

Larry Johnson: Iran Closes Hormuz AND Ends Israel's Combat Ops

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#Nima

Hi, everybody. Today is Saturday, June 20th, 2026, and our dear friend Larry Johnson is here with us. Welcome back, Larry.

#Larry

Hi there. How are you? I'm good. Good shirt choice. Yeah, we got the blues today. We got the blues.

#Nima

Yeah. Larry, let's start with the two negotiations. Two delegations are headed toward Switzerland, both on the part of the Iranians. When you look at the list of the Iranian delegation, it's the same people, by the way, basically the same people — the head of the Iranian parliament, the head of the Iranian central bank, the foreign minister of Iran, and deputy foreign ministers. And then we have one of the members of the Security Council in Iran. And on the part of the United States, what we've learned so far is Jared Kushner, together with Steve Witkoff — they're already there. Jared Kushner was there even before Steve Witkoff, then Steve Witkoff joined him. And today, as we talk, J.D. Vance just took off to go to Switzerland to be there tomorrow. Yeah. Yeah.

#Larry

Well, in fact, Araghchi, Ghalibaf, Esmail Baghaei. Baghaei, yeah. They're already there. They've landed. There are pictures of them coming off the airplane, and they're met by a delegation. I'm not sure who the delegation greeting them was, but they were warmly greeted. In addition, though, you've got the prime minister and the head of the army for Pakistan. They're going as well.

#Nima

And Qatari, we have Qatari members among the mediators. I don't know who that person is — the foreign minister of Qatar or someone.

#Larry

I think it's the foreign minister. So you've got a high level. The Qataris and the Pakistanis have been playing a critical role as intermediaries. I don't know if there will be direct talks between Iran and the United States where they sit in the same room and communicate. You know, in the past, it has been, you know, the Iranians talk to the Pakistanis or Qataris, and then they turn around and talk to the United States. So it's always indirect. So if they get some direct communication, maybe there'll be some progress. It looks like the Trump administration did get Israel to stop the attacks. They haven't withdrawn, but at least they've stopped the attack in southern Lebanon. So that has eased some of the urgency so far, it appears. If Israel is still firing, I haven't seen any news reports about it.

#Nima

No, I haven't seen it, because the latest news is that they have accepted some sort of ceasefire. But in the last 24 hours, more than 10 times they said there is a ceasefire. No, right now we don't have it. They're attacking us. We're responding. They're attacking, we are retaliating. This is the same scenario that we've seen. But I think the head of the IAEA is there as well, Larry.

#Larry

That may be premature for him to show up because Iran's not ready to talk about nukes. They've got other things—unfreeze their assets, lift the sanctions, and get Israel the hell out of southern Lebanon.

#Nima

Last night and the night before, we had huge attacks on the part of the Israelis and defensive actions on the part of Hezbollah because they wanted to get somewhere in Ali Tahir Hill. It's a fortress, something like that. And they have, I don't know, tunnels there. Hezbollah has some sort of tunnels there, it seems. As it was reported, they wanted to capture that part, which is so important strategically for the Israelis, but they have failed. So far they have lost four soldiers—one last night, 13 soldiers were injured last night, and four the night before, four casualties, four killed the night before.

#Larry

Yeah, no, they're suffering larger casualties now, I believe, than they did in 2006 during that attempt. So it'll be ultimate, you know, that was why in 2006 the casualties got too painful and they withdrew. And I think they're headed on that same trajectory right now.

#Nima

Yeah. Larry, there is something serious going on in the United States when it comes to—I talked today with, you know, many people from different sorts of ideas, from right, left, center. But the situation is somehow—look at J.D. Vance. In his recent podcast, he compared Israel to France and the United Kingdom. He said they're allied like France and the United Kingdom. But is that the understanding on the part of the Israelis? Do they really feel they're like France to the United States?

#Larry

Well, I think a better way to look at it is—Israel fancied itself as having a very special relationship with the United States, and that it was, you know, we were romantic partners almost. And now Israel has woken up to find out that we're dating other people. And so we're no longer in what they felt was a monogamous relationship with them. And so, you know, from their standpoint, we've actually betrayed them. Some view what Trump has said and done as a betrayal. That's what's fascinating about all this.

So, you know, it'd be one thing if they interpreted it, you know, J.D. Vance meant we treat Israel like Britain and France because they are important allies. Then I think, you know, if Israel interpreted it that way, they'd be saying, oh, that's cool. So, yeah, I'm not sure what else he would have meant by that comparison, because it's not like, you know, we have bad relations with France and the UK. We've got what you call normal, sort of normal adult relationships with them. At times, you know, we oppose each other, and at times we're singing on the same sheet of music.

#Nima

Yeah, what he was trying to say is that Israel is not something special to us. They're like other nations that are our allies in Europe.

#Larry

Well, I was just going to say it would be better off if he would have said, you know, we think of Israel like we think of Botswana. You know, that would have sent a message. Or Bolivia or, you know, Liechtenstein. You know, to say that, you know, they're a small, irrelevant country. That would have sent a real message. But, you know, you're equating them with two countries that are part of the UN Security Council. That's not exactly an insult.

#Nima

We had Israel Hayom going after Donald Trump, and we know who's the owner of Israel Hayom — the Adelson family. We've been talking about this family since Donald Trump was elected in the United States. Back then, they were totally supporting Donald Trump. Right now, they're coming

against him. And who's the product of this family? It's Marco Rubio. You're looking at Marco Rubio behind Donald Trump when he's talking about putting pressure on Benjamin Netanyahu. He's so sad, looking around. He doesn't know what to do.

#Larry

Yeah, no, he didn't look like a happy camper. We'll see. You know, you would think that if someone really opposed the policy, they'd walk out. But I think the reason they don't walk out is they want to stay as close as possible to be able to try to continue to influence U.S. policy to stay in alignment with Israel.

#Nima

Do you think the Trump administration is divided into two sections, two different sectors — America First and Israel First?

#Larry

Yes, yes. Yeah, no, I think there is still a strong Israel First contingent that's appalled by this, by Trump's shift or Trump's betrayal. But I'm not sure it's growing, though there certainly is a segment that's more grounded realistically, that realizes how costly this war is for Donald Trump politically — how costly it is to be seen as just a bitch that belongs to Israel, where Israel comes first and all American interests go second. A lot of people are getting very fed up with that.

#Nima

Randy Fine tweeted "anybody but J.D. Vance" back in 2020. Did you see that?

#Larry

Yeah, yeah, I saw it and said, "What is going on with this guy?"

#Nima

Larry, who's supporting J.D. Vance in the Trump administration? I believe there are many people like J.D. Vance and Joe Kent. Because before, you remember, before Joe Kent resigned from the Trump administration, we didn't know anything about him.

#Larry

Mm-hmm. And no—but who supported—well, he wasn't much—Joe Kent wasn't much of a public figure. I mean, I knew about him. I knew it in his past. Well, you got Elbridge Colby at the Department of War, at the Pentagon. He's like the Deputy Secretary of Defense. I think he supports

J.D. Vance. You've got—I think Robert F. Kennedy Jr. as well supports J.D. So he's not without some support. Trump, you know, I think Trump's increasingly losing touch with reality. There are parts of him that can stay in tune and other parts of him not. And just, you know, watching him today get into a pissing match with Giorgia Meloni, the prime minister of Italy, it was just absurd. You know, he's behaving like some teenage girl who has her feelings hurt and lashes out.

#Nima

What was the necessity of that—saying that she wanted to take a picture with me?

#Larry

Yeah, I mean, and she's been firing right back at him.

#Nima

Yeah, she responded that she said, I don't beg, and Italy doesn't beg as well. So we don't beg here in Italy. She basically said that to Donald Trump. But she said that Donald Trump doesn't treat the allies of the United States in a good manner, and that was the whole point. The guy is... Larry, coming back to the Trump administration, Rubio is not part of the negotiations. I don't know what leverage Rubio possesses in these negotiations that are happening. He has never been part of, not in Ukraine, and right now with the Iranians as well, you don't see that much of Rubio's role. What is his influence on the negotiations, if he has some?

#Larry

I'm not sure he has that much. As you said, he's not front and center. If he was really leading this negotiation, maybe he chose not to be involved because he says, if I get involved with this and it goes bad, I'll be blamed. Instead, he's going to let J.D. Vance be blamed. But...

#Nima

When you look at the negotiations, the team that is already—it's going to be in Switzerland talking with the Iranians. Do you see—are we going to see the same sort of outcome as we've seen before in Islamabad? Because in Islamabad, the two sides were talking. You mentioned that you don't—but it froze up there. So, putting that aside—

#Larry

You froze up, you said.

#Nima

Do you expect any sort of good or positive outcome from the second round, with what's going on tomorrow?

#Larry

There is a group from the State Department. There are some State Department diplomats or Foreign Service officers that were already in Switzerland talking to some Iranian counterparts. So the communications were not completely cut off, or they were already speaking through intermediaries. This, you know, I think they will come out... It depends on Israel, really. For now, there is a ceasefire, and the United States has succeeded in getting Israel to stop firing and bombing in Lebanon. If they restart that within the next 24 to 36 hours, then I think Iran will suspend the talks, and they're going to launch a strong retaliatory strike against Israel.

Now, will they continue to keep the lines of communication open to the United States? Maybe. That's not impossible. Will the United States be willing to sit down and continue to talk to them? That's the question. That's what I don't have the answer to. So at least there won't be any substantive talks until, you know, let's see—right now it's closing in on 11:23, 20 hours. So it'll be midnight in a bit in Switzerland. So, you know, by the time we talk tomorrow, they will have had discussions. J.D. Vance, you know, he'll get there, he'll arrive about 6 a.m. in the morning.

So, you know, he'll sleep on the plane going over, I would presume, and then get up and go to work. So they could, you know, if nothing else, we'll find out if they can come to an agreement on how they're going to conduct the negotiations. Will they continue to do it through an intermediary? Will they do it in person? The fact that Pakistan's sending such a high-level delegation means at least from Pakistan's standpoint they're taking it seriously. And hopefully, Pepe and I will have some more information about that in the next few hours.

#Nima

Two points with this meeting that is going to happen. One of them is, on the part of the Iranians, I'm sure that you've seen the statement of the Iranian supreme leader. He said that he's not optimistic about what's going on, but he gave permission to the Iranian president. But there are people in Iran who don't want to; they say there is no positive outcome for the negotiation deal, so we don't need to negotiate with the United States. They're so strong in the way they're thinking, that they believe that, you know, this way. But there are people that are negotiating right now. As we know, they're in Switzerland. On the part of the United States, what is the complexity of that? We have the two sides fighting in Washington, one of them in favor of Israel. How do you describe the situation in Washington?

#Larry

Well, it's just typical Washington. I mean, I think there's some shock going around the various quarters over Donald Trump and J.D. Vance being so forthright in speaking out against Israel of late. What we haven't heard much in public—it's being leaked out by people inside the Pentagon in particular—is that the only military efforts underway by the United States right now are to withdraw personnel and planes from the region. So that's underway. So as long as that's happening, that reduces the likelihood of conflict. Let's call that a positive development.

#Nima

The withdrawal from Iraq? From Kuwait?

#Larry

Yeah, yeah, yeah. So, you know, in the weeks prior to February 28th, we had reports of these F-35s, F-15s, and F-16s being flown to Cyprus, to Incirlik, to Jordan, and to Israel. So you had this whole fleet of aircraft moving there, because it took about two to three weeks to build the force up, get them there on the ground, and get the infrastructure put into place. Well, now the reverse is happening, because if we were going to stay, then there wouldn't be any planning and movements afoot to pull them out.

But the planners are at work, scheduling who's going to leave when and where, because they have to position KC-135 tankers all along that route. Because, you know, an F-35 flying can only go 600 miles without carrying a combat load. So, you know, about every 400 miles they've got to top off and get refueled until they ultimately get back to their base, whether it's in Florida or New Hampshire or wherever. And let me say also the same for the ships, the Navy, the Carrier Strike Group—you know, they're pulling back. Diego Garcia, they're drawing down. So you're getting a drawdown of U.S. personnel and assets across the region.

#Nima

Today Iran has closed its trade for most again because they wanted to put pressure on the United States. In your opinion, is it going to be better for Iran to put pressure on the United States than for the United States to put pressure on Israel? Because you mentioned Iran may attack Israel. Do you think it's necessary for Iran to attack Israel directly, or would closing the Strait of Hormuz put enough pressure to bring them to some sort of sanity?

#Larry

Well, I think it's a myth that the Strait of Hormuz was, quote, open, because the London insurance companies, the maritime insurers, they haven't certified that the Strait of Hormuz is safe to travel through. So the only ships, to my knowledge, that have really been going through the Strait of

Hormuz are Iranian ships. If there have been any others, maybe there have been, but not that many. So, you know, because that's one problem—that is, until the mines are cleared out of the Persian Gulf, those ships aren't going to move. So while it is in theory open, in practical reality, it's been very, very limited movement of ships. I think it's only been like seven ships a day that have been going through, and my understanding is they're all Iranian, taking product to China.

#Nima

Yeah. I don't know what... How about the GCC countries? Are they going to be able to use the Strait of Hormuz?

#Larry

Well, you've got to have a ship. They don't have their own navies, is my understanding. They're using foreign ships. So until those foreign ships have permission, have the insurance to sail, they're not going to be taking anything out of the Gulf states unless it's an Iranian ship that goes there to pick it up. Does that make sense?

#Nima

Yeah.

#Larry

Yeah. So, I mean, that's what I'm trying to get across here, that you keep going, oh, it's open, it's closed, it's open, it's closed. Well, you know, to say it's open implies that there's a lot of activity. There isn't. And, you know, vice versa, to say it's closed means what? No traffic? No, Iran's going to continue to send—you know, it's made close to \$2.1 billion in the last week.

#Nima

I think, Larry, that the situation with Israel—if Donald Trump lets the political parties in Israel take care of Benjamin Netanyahu—that would be hugely beneficial for him. Don't you think that could be the case for Donald Trump?

#Larry

No, no, explain that to me, because, you know, if you get rid of...

#Nima

They really want to remove him from power.

#Larry

Okay.

#Nima

They really want to do that.

#Larry

But is that going to change? Do you think that's going to change Israel's policy?

#Nima

No, I don't believe that's going to change Israel, but that's going to change the leverage Benjamin Netanyahu has on families like the Adelsons. I don't know.

#Larry

No, no, no. How does that work? No, it's not. I don't think it's going to change it at all. I mean, the attitude of the Israelis towards Iran is almost set in stone. So whether Bibi's there or not, it's not going to change Israel's policy towards Iran. It's not like there is some moderate Israeli who rejects Zionism and who's standing on the sidelines with people clamoring for them to come into power. I mean, that's not happening at all. So they're just, you know, getting rid of him. Let me put it this way: Bibi Netanyahu is an important asset for Israel in terms of—he at least speaks in a way that Americans easily understand him. He lived in America, went to school in America.

So, you know, he understands America better than many of his Israeli counterparts—certainly better than Ben-Gvir and Smotrich, as examples. So there is, you know, if losing Bibi Netanyahu could make Israel more ineffective in lobbying the Congress, both the House and the Senate, and getting their support. Because, you know, you get some of these Israeli spokesmen who are just, you know, they're violent and they're obnoxious and, you know, they don't play well to the American public. Bibi, you know, he's the most two-faced son of a bitch you've ever seen. In Hebrew, he says one thing, and in English, he says another—smooth-talking man.

#Nima

I think the United States has many means at its disposal to put pressure on Israel, not only when it comes to aid to Israel, but also using the UN. Every time the UN comes out with a new resolution on Israel, they simply veto the whole thing and don't let anything happen against Israel. Is that going to change, in your opinion?

#Larry

No, no, no. No, not easily. So, you know, it'll be, again, status quo for a while.

#Nima

And the borders, the issue, Larry, I think if Iran and the United States manage to force Israel to define its borders, that would be hugely beneficial. Because right now they don't have any borders. They don't define their borders. And that's why they're in the southern part of Lebanon, in the southern part of Syria, in Gaza. They're talking about 70%. This is a legal issue, in my opinion. And they can address that easily. The international community can come together and talk about it.

#Larry

The international community is not going to do anything. Hell, they haven't done anything over, you know, 40, now 51 years. You know, the civil war started back in 1975, supposedly ended in 1990, but it's essentially, you know, the status quo has been there ever since, you know, this division. And now, once again, Israel's come back in to bomb and kill and strafe. You don't even see the government of Lebanon standing up for itself, declaring war on Israel. How dare you attack us?

#Nima

I think GCC countries, as an outcome of this war, are learning something that was not available to them before. Or maybe they were not forced to understand that, which is the new reality. I don't know how that is going to be beneficial for Gaza or for the West Bank. Because right now everybody's talking about Lebanon, talking about the war, while we know today, we've learned that they're bombing Gaza. Israel is bombing Gaza City and Khan Yunis, the two parts of Gaza. And nobody's talking about it in the news.

#Larry

Right. They don't care. That's been my point. They simply do not care. And, you know, that's why they, almost in desperation, have to fight on just to try to get the world to listen, to pay attention.

#Nima

Larry, Switzerland has been a very important place for negotiations, but they lost their position during the war in Ukraine because they took sides. Right. Do you think they're in the process of repairing their image, somehow getting back or retrieving that sort of idea we had about Switzerland before?

#Larry

Yeah, I mean, to be perceived as neutral and to try to reinforce that very well could be. It is the meeting in a place called Bürgenstock, which is a remote location. It's owned by, I think, the Qatari emir. They may be actually meeting at his house or his compound because it's not just a four- or five-bedroom house. We're talking a pretty substantial place. So this is, you know, you've got, I think, in the person of Qatar and Pakistan, you know, there is strong, strong financial interest in getting the commerce flowing again. But at the same time, you know, Iran, I think, is making it very clear that nothing is going to flow naturally or normally until the promises that are implicit in the 14-point agreement are fulfilled. Now, again, it looks like the request from Iran to the United States to get Israel back on a leash worked, because it appears that Israel is back on a leash right now. You know, they're not out bombing, at least in Lebanon. As you say, they may be bombing in Gaza, but they've at least stopped it in Lebanon.

#Nima

Removing Iran from the scene, who's eager or who's willing to put pressure on Israel in the Middle East, Larry, today with what has happened, with all this madness going on, all these countries that are Muslim or non-Muslim, who is willing to put pressure on Israel?

#Larry

Well, so far, the one, you know, Pakistan, and to a lesser extent Qatar, those two have been active in these negotiations. And I would say actually Oman as well. You know, they've done everything in their power to try to promote a peace agreement and, you know, something that would benefit both sides. But, you know, Israel has always, you know, interfered as a spoiler for the U.S. decisions. Now, finally, it looks like Trump has said, no, I've had enough of this. We're not going to put up with this. And now we've got to have some more face-to-face talks in Switzerland.

#Nima

Deep down, the way that Donald Trump thinks about the war, Larry, do you think that he's really feeling to get back to the war, or he's done with the war?

#Larry

I, you know, I'm not trying to be flippant, but, you know, I think he has a shorter attention span than your baby daughter. Okay? She's now two years old, or three, and you know how two- and three-year-olds are.

#Nima

Yeah, two and a half.

#Larry

Yeah, two and a half. Yeah, grabs one thing, got it, looks at that, and goes and grabs another thing, and, you know, not a long attention span. I'm not sure he's got a long attention span for this. He keeps saying crazy things. Again, he came out today with a Truth — I won't call it a tweet, but he truths on Truth Social — and, you know, warning that Iran's never going to collect a red dime whatsoever. Not now, not ever. Well, he says that, but that's just not true. And what amuses me are these people saying, oh, well, the United States and Europe, they'll go back in there and reopen the Strait. Yeah, good luck with that. They couldn't do it during the war. Now, all of a sudden, they're going to claim they've got a stronger military presence. You know, it'll just bring Europe into the war in an unnecessary way. And they're going to get, you know, they're going to get warned.

#Nima

I think the answer to the question is somehow we have to ask ourselves, what is... So how is the situation the same? Has anything changed since the ceasefire was announced by the United States? I don't see anything happening. Any change has happened since then that Donald Trump somehow decides to go. Maybe he would produce more, because I have received some information from some sources. Maybe the United States is producing 10,000 missiles in a short period of time, and they're going to get back to start the war.

#Larry

Are you saying that you've been told that?

#Nima

Yeah. Oh, yeah, that's nonsensical. Yeah.

#Larry

Yeah, with what? With what?

#Nima

Actually, yeah.

#Larry

It's like, with what? They don't have rare earth minerals. You need rare earth minerals for those. You need magnets. China's sitting on those and not sharing. In fact, China is accelerating. It just sold another \$46 billion worth of U.S. Treasury bills. So it's not buying them up, it's selling them off, which is going to increase pressure on the United States economically.

#Nima

I think a huge part of, Larry, what's going on is related to what's going on domestically in the United States. I don't know if you've watched Patrick Bet-David, the podcaster. He's Iranian-American. He's a Zionist. He supported the war on Iran, the war against Iran. And right now, in the latest podcast, he was comparing Marco Rubio to JD Vance, saying that JD Vance is faking everything. The guy there who's in charge is Marco Rubio. Look at him. He's the 2028 presidential candidate of the Republican Party. When they go that far, you see there is something going on. These Zionists are investing in something. His podcast is so popular among Republicans. That's why something serious is happening within the administration. They're trying to remove one part that they feel is not that much connected with the Zionists in the United States.

#Larry

Well, you wish that there was some coherent policy on the part of Trump with respect to the upcoming midterms. Until a week ago, he spent a lot of his energy attacking former supporters that are very influential in the world of podcasting — you know, Tucker Carlson, Joe Rogan, Candace Owens. Those three are this...

A guy, his name is Ian — I forget the last name — but he's been pretty popular. So it's not working. You know, Trump has split and divided his base over that, but then he was still seen as, well, he had this solid support from Israel. Well, that's gone now. Maybe he did calculate that he had to separate himself from Israel now, maybe try to win back the Thomas Massies and the Marjorie Taylor Greenes before the midterms. I think it's too little, too late. I think he made a fatal error in covering up for Jeffrey Epstein. Now, that's the other thing I'm wondering, because we had speculated that perhaps, you know, the Israelis were blackmailing Trump, which is why he was doing some of the stuff he did with maintaining the war in Iran.

The actions he's now taken this week signal just the opposite — that he's pulling out, that he's no longer interested in staying in there to fight, seeing that it will be a drag on the election. And they may have very well calculated that the truth of the matter is that Zionist Jews are a very, very, very small minority of voters in the overall scheme of things. And that, yes, there are some well-placed Zionists who have a lot of money and appear to have some social influence. But, you know, I think they calculated that there was more to be gained by distancing themselves from that Zionist crowd.

#Nima

These Zionist Jews are something like 10% of the Jews in the United States, because most of the Jews that I talk with are basically against Israel. None of them is in favor of Israel. That's why I don't have any sort of understanding of how many of these people support Israel, what percentage supports Israel.

#Larry

Yeah, I'm not sure what that number is. All I know is the overall number of Jews in the United States is around 10 million out of 350 million. So that's really not a significant number. I mean, you can make the case that their influence is disproportionate to their numbers, that's for sure.

#Nima

You've said that it's too late for Donald Trump. You mean about the midterm election? Is that the case?

#Larry

Right, right.

#Nima

But it's not too late for J.D. Vance.

#Larry

Well, J.D. Vance is looking beyond the midterm to the 2028 election, two years. So I think it's going to be very, very hard for Trump to turn this around right now. He'll be—it's just, particularly if what he was told about the economy comes true. Let's recall again, the reason he reversed course on Iran and signed on to the memorandum of understanding is he was briefed on how dire the world economic situation is going to be shortly, as people run out of their, uh, strategic, you know, oil reserves, and particularly as the United States runs out of its strategic oil reserve.

#Nima

Yeah, I think if he loses the midterm election, that's going to mean, for Donald Trump, what is the downside of that if they lose the midterm election? Are they going to impeach him? Is there going to be something substantial coming out of the impeachment? If he continues with the same sort of policy, he's going to have a lot of enemies among Zionists.

#Larry

Well, let's say that this economic tsunami that hits the United States starts arriving on our shores end of July, first week of August, and that gasoline doubles in price—literally doubles. It goes from \$3.50 to \$7 a gallon, that there are shortages of food in the stores, that some rationing starts to take place, and the economy grinds to a halt. Well, at that point, the anger directed at Donald Trump for “you got us into this mess,” and he'll be insisting things are great when objectively they're not great at all. So then, at that point, if he loses control of the House and Senate, if Democrats come in or Republicans are elected who hate Trump, then you can see the control of both the House and the Senate shift and easily get articles of impeachment out of the House. You go to the Senate, and in the Senate you need two-thirds to convict. You might very well find two-thirds of the Senate ready to convict Donald Trump. And then all of a sudden he could, you know, he could be facing, you know, removal from office at a minimum.

#Nima

By the way, he needs Congress for the ongoing negotiations with Iran. Let's assume everything is getting positive, they're advancing, they're getting something out of these talks, and he's going to need Congress to help him with the case of sanctions against Iran.

#Larry

Well, ideally, they would negotiate a deal with Iran that they would then bring to Congress to get ratified as a treaty of sorts. I don't know if he'd be willing to do that, but that needs to be done. If nothing else, for the sake of Iran, to know that they've got a real deal that's not just dependent upon the whims of Donald Trump. How does he feel today? Is he just going to wake up some morning grumpy and pissed off and decide to walk away? So, you know, it'd be much better if they said, we got a deal that the U.S. Congress has certified. So at least, you know, we got public support for that deal. That's what we don't have right now.

#Nima

There were three countries that were invited to the G7 summit: Brazil, the UAE, and Egypt. What was the meaning of that for you?

#Larry

Oh, I think they're trying to break up BRICS. You know, that's the key. And I'm surprised, you know, they didn't try to invite India, but I think India was maybe of a mind, you know, she wasn't going to go.

#Nima

I think... I don't know if I'm right, but is the UAE and Egypt, in the case of these two countries, related to West Asia and what's going on in West Asia, or is it something beyond that?

#Larry

What do you mean?

#Nima

Because of the ongoing war. They know Egypt is so important, by the way, when it comes to Gaza, when it comes to Lebanon, for the United States. They're somehow a partner or some sort of ally to the United States when it comes to the situation in the Middle East. But the UAE is the other partner of Israel. It's so close to Israel. It's somehow close to the United States if they're close to Israel.

#Larry

Well, they have been, but again, you've seen signs of the Emiratis distancing themselves from the Israelis at a minimum and, you know, reportedly taking some of the frozen assets that they had controlled back, returning those to Iran so that Iran can, I think, you know, transform them into yuan, get them out of the U.S. dollar and into Chinese currency. So, you know, it looks like the UAE has been playing a more productive role. Remember, they didn't get hit much in this last response by Iran, I mean.

So they, you know, I think they're starting to read the tea leaves that the United States has lost and that the United States is not going to be there to protect them at all. So their thought is, we better get the hell out of here while we can. And, you know, at the same time, I think they're being talked to by China and by Pakistan. And, you know, they may see a way that, you know what, we can extricate ourselves from this situation. We don't have to rely upon the protection of the United States. We're going to have something better. We'll have a, you know, let's say, a joint Arab-Muslim defense force to protect us.

#Nima

I think India was there on February 26.

#Larry

They were there two or three days before the war started in Israel. I don't know if they were in the UAE.

#Nima

But they participated in the G7 summit. India was there. I don't think so. Were they? Yeah, I think they were. I don't know, I'm not sure about that.

#Larry

Yeah, I think the G7 is the United States, Canada, the UK, Germany, France, Italy, and Japan.

#Nima

Yeah.

#Larry

So that's the seven. India was not there. They may have been there as an observer, but they weren't there as a participant.

#Nima

Yeah, observer. They were there. Yeah, I have the picture here. Modi is there. Oh, Modi was there? Modi is there, yeah. Modi is there. You know, Sisi is there. Yeah, they're all there, yeah. I think they're, I don't know how they feel about Brazil, but Brazil is somehow, it's so tricky for the United States here in Latin America, Larry. And they have a strong feeling toward what's going on in Gaza, in Brazil. The government in Brazil supported Gaza all the way, you know, more than many countries in the region. They supported the case of, in my opinion, the case of Gaza. You see GCC countries basically talking about it and doing nothing. But Brazil, from Latin America, is one of the countries that is supporting Palestinian rights. This is important. Larry? Larry, tomorrow we're going to learn what will happen with the negotiations, if there is, because you said you're not sure if there would be any sort of negotiations.

#Larry

Yeah, yeah. I mean, it looked like it wasn't going to happen. Now it's going to happen. So they've obviously had some breakthrough. Otherwise, J.D. Vance wouldn't be getting on the plane. So there have been some direct conversations behind the scenes. So we'll just have to wait and see what happens.

#Nima

Yeah, exactly, exactly. Thank you, Larry.

#Larry

Well, I'll be here tomorrow to help you.

#Nima

Yeah, exactly. We're going to talk together with Modi.

#Larry

All right, my friend. Take care. Bye-bye.