call that the good news. The bad news, though, is Trump is, I think he's a combination of unable and unwilling, and maybe I'll be proven wrong, to really rein in the Israelis. He can immediately, he can do so by saying, okay, we're withdrawing our Patriot batteries, we're withdrawing THAAD, we're suspending the aid. There are very concrete things he could do to get Israel's attention to stop this. But so far, he's shown no inclination to do so. However, his original reason for making this deal is because of the economic catastrophe that is just weeks away.

He'd been warned for at least a month about the implications of the depletion of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve and just ignored it, or it finally got his attention. And his announcement, oh yeah, and let the oil flow. Well, as we've seen today, the Strait of Hormuz is once again closed. Ships that thought they were going to move aren't moving, because now, with the threat that Iran will take action against any ship that is not in accordance with the Iranian system that's been put in place to govern the transit of ships, you know, they'll be at risk. And I believe the U.S. Navy has actually withdrawn its forces from the region. So you don't have the air assets that used to be there to try to counter Iranian activities.

And the naval assets certainly are apparently withdrawing from the area. So it puts Iran in a position now that, I am told, they are in active consultations with the Pakistanis and with the Chinese about next steps. Because on the one hand, Iran does want to be seen as complying with this memorandum of understanding, but the clear violation—I mean, the very first paragraph stipulates that the United States and Iran and their allies are responsible for the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Lebanon. And what Israel is doing is a complete violation of that territorial integrity and sovereignty. And so, under the terms of that MOU, Iran will be fully entitled to act against Israel to stop its violations.

## **#Nima**

Professor Marandi, you may have some sort of points on what Larry just said about the Iranian position and how they're seeing the situation right now. But we had a report from Iran, the Iranian member of parliament, Malik Shariati. He claims that President Raisi has prepared a six-point plan to counter the U.S. misconduct in case they don't abide by the MOU, and they have presented that to the Supreme Leader of Iran. They're waiting for the response from the Supreme Leader of Iran. You mentioned the letter yesterday, or the statement of the Supreme Leader, which was somehow saying—you mentioned the essence of that statement. Your understanding of what's going on in the Iranian position and this new report?

## **#Seyed**

Well, I think that the chances of a renewed conflict between Iran and the Israeli regime are high, and the chances that Iran will fire missiles at the Israeli regime are increasing by the minute. We already saw the Iranians on at least two occasions threaten to use missiles and then refrain from doing so. One was right before the agreement when the Israelis struck Beirut. Iran was about to strike, and then Trump, in order to prevent an escalation, gave those concessions which led to the agreement. The first and foremost, the number one concession, was in the first paragraph, where the Israeli regime was supposed to withdraw and accept Lebanese sovereignty. Then a couple of nights ago, Iran—I don't know, I don't remember exactly which night it was—but Iran cleared the airspace in western Iran and was preparing to launch missiles at the Israeli regime for its violations in Lebanon.

And it did not do so, probably because of promises made by the United States. But I think that as things stand, the chances for escalation and Iranian missile strikes are increasing rapidly. And I think that the number of ships that will be allowed to pass through the Strait of Hormuz will be limited in order to put pressure on the U.S. economy, in order to force Trump to take a stance against the Israeli regime. Because everyone knows that time is running out, and this is something that Marius just now pointed out. Trump himself said we have four weeks left. And the Iranians already knew that because everyone has been following up on the news. So we are in, you know, it's a very dangerous situation. And I think escalation is quite possibly imminent.

## **#Nima**

Yeah. Larry, you remember last night what J.D. Vance said to Israel: the only friend you have is the United States. And the United States is giving two-thirds of what you've used in this war. And this is the position. And looking at what is going on in the Israeli media, they're basically saying one of the main questions is, has the United States become a new Iranian proxy? Are these people logical, or is there any sort of rationality in this sort of thinking? Because it doesn't seem these people are going to learn anything unless they're forced into some sort of position.

## **#Larry**

Yeah, no, there's no logic or rationality in D.C. It's a rare commodity, if it appears. Look, the narrative about Iran has been firmly set in the American conscience about, you know, it's a terrorist state, it's a brutal state, it's an authoritarian state, it attacks its neighbors, it's killed thousands. Now, none of that's true, but when Trump signed the deal the other day, or put his name on the memorandum of understanding, the backlash was swift, furious, comprehensive. The mouthpiece, almost for the administration, Fox News, was immediately attacking him and calling into question, how could this be? So the only thing that's actually going to finally overcome that narrative is the actual defeat of Israel.

I'm sorry to say, but that will be the shock required to awaken Israel and the Americans from this bizarre dream that they are living in, this dream world that the United States is the preeminent military power and Israel is the greatest and only democracy in the Middle East. You know, it's just we can't ignore that. Now, at the same time, though, the Trump administration, whether it wants to or not, is going to be forced to confront some economic realities that are caused by the shutdown of the Strait of Hormuz and the disruption of the supply of oil. I had written the other day that the U.S. Strategic Petroleum Reserve, according to the media, was down to 360 million barrels.

But then I discovered, no, that's wrong. On January 5th, the number was 349 million barrels, so 11 million barrels less, and that's now two weeks ago. So now we're looking at an even lower number. And the reason that's important is that that represented, you know, 349 represents about 16 days of oil use in the United States. When that dries up and you're already dealing with a global shortage, then the prices go crazy and the effects on the economy are profound. And so that's where the economy is what's going to force the United States away from pursuing a confrontation with Iran and being able to continue to support Israel. But I think that could be two to three months away.

## **#Nima**

Larry, I don't know if Professor Marandi is there. We've lost your picture, and you're muted if you're hearing me. And, Larry, the point right now for the United States is, what would be the reaction? You mentioned how the United States can put pressure on Israel. But do you see any sort of willingness in the administration to do that—to cut aid, to talk about the air defense system, to put some sort of real pressure on Israel? So far, they're talking. It's all about verbal sort of actions and nothing practical coming out.

## **#Larry**

Yeah, well, what we've seen in the last 48 hours, the rhetoric, what both Trump was saying and what J.D. Vance was saying, was a step in the right direction. And frankly, the Israeli Zionist lobby, they were shocked, absolutely shocked that Trump would do this. But we don't know if it's been actually followed up by some real action. Now, I look again at the military side of the house. If they are being told to pull out, that'll be sending another message. I don't know if they're going to pack up the Patriot missile systems and THAAD missile systems and take them with them and just tell Israel, okay, you want to go on your own? Fine, go on your own, but not with our stuff. That's what it would take to get their attention. So far, I don't know if the Trump administration is willing to do that. That's the problem.

## **#Nima**

Professor Marandi, what is the status of the Strait of Hormuz right now? Today we've learned that the Strait is closed. Then it's open, a little bit open, a little bit closed. What is the situation? Because that is the leverage Iran has on the United States to put an end to this insanity between Israel and Lebanon.

## **#Seyed**

I'm guessing that both statements are probably somewhat correct, that it's a little bit open and a little bit closed, and that the number of ships that are going to go through in the coming days is going to be few in number, and the shortages will continue to accumulate. If this continues in Lebanon, it could be closed completely. I mean, this situation is not sustainable. The Americans can't be allowed to violate the agreement and expect the Iranians to abide by their side of the bargain. And this is not just about Lebanon. It's also about Iranian assets. It's about the lifting of the sanctions. It's about the siege that has been lifted, that's true. But in any case, the United States has multiple commitments that it has to carry out, and except for the siege, nothing else has been verified as being implemented.

And of course, in Lebanon, the genocidal attacks are on the rise. So there are two things that Iran can do. One is to strike the Israeli regime with missiles, which I think is increasingly possible. The second is the Strait of Hormuz. And I'm pretty sure that if there were supposed to be, let's say, I'm just making up a number, 30 ships that were supposed to pass through today, there will probably be 10 or 15. If tomorrow there are supposed to be 50 ships, again, there will probably be 10 or 15. I'm assuming that Iran is going to continue to build the pressure. So you've heard both versions. You've heard people say that the Strait of Hormuz is going to be closed. The foreign ministry spokesman says it's open, but I think it's somewhere in the middle.

## **#Larry**

Well, and also with the ships going through, I think almost all are just Iranian-flagged or vessels associated with Iran, because the ships with other countries' flags that are insured by Lloyd's of London and such, they're not moving because Lloyd's is not saying, okay, yeah, go ahead, because they condition that partly on getting a guarantee that there are no more mines in the Persian Gulf. So at least Iran can benefit economically out of this. And my understanding is that a good portion of the oil that's coming out is going to China anyway.

## **#Seyed**

Yeah, I'm sure that that is a major factor too. But also, I would add that some people have said, what's the purpose of this? The Israelis are murdering people in Lebanon permanently, and the Iranians are talking about slowing the traffic through the Strait of Hormuz. This is a big thing. The reason why the siege warfare failed was because the U.S. economy is in trouble, and the reason why

Trump was so insistent on having a deal is because of the seriousness of the trouble. So this is key leverage. Iran is again a lone actor in defending the Gazans and in defending the Lebanese. It is up against a huge coalition, the collective West and the regional proxies.

No one should imagine even for a minute that Turkey is going to lift a finger, or that Egypt, or that the Saudis, or Al-Qaeda, God forbid, that they'll lift a finger in support of the Palestinians or the Lebanese. That will never happen. So Iran can strike the Israeli regime, but I don't think that is in itself enough. The real strength that Iran has is to put pressure on the U.S. economy, to force the United States to change its position. The only reason why we have this agreement between Iran and the United States, regardless of whether it's implemented or not, is because of the fact that Iran has been able to use its missiles and drones and military capabilities to control the Strait of Hormuz. So no one should underestimate it. It may not have the immediate impact of missiles and drones, but its impact is far more profound in the long run.

## **#Nima**

Larry, Professor Marandi just said putting pressure on the United States by the use of the Strait of Hormuz. But there are people out arguing that it has to be something on the battlefield to force Israelis out of Lebanon. It could be the United States—no, it could be somehow the United States forcing them, not attacking them, not nothing, making some sort of pressure on Israel, maybe using UN forces, I don't know, some sort of international force to put them in the southern part of Lebanon. And they have to withdraw from Lebanon. There is no way Israel is staying in Lebanon and having any sort of MOU between Iran and the United States.

## **#Larry**

Well, there's already been a UN force for, oh good Lord, 40 years in Lebanon, and Israel's killed them as well. So, you know, the UN force would be meaningless. The only thing that's going to get Israel out of southern Lebanon will be providing, making sure that Hezbollah has enough firepower to continue inflicting the casualties on Israel, which Israel cannot sustain. I mean, that's been proven over and over and over. But in tandem with that, the United States starts pulling its air defense systems from Israel. You know, they've deployed some Patriot and THAADs. Pull them out. That there's aid packages, replacement parts for the F-35s. Put a halt to those. Just let Israel know that you may think you're independent.

You're not. You're dependent upon us, and you're not going to do this. Trump, it's in his power to do that. But I'm not sure he's got the will to do that because it would kick up some, you know, pretty strong political opposition and criticism. But candidly, it will beat the alternative of, you know, once I'll call it the economic tsunami hits the United States, people will be so focused on their own survival that at that point it won't matter. His presidency will be done. His legacy will be completely shattered, and the ability of the United States to exercise any real control at that point over events overseas, I think, will become quite limited. So we have a window here.

I think that Iran is in a unique position to continue to—it's trying to walk a fine line because it does not want to take an action that will allow the United States to say, "See, see, they broke the memorandum of understanding." So I think the first step for Iran, and what they're doing right now, is—let's call it preparing the battlefield—making it quite clear that they're the ones that have been complying with the MOU and that it is the United States that is not. And that the biggest culprit in this is Israel, and they must be stopped immediately. So Hezbollah does have the capability to stop them on the ground. Hezbollah does not have the ability to shoot down the planes, at least not yet.

## **#Nima**

Professor Marandi, in the last two nights, we've learned from the Iranian side that they were supposed, you know, they got to the point of attacking Israel. Then all of a sudden they decided not to attack. But do you think that point is going to be crossed? And is that going to be communicated with the Americans?

## **#Seyed**

Yeah, I think we're getting there. But I think we're getting there where the Iranians are going to attack. But I think what Larry said is a key point, and I was alluding to that earlier when I said that the Strait is probably both open and closed at the same time — not completely closed, but not completely open. And that is because Iran wants to make sure that the world sees that the United States is the side that's not complying with the deal before it takes any action. If Iran immediately goes ahead and ends its compliance with the deal, I think that helps the Israeli regime. But if the Iranians wait a few days, but at the same time they don't really comply — they sort of half comply — which increases the pressure on the U.S. economy without explicitly declaring that that is its intention because the Strait is open, that, I think, is a good policy.

In other words, Iran will say, look, we are open, abiding by our commitments. Look at that Saudi ship, look at that Kuwaiti ship. You know, someone would say, well, there could be four of those ships instead of one. I would say, well, yes, there are problems. There are mines, they're slow, we have to get them organized to make sure nothing happens. And so Iran can keep the flow of ships through the Strait of Hormuz low while still being in compliance with the agreement, because according to the agreement, in the second month, the number of ships that pass through should normalize, go back to what they were. So for now, if I was the Iranian decision maker, that's what I would do. I would say, no, no, this Strait is open, unless it gets so bad that they just have to shut it down. But for now, I would say, no, it's open, ships can pass through, but I'd make sure that very few ships go through.

## **#Nima**

Larry, the new report in the Washington Post says U.S. intelligence warns that Israel is actively trying to sabotage the Iran-U.S. MOU.

## **#Seyed**

Before Larry answers, just one thing. That is one reason why I think that the Iranians should remain in compliance, but in a minimal way. Because people in the United States have to see increasingly that the Israelis are undermining the U.S. government. And the criticism of Israel, of the Israeli regime, is growing. So if the Iranians immediately just pull out, then that changes the narrative. So what I would do is I would effectively keep the Strait of Hormuz half closed, more than half closed, but let this debate play out in the United States.

## **#Larry**

What's so amazing about it? No, I agree with everything that Seyed said. Look, I was just laughing that the Washington Post breaks out as breaking news. And it's like, man, do you announce breaking news every morning that the sun rises in the east? You know, this is so obvious. Yes, they're going to do everything in their power to sabotage it. So it then brings back the question, what does the United States do? And that's where one of the things that's, I think, happening is not just Iran. I think that Marco Rubio and company and J.D. Vance and the White House, they're hearing from not only Pakistan, but they're hearing from China and they're hearing from Russia and they're hearing from the Saudis and they're hearing from the Qataris that basically these lunatics in Israel have got to be brought under control.

So it is – early on in the war, or maybe even before the war started, the Saudis may have given the U.S. encouragement, okay, yeah, if you can take out Iran, great, that'll make our life easier. Well, they're no longer there. They're not taking that attitude anymore. They want this thing stopped. And even the Emiratis, who have been the worst of the lot in terms of aligning themselves with the interests of Israel, have, you know, they're singing a different tune now, at least in some of their actions. And, you know, I think part of that comes from pressure from China because China has been a big player at Jebel Ali, the free trade port. So what's clear is right now the global diplomacy, the focus of it is not at Iran, trying to compel Iran to get into a box. Rather, it's how to get Israel into a box.

## **#Nima**

Professor Marandi, we know that Turkey was not directly influenced by the war, but indirectly they were influenced. And this is one side. On the other hand, we have the GCC countries, totally, totally, and their economy was devastated by the war. Do you see GCC countries moving somehow or talking with the United States in favor of peace in the region? Or do you see them the same way they were, as they thought before this war started?

## #Seyed

I agree with Larry. I think that they have changed. The change began during the war in some cases, and it increased after the war. The Emiratis, it's more complicated, but even the Emiratis have changed somewhat. The Iranians have had one-on-one negotiations with each of these countries, with in some cases more success than others. But these countries have shifted somewhat. Of course, if the United States launches a war against Iran, these countries will be seen as complicit because U.S. forces are still based in each and every one of them. But they do recognize that this war did not go well for them. Perhaps, as Larry said, the Saudis were saying, yeah, go and kill them, destroy them at the beginning.

But when it didn't work and the Iranians were hitting back hard, and their own economies were hit—and their economies right now are being hit very hard because of the ongoing situation—and they don't have infinite wealth, the longer this situation lasts, the more weakened they are, and the more that change is going to be permanent. I don't expect the Emirates ever to be anything like what it was four months ago, or Qatar, or any of them. They are going to be diminished entities. Now, how diminished, that remains to be seen, and it depends on events. But every day that this situation continues, their situations get worse. And obviously, they're going to put as much pressure as they can on the United States to rein Netanyahu in, at least for the most part.

But their leverage is limited. And ultimately, the Israelis are the most influential force by far in the United States. But what is happening is this internal debate. People are turning against the Israeli regime. Young Jews are turning against the Israeli regime, according to polls. And as the economy gets worse, it's going to get worse for Israel because people see this regime as pushing the United States towards this economic catastrophe. And as I said, that's a major reason why I think that the Iranians should not just immediately stop implementing the deal. Maybe they wait a bit and, in reality, keep the number of ships passing through the Strait of Hormuz at a minimum.

That would have greater impact, and it would help fuel the debate in the United States that is not going too well for the regime. In any case, I find that unless there's some very major shift in the United States, I don't think the United States is going to be able or willing to force the Israelis out. But this economic crisis is a big deal. And the statements that Trump has made against Netanyahu, I don't believe that they're for show. And I don't believe that—I mean, we've seen these propaganda pieces put out where Biden was opposed to the genocide in Gaza. It turned out to be a lie. Or last year, before the 12-day war, Axios said that Trump wanted to pursue negotiations and Netanyahu wanted war.

That was a lie. These things exist, but I think the language that is being used by Trump and by Vance, criticizing Israel repeatedly now, is unique. And it hurts Netanyahu. It's damaging him at home. This is not a show for Netanyahu. Netanyahu's interests are the exact opposite of Trump's. Netanyahu needs the war to continue. Trump needs the MOU to succeed. So the closer we get to economic crisis, the greater the incentive is for Trump to rein Netanyahu in. And if that incentive

increases enough, and Trump has the will to do so, that would end Netanyahu's political career. But the question is, is that really ever going to happen? I don't know.

## **#Larry**

Well, and let's be clear. The problem is not just Netanyahu, because if you listened to Naftali Bennett the other day, good Lord, he was talking about trying to be tougher than Bibi Netanyahu. So what we're dealing with here, and as the good professor knows, is a sickness within the Israeli nation that unfortunately a majority of that population are committed to a policy of genocide. We haven't seen something like this since the days of South Africa.

## **#Seyed**

Absolutely. I just want to stress that Larry is absolutely correct. However, if Netanyahu, if his political career is destroyed, I think the United States would probably be able to, if it wanted to, it would be able to tell the new prime minister that, look, you have to give these concessions. You have to back off from Lebanon. You have to do this. And they would probably do so and blame Netanyahu for everything. But they're just as genocidal. I mean, it's a genocidal people. It's a genocidal opposition. It's genocidal. I mean, there's no difference between these genocidal politicians. But what I'm just saying is that if Netanyahu goes down, then because I think that many, I believe actually that many Zionists in the United States are seeing the danger.

They're seeing that the American people are turning against Israel. They're seeing that people like Tucker Carlson are becoming increasingly open about their hostility towards Israel. The narrative is changing very fast. Candace Owens and the left, the right, and you see people from the left and the right coming on each other's programs and supporting each other and agreeing with each other about the situation. This is definitely not good news for Zionists. And so I think that many Zionists in the United States, people in power, probably want to see Netanyahu go, not because they think that the opposition is any better. These are Zionists in the United States.

But I think probably what they're thinking about is to get rid of him and then to give Netanyahu's successor a facelift, and the regime a facelift. You know, the prime minister can carry a cat with him into his office and show what a wonderful genocidal monster he is who loves cats. And then, you know, the regime would back off on certain fronts, and the Americans would try to, in Western media—the New York Times, the Guardian, the Times of London, Fox News, of course, CNN—they would all try to rehabilitate Israel and put the blame for all of this on Netanyahu and his misguided policies and his extremism and so on. I mean, if I was a Zionist, that is the policy—God forbid—that is the policy that I would be pursuing if I was a Zionist in the United States or in the Israeli regime.

## **#Nima**

Larry, you compared Naftali Bennett to Benjamin Netanyahu. My understanding is nobody in Israel is as capable as Benjamin Netanyahu when it comes to manipulating the United States, the political parties, and the people. I believe if we had Naftali Bennett in Israel before this war started, he would not have been able to convince Donald Trump to go to war against Iran.

## **#Larry**

Oh, no, I agree that Netanyahu, having lived in the United States, having gone to school in the United States, he knows how, you know, he knows how to pull the strings, push the right buttons. And, you know, he's also trafficked a lot in the legacy of his brother who died in the raid in Entebbe back in the 70s. So, yeah, Netanyahu is probably the most effective Israeli spokesman because he doesn't come on with that thick Israeli accent that you hear from the Israeli ambassador at the UN, this Danny, Donny, whatever his name is. You know, that's grating on American ears, and it's a little obnoxious. So, yeah, getting Bibi out of the picture actually would make it more difficult for Israel in the United States politically to sway opinion. But you know what? As Professor Marandi pointed out, the public support for Israel has rapidly declined, significantly declined, and particularly in the under-50 crowd. Israel is underwater.

## **#Seyed**

And you know, one other thing is that Bennett is not very smart. I don't know if you recall, just a couple of months ago, he did this video, and he spoke about another 9/11, and people who listened to it, it seemed sort of like a threat to the United States. You could have another 9/11 if you don't pursue the right course. I don't consider him to be very intelligent. But again, the Israeli regime is in serious trouble. It's not winning anything. Slaughtering the Lebanese women and children may be okay with the Fox News audience, and it may be okay with the elites in Europe and in North America. But it's just reminding people day after day that this regime is genocidal, and it's linking Gaza and Lebanon, and it's constantly reminding people that this is an evil regime.

And as we move forward, younger people are growing older, and more young people are entering the political environment, and the older people are dying out. I mean, every year this is changing things for the worse in a big way for the Israeli regime. So, you know, none of them compares to Netanyahu, but I think Netanyahu is basically working for Netanyahu. He doesn't care about the Israeli regime, and the damage that he's doing to the regime is irreversible. So again, I think that there are probably a lot of powerful Israel-firsters in the United States and among the Epstein class that would be saying it's time to get rid of him and to put a new face in power to rehabilitate Israel. But there is no one, as you rightly point out, as both of you rightly point out, there is no one who can replace Netanyahu.

## **#Nima**

Larry, who else would help Netanyahu and Israel if they decide to continue the war against Iran? Let's assume they want to attack Iran. They want to attack Lebanon, and we're going to have an Iranian response, then Israeli retaliation. Who else? We have the United States. I don't know what the mindset is right now on the part of the Trump administration. It seems that they're not willing to get, you know, into the war, into a new round of war. But I don't see Europeans being willing to help Israel.

## **#Larry**

There's no other country out there that's willing to step up and write a check or provide weapons and provide military support at all, military or economic support. The U.S. is the only option, and the Zionists are terrified right now because of the shift they see. They thought they had Trump in the bag, and they don't. Now, Trump, he said pretty alarming things as far as they're concerned this week, and we'll find out if he backtracks because his behavior has been extremely erratic.

## **#Seyed**

Well, this morning he's already said something. I don't know if you've seen his Truth Social posts about Iran. And then the White House reposted one saying Iran is finished. And he said that we're not going to give Iran any of its money at all, and we're just going to play Iran for the next 60 days.

## **#Larry**

Yeah, I mean, that again just further underscores he's not stable. You can't make a deal with him.

## **#Nima**

Thank you so much, Professor Marandi and Larry, for being with us today. Great pleasure.

## **#Larry**

All right, my friend. Hey, and work on that shirt, both of you guys, and stay well. You too, Larry. All righty. See you in a couple of hours. Yeah. Bye-bye. Bye-bye.

## **#Nima**

See you, Nima. Bye for now. See you. Bye-bye.