

# Scott Ritter: Israel Will Be KICKED OUT of Lebanon!

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## #Nima

What has happened between Iran and the United States is the second direct talk between the two sides after the one in Switzerland. The two sides came together talking about basically the main problem. One of the main problems was the case of Lebanon. And it seems that the first clause of the agreement, that MOU that was signed by the Iranian president and Donald Trump, is pointing out the sovereignty of Lebanon. And here is what J.D. Vance said about Lebanon, because it seems that as time goes by, Israelis are somehow feeling some sort of pressure coming from Lebanon. Benjamin Netanyahu with the case of Lebanon. And here is what we've learned from J.D. Vance.

## #Speaker 02

Israel to withdraw forces from southern Lebanon?

## #Speaker 03

Well, we want Israel's security to be protected, and we also want Lebanon's sovereignty to be protected. And this is going to be an ongoing conversation. The Israelis have been very clear they do not have territorial intentions on South Lebanon. The reason they feel they have to be there is because they're worried about Hezbollah fighters in South Lebanon firing into Israel. We do believe, of course, it's going to require a lot of hard work, that we can get to a place where Lebanon's territorial integrity and sovereignty are protected, Israel's security is protected, and that's going to require some coordination with the Lebanese Armed Forces, and also it's going to require the Iranians to rein in Hezbollah. That's all the sort of things that we were talking about yesterday, and again, I think that we got much further compared to where we were just 24 hours ago.

## #Nima

What he said, Scott, in another video when he was mentioning the case of Lebanon, he said two things. One of the important ones is that a new mechanism was defined by the United States and Iran to keep the situation calm between Israel and Lebanon. They call it the deconfliction zone or

something like that, a new unit in the way that J.D. Vance was talking about. And the second point would be, is that going to be the full withdrawal of Hezbollah or of Israel from Lebanon, or is it going to be a partial withdrawal? What is your understanding of the case of Lebanon, which is one of the most complicated situations, I think? For most, they have some sort of understanding with the case of the sanctions, all of that. They're talking to each other, but the case of Lebanon is related to Hezbollah and Israel. How do you see that?

## **#Speaker 04**

I see it in very simplistic terms. Israel's security can only be guaranteed based upon Lebanese sovereignty. Hezbollah wouldn't exist today if Israel had withdrawn from Lebanon. Hezbollah exists only because of Israel's illegal occupation of Lebanon. Of course, that is the initial occupation in the 1980s. People say, where is this going? I remind people that Israel has been kicked out of Lebanon once before by Hezbollah, and Hezbollah will kick Israel out again. That's what's going to happen. Israel has lost this war. Israel has no negotiating position. Iran will not buckle. The United States is agreement-incapable.

Understand that. The Iranians understand that. You understand that. I understand that. It doesn't matter what J.D. Vance says because the United States cannot keep its word. The United States has placed Israeli security ahead of Lebanese sovereignty. That's the whole power equation that's taking place here. Israel gets to bomb Beirut anytime it wants to in the name of Israeli security policy, but Hezbollah is not allowed to retaliate against Israel in the interest of Lebanese sovereignty. And the only reason, again, why Hezbollah continues to have a militia is because Israel continues to illegally occupy southern Lebanon.

The legitimacy of the continuity of the Hezbollah militia disappears immediately the moment Israel leaves all of southern Lebanon, the moment that Lebanon restores sovereignty to every square inch of Lebanese territory. And that's the only solution that's acceptable here. J.D. Vance and Iran can come up with a mechanism, a deconfliction mechanism, but it doesn't work if the deconfliction is premised on the notion of Israeli security taking precedence over everything, including Lebanese sovereignty. I just again will remind you, Israel was kicked out of Lebanon once before by Hezbollah. And if Israel wants to continue the fight on its terms, it will be kicked out of Lebanon again by Hezbollah.

## **#Nima**

We know if they attack again, one of the reasons that Iran didn't respond to the latest Israeli attack in Beirut, in Dahia, was the negotiations between Iran and the United States. Because it seems that Donald Trump tried to do his best to put in place some sort of ceasefire, which wasn't the ceasefire until the MOU was signed and the later negotiations on that, you know, that 14-point. The first one

is the case of Lebanon. And do you think that as time goes by, if Israel attacks—let's assume you said that Israel will attack and Hezbollah would respond—how do you see the Iranian government responding to Israel and the reaction from the United States?

## **#Speaker 04**

OK, this is crystal clear. The MOU is not in effect unless all aspects of the MOU are in effect. If Israel attacks Lebanon, Israel, the MOU is not in effect. And if the MOU is not in effect, then Iran will retaliate. And Iran has shown that the first time. You know, it struck Israel when Israel struck Lebanon. It will do so again. You know, Israel got a pass this time because the United States said it will rein in Israel. The United States is agreement-incapable. Israel is agreement-incapable. They do not negotiate in good faith. Iran knows this better than anybody. So what will happen if Israel attacks Lebanon? Iran will retaliate against Israel. What will the United States do? Nothing. The United States is desperate for an agreement.

The Strait of Hormuz must remain open. If the United States attacks Iran, Iran will do what it did last time—shut down the Strait of Hormuz. You know, and it's just interesting for people to understand, the more uncertainty that exists out there, even if Iran says the Strait of Hormuz is open, understand that, you know, the companies that insure the shipping that needs to go through the Strait of Hormuz, they're not insuring the shipping. Why would they? Why would they insure a ship going through a strait that could be shut down at any time and the ship gets hit and sunk? So, you know, the United States—Donald Trump—is in a very, very difficult situation. You know, this isn't about the complexities of any geopolitical issue.

It's about Donald Trump's political survival, which hinges on the American economy, which is being choked to death because of the Strait of Hormuz situation. So Donald Trump has to get the Strait open in a consistent manner, because if oil doesn't start flowing, then the consequences of the energy security crisis that was precipitated by Trump's stupidity in launching this conflict to begin with are not going to be rectified in time to have an impact on the November midterm elections. And that's what this is all about. It's the economy, stupid. Donald Trump has to get an uptick in the American economy that gets the American voters to believe that he has their best interests in mind. And he can't do that if the Strait of Hormuz continues to be choked. And, you know, that's where we're at right now.

## **#Nima**

Do you think, you know, the Strait of Hormuz has been used to put pressure on the United States, then the United States putting pressure on Israelis not to attack Lebanon, not to attack Hezbollah or people in cities and villages in Lebanon? Is that going to work, or are we headed toward some sort of new round of war between Iran and Israel without that much participation from the United States as it was before?

## **#Speaker 04**

I think we're headed to a new round of conflict between Israel and Iran. But I believe that the United States, you know, because look, Iran—yeah, I can't speak for the Iranian government—but they've been pretty clear: it's all or nothing. They're not going to allow the MOU to be cherry-picked by the United States. It needs to be implemented in full, or there is no agreement. They've walked out of negotiations before, and I believe they'll walk out of negotiations again. And they've shown a willingness to attack nations that are involved in violations of the MOU. So Israel would definitely be attacked. The question is, what will the United States do? You know, what will Donald Trump do? I think now, you know, the nature of the relationship between Netanyahu and Trump has changed, because now we're looking at Trump's existential political survival being on the line—the midterm elections.

It's the end of Donald Trump. It's the end of the Trump legacy. And a narcissist can't allow that to happen. And so now he sees Benjamin Netanyahu as being the man responsible for the demise of the Trump brand. And Trump is a very vengeful person. So we may be looking at a complete reworking of the U.S.-Israeli relationship in the near future, and can Israel survive that? I don't think Benjamin Netanyahu's political career can survive that. This is a man who has repeatedly come to the United States to go to Congress to wrap himself in the shroud of endless applause. He needs American support in order to retain his legitimacy at home. If Trump pulls the cord, that's the end for Netanyahu. So, you know, I see Israel being compelled to leave Lebanon, one way or another.

## **#Nima**

Look at that. You've mentioned the midterm elections. And right after the midterm elections, we're going to have the 2028 presidential election, with J.D. Vance, it seems, coming onto the scene, talking about the conflict, and he's trying to bring everything together and resolve the issues because of 2028, in my opinion. Is he prepared to sacrifice everything for Israel, for the cause of Israel? And to be honest, the way that Donald Trump is talking to Israelis is somehow new. We don't have that much of a history of them talking to each other, putting pressure publicly, humiliating. Let's assume that it's all about political theater. But after all, he's humiliating Benjamin Netanyahu and his administration.

## **#Speaker 04**

Netanyahu is humiliating himself. Let's be very clear on this. He's not an innocent actor. It's not that Benjamin Netanyahu has been doing the right thing and that evil Donald Trump's coming up and ruining things. Benjamin Netanyahu is a murderous, genocidal thug. He's a criminal of proportions that are only matched by some of the greatest criminals in history. Adolf Hitler comes to mind. So I don't give any sympathy to Bibi Netanyahu when Donald Trump turns on him. It's about time that an American president turned on an Israeli leader in this fashion.

J.D. Vance will not go down with the ship, meaning that he's not going to sit there and fall on the sword for the state of Israel. He's there to represent Donald Trump and the United States, and he will take his guidance from Donald Trump on behalf of the United States. And I think you've already seen J.D. Vance starting to tighten the language regarding Israel. So, Israel's toast. We can just leave it at that. This is a situation Israel is not going to get out of. They've backed themselves into a corner. They will have to leave Lebanon, and in doing so, it will be the end of Benjamin Netanyahu.

I just want to remind everybody that back in September of 2023, before the October 7th attacks by Hamas on Israel, the Israeli president was warning about, you know, the fact that Israel is sliding towards civil war. Not civil resistance, civil disobedience—civil war, armed fighting between Israelis. And that's how this is going to end. This is going to end with an Israeli civil war. Because Benjamin Netanyahu has polarized the nation to such extremes. And in the end, the people that are promoting this war understand that their political survival is dependent upon this war continuing until an Israeli victory that isn't going to come. But they can't afford to acknowledge that because that's the end of them politically. And so I think we're looking at an Israeli civil war coming—violence between Israelis.