

# Larry Johnson: U.S. Bombs Iran Near Sirik & Tehran's Counterstrike

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## #Nima

Hi, everybody. Today is Saturday, June 27, 2026, and our dear friend Larry Johnson is here with us to discuss what's going on right now in the Middle East. The war is happening. Last night, again, on Iranian soil. The same area, by the way, is the Sirik area. And right now, from the latest news, it shows that the Tahrir village and the telecommunications towers were attacked, were hit by the American airstrike. And we had it last night, we have it right now, we're having it, and CENTCOM just mentioned that this is a response to what Iran did today, attacking one of these commercial ships in the Strait of Hormuz. And I talked with Morandi today about last night. He said two radars were hit. Those two radars were not that significant somehow.

## #Guest

Yeah, I mean, last night's attacks were what I call military-political theater. Nothing strategic was hit by either side. It was sort of the United States going through a routine to show the American people, "See how tough we're being?" But in reality, it was a nothing burger, which is, I think, why Iran didn't really retaliate hard after that. But so, I mean, it was initially pumped up, you know, in the United States, all the press—major strike over, you know, "Oh my God, we're kicking their ass" kind of stuff.

And then, you know, when I dug into it later, it was like, you know, it wasn't even clear they hit anything. So if they did hit something, it wasn't of any consequence. But today, it looks like it's different. So the United States had a chance to step back and just ignore it and tell these ships, hey, Iran has its rules. Follow the damn rules and there won't be any problem. Instead, this one ship apparently wanted to say, screw you, we're not going to follow the rules. And Iran said, okay, here's a drone. Have a nice day.

## #Nima

One of the U.S. officials just told Fox News that the strikes on Iran are larger than last night. And right now, it was just reported that two new strikes took place on Qeshm Island. Last night we had

some reports about Qeshm Island, but later on we learned that nothing was hit on Qeshm Island last night. But tonight it seems that they hit some targets on Qeshm Island.

## **#Guest**

Well, the U.S. is not responding because of the ship. It's responding because of what Iran did in Bahrain. I'm told that they really hit Bahrain, the former Fifth Fleet headquarters, real hard. I think that's why the U.S. is reacting. And, you know, I anticipate Iran's going to react to that reaction. And so this is going to escalate if the information I've received from my new friend in the energy business is accurate. Then Iran may be inciting this a little bit in order to draw the United States in, force it to use more civil aviation fuel, because that's going to create a shortage. And the United States is going to run short. They won't cause the military to go short, so they'll sacrifice civilian aviation, which is then going to have a negative effect on the economy. And so Iran gets to do damage to the U.S. economy in an indirect way.

## **#Nima**

The communication line that J.D. Vance was talking about—there is no communication, Larry. There is no direct communication. They call it a hotline of communications between Iran and the United States. That doesn't exist. It was confirmed by the IRGC. That's why you see these sorts of attacks happening, a tit-for-tat, something like that. Do you see this possibility of escalation in the region?

## **#Guest**

No, I think it's going to escalate. So we'll see where it goes by Monday.

## **#Nima**

Yeah. Who's giving them the basis to attack Iran? Are these fighters just coming from Jordan, coming from Israel, coming from—I don't know?

## **#Guest**

I think they're probably coming out of Al Udeid—no, not Al Udeid—out of Jordan, would be my guess. Possibly Saudi Arabia, but I doubt that. It could be the United Arab Emirates. I don't know. Iran's going to know, and we'll know by Iran's reaction where they came from.

## **#Nima**

My understanding today, Larry, is that there are some reports coming from Iran. They're not in the mainstream media, only in alternative media, because since the war is happening, since they hit two ships today in the Strait of Hormuz, they were preparing. The IRGC was preparing for the attacks,

and they were moving the weapons around. Some estimations said Iran may respond to last night's attack. And right now we have a new attack on Iranian soil. I think they're going to attack, and the attack is going to be on Kuwait, Bahrain, and Jordan.

## **#Guest**

Yeah, they've already responded and hit Bahrain sometime earlier today. So yeah, that's not going to be new. They've already hit Jordan, they've already hit Bahrain. I mean, yeah, Bahrain was reported on by the Associated Press—they reported that some targets in Bahrain were hit by Iranian drones.

## **#Nima**

I think my understanding is that tonight they're going to attack Jordan together with Kuwait as well. Because in the case of the UAE, I'm not sure about the UAE. It seems that there is a new line of communication between Iran and the UAE, because they haven't had one before.

## **#Guest**

Yeah, but again, all I'm saying is it depends on where the planes were launched from. If they were launched from the UAE, then you're going to see Iran hit the UAE.

## **#Nima**

I think it's the outcome of Marco Rubio's visit to the Middle East. He came and he tried to manipulate the region, and he put pressure on the Omani government. And Omani—you saw that report from the Omani government—they said, oh, maybe they can pass through the Strait of Hormuz without having any sort of difficulties. And they were trying to use it. Today, two of the tankers were forced by the IRGC to use the designated routes.

## **#Guest**

Do you know who was telling them it was okay to travel that route, right?

## **#Nima**

I don't know, because nobody knows who that was.

## **#Guest**

The United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations, or whatever UKMTO stands for. They're the ones that say, yeah, you can travel this route. So this is the Brits trying to further incite this thing.

## **#Nima**

Yeah. The problem, Larry, again, is they're not respecting the MOU. Part of the MOU was the Strait of Hormuz, and it said that during the first 30 days, they have to define a new mechanism for the Strait of Hormuz, which, in fact, Iran and Oman are doing.

## **#Guest**

Look, they stopped. The United States has been breaking the MOU almost every day. The insults hurled by Trump, the trip of Marco Rubio to meet with the GCC, and then the condemnation of Iran that came out of that—all of that is in contra and counter to the MOU. And that's why the United States is doing it, just basically saying, screw you, you can't tell us what to do. Okay, maybe not, but there's a price to be paid for that then, and we're starting to see what that price is.

## **#Nima**

I don't know if, Larry, the case of Lebanon is complicating the whole thing. What has happened in Lebanon, again, is a total violation of the MOU. And the United States is cooperating on one side, signing the MOU with the Iranians, then bringing the government in Lebanon together with the Israelis to sign an agreement, which is totally different from what was mentioned in the MOU, in the first clause of the MOU. Correct. I don't know what the understanding is on the part of Iran. Why do they need to stay in this MOU? And today we had the Assembly of Experts in Iran reinforcing the idea of the statement of the Iranian Supreme Leader, saying that there is no point in staying in this MOU, in this sort of talks with the United States. They're not respecting anything.

## **#Guest**

Did he issue a statement to that effect?

## **#Nima**

Yeah. The Assembly of Experts, yeah, they have issued it.

## **#Guest**

Well, the Assembly of Experts issued that, right?

## **#Nima**

Was it the Ayatollah that issued that? No. The Ayatollah mentioned his idea about the MOU. He said that. He said that he has a totally different idea about the MOU, basically mentioning that he's not really agreeing with the government, with the position of the government, when it comes to the

negotiations with the United States. He had his doubts that this path is leading nowhere for Iran. And today, the Assembly of Experts is so important, Larry, because these are the guys who decide about the Supreme Leader of Iran. They have the highest, you know, sort of council in Iran. I would even say somehow above the National Security Council because they're literally connected with the Supreme Leader of Iran. And they have that connection.

## **#Guest**

It's a clerical organization.

## **#Nima**

Exactly, exactly. And more than, you know, the letter that they have published today — 62 out of 86 members signed that document. 62 out of 86 members. It says, we urge that, considering the experience of the past damaging negotiations, the negotiators be extremely careful of the tricks of the deceitful and evil enemy, and pay attention to the fact that observing the leader's red lines is a religious obligation, and violating them is not permissible under any circumstances.

Basically, they're talking about what seems to be communication between the Supreme Leader and the government in Iran, which was not published in that statement of the Supreme Leader. We haven't seen those points. They're talking about points that were mentioned, which we haven't seen. It seems that there is a letter between the two sides about not trusting the United States in ongoing negotiations and respecting the red lines. People are on the streets, by the way. Today, they came out after this letter, after this announcement on the part of the Assembly of Experts in Iran. People are on the streets.

## **#Guest**

So, you know, it looks like the MOU is going to break down. Now, I think Iran will be able to continue to do okay. But remember, one of the other countries that's pressing for the MOU and wants to see it implemented is China. Because China, you know, I think China is worried about some of the economic impacts on its country if this thing continues.

## **#Nima**

Yeah, you see the flag of China, Hezbollah in the crowd, and they're just waving the flag of Hezbollah. I think it's so—the red lines, Larry, so far, to my understanding, on the part of the Supreme Leader of Iran, one of them is the negotiations with the United States concerning the Strait of Hormuz. He said there is no way to back down on the Strait of Hormuz. Even in the discussions right now in Iran, they're talking about the toll system. You know, they say, why do we need some

sort of fee system? Because we're not part of the international waters association, that organization. We are not a signatory to that international law on international waters. So why do we need to abide by those laws?

## **#Guest**

Well, they don't. I mean, you're not a signatory, so that's why Iran doesn't. Neither is the United States. So the United States can't holler that you're breaking a law that the United States doesn't even recognize. I mean, that's absurd.

## **#Nima**

Their argument is this, Larry: those people who are not agreeing with these negotiations—first of all, the Strait of Hormuz is under total control of Iran, and we are going to decide about the new mechanism. Second, there would be no negotiations on the sanctions because they don't believe that the United States, the government in the United States, would be able to lift the sanctions on Iran. So there is no point in going that far, continuing any sort of negotiation. This is the argument on their part. Is that realistic? Well, no.

## **#Guest**

Well, look, Iran's got other... It has to take other countries' interests into account. You know, China's got some major economic interests tied up in the Persian Gulf. So China has been providing Iran with significant support, so... You know, there's got to be some sort of, if you will, quid pro quo from Iran. Iran isn't saying, yeah, we take your help, but screw you, we're going to do whatever we want. That wouldn't be very smart. I think that'd be stupid. So that has to be taken into account. I think it is fully within Iran's rights to insist that the protocol that they negotiated with Oman be enforced.

Now, why Oman violated that protocol regarding the PSAG is beyond me. But, you know, here we are. So now it's a situation of Iran enforcing the rules and the United States encouraging ships to break the rules. And then, as a result, you get this back and forth. So I think as long as Iran continues to retaliate, every time the United States bombs Iran, the United States hits them back and hits them harder. For the life of me, I don't know why Iran hasn't taken out Ben Gurion Airport with all the KC-135s, 28, 50, and a huge number of aerial refueling aircraft parked there. Why they haven't blown the hell out of that is beyond me.

## **#Nima**

Yeah. They're still there, by the way, if I'm not mistaken. Yeah.

## **#Guest**

Yeah.

## **#Nima**

Larry, the problem right now in Iran—I talked today with Miranda—the government is trying to control inflation. The inflation is their basic concern. But the people on the other side believe that we don't need right now to take care of inflation. We are in an active war with the United States. So the priority would be putting an end to the war by fighting the United States, not negotiating with the United States. And the region is not prepared for that. I don't see Qatar being prepared.

Saudi Arabia wants to be part of this fight that the Trump administration is trying to do. Today I talked with David Pine. You know that. You know him. Yeah, I know David. Yeah. David mentioned the United States doesn't need to go that far to attack Iranian soil. They can hit, they can respond to Iran in a more modest way, in a more, you know, because... What does that mean? It means that if Iran attacks one of these tankers, they don't need to hit radar systems or something like that on Iranian soil. They may do something else. He didn't mention what he meant.

## **#Guest**

Oh, yeah. Well, okay. Yeah, I understand.

## **#Nima**

Instead of attacking Iran on Iranian soil, they have to do something else, maybe something political. Maybe something, you know, some announcement that we are condemning the Iranian attack on, you know, the Singaporean-flagged tanker that was attacked by Iran, for example. And he says that what the Trump administration is doing, literally, is dragging the United States into the war again.

## **#Guest**

Yes. No, that's true. And you understand that if the United States starts, you know, right now they've got an order in place that's ordering the withdrawal of a lot of these aircraft, the F-35s. And just as an aside, the Air Force testified last week, I believe, before Congress that the combat readiness of the F-35 aircraft is between 25% and 30%. In other words, more than two-thirds of those aircraft that they've bought and distributed aren't ready to go, and the new aircraft that are being delivered are being delivered without the radar in the nose cone, and they don't know when those radars will ever be available. So the point of this is Iran very well could just continue to push, you know, force the United States into trying to respond with the F-35s and in the process end up depleting the U.S. fuel supply and depleting those aircraft. So it could be maybe this is a deliberate strategy by Iran. I can't say it's not.

## **#Nima**

What is the point? You know, they're talking about so far what we've learned — they're letting Iran sell its oil, export its oil. That was the only outcome of the MOU between Iran and the United States. What was the outcome for Iran? I don't see that, because the point, my point is, Larry, is Lebanon.

## **#Guest**

What do you mean? What was the outcome for Iran?

## **#Nima**

The outcome, because why do they need an MOU? The problem is, why do they need an MOU?

## **#Guest**

They get to sell oil, number one. The blockade is lifted, number two. And with that, they're getting the unfrozen assets via Saudi Arabia and Qatar. Iran chose to make Lebanon an issue for Iran. And I had this discussion last night with Suleiman Ahmed. Because right now, the government of Lebanon made a decision to sign an agreement with the government of Israel. Well, if the government of Lebanon is not asking Iran for help, Iran can't just go in and interfere and get in the middle of the Lebanese conflict. Now, it's going to continue to support Hezbollah, but it can't just, because of what Israel is doing inside Lebanon. As long as it's doing it with Lebanese government permission, it's none of Iran's business.

## **#Nima**

The problem is, what Israel couldn't achieve on the battlefield, they're trying to achieve through these negotiations. Sure. When they're talking about the yellow line, they're saying, you know, in that area.

## **#Guest**

It's not going to work, but that's what they're doing. And the United States, I think, has gotten too cute by half trying this gambit to get the Lebanese government to say, oh yeah, we recognize Israel, and Hezbollah has got to get the hell out. And Hezbollah is going, okay, make us. We're not leaving. It's our home. It's our land. And Israel is not in a place where they can actually make it happen. So now it's a matter of what kind of retaliation will Iran do? And at this point, I think they will have a measured response to these attacks today. And the attacks will be focused on wherever those aircraft originated, wherever they flew from — that base would get attacked.

## **#Nima**

The reason that I said, why do they need to stay in the MOU, is because the agreement between the government of Lebanon and the Israeli government totally contradicts the first clause of the MOU.

### **#Guest**

Yes, very much so. And that's a loophole. Okay. The first clause says that the United States and Iran, in conjunction with their allies, will. And the last clause is, will protect the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Lebanon. All right. But now when you've got the government of Lebanon saying, okay, we're good with Israel, okay, Iran doesn't have a right under international law to do anything else. So, yeah, it's a loophole. And that part is, you know, no longer really applicable.

### **#Nima**

Yeah. But the war was between Hezbollah and Israel. It wasn't between the government of Lebanon and Israel. That's the other problem. No, I agree.

### **#Guest**

I agree. And now it's, you know, I think the United States was trying to be, again, too clever in using this as a gambit. And they said, well, yeah, we're still upholding number one, but we're just supporting what the government of Lebanon wants. And our obligation is to support the territorial integrity of Lebanon. This is what the government wants. They want Hezbollah out, and they want Israel in. So we just got to go with that. So from this point, Iran just continues its support of Hezbollah and waits and sees if, again, if Israel continues to bomb inside Lebanon after, quote, making this agreement, which I'm sure they will.

### **#Nima**

They did. They did today, yeah.

### **#Guest**

Yeah.

### **#Nima**

They struck Nabatea twice.

### **#Guest**

So it's going to be up to Iran to decide whether to intervene or not.

## **#Nima**

Israel is staying in the southern part of Lebanon because part of the agreement is that Israel is going to stay in that area as long as Hezbollah is not disarmed. That would never happen, which means that Israel is going to stay forever in the southern part of Lebanon.

## **#Guest**

Well, they're going to try. Forever is a long time, and things change over time. We'll see if Israel actually has the ability to stay there, particularly once the United States—if the United States continues to pull out its air assets—Israel is not going to have the kind of combat power that it thought it had. They will be weakened.

## **#Nima**

Do you think, Larry, if Iran escalates—let's assume Iran attacks the targets that you've mentioned—what would be the reaction on the part of the United States? New strikes in Iran?

## **#Guest**

Deeper? Yeah. Well, they're going to try. Again, if they try to run airstrikes, Tomahawk missiles, cruise missiles into the interior of Iran, that means they're going to have to fly from Al Udeid, you know, a thousand miles. They're going to be burning up a lot of fuel. And this will be—again, let me emphasize that when this war started, you had a 20% drop in the supply of oil. And to compensate for that, the U.S. and other countries began drawing down on their reserves. Even though they were drawing on their reserves, they weren't making a lot more of that barrel of oil. Let's say 25 to 30 percent is used to make aviation fuel or diesel fuel.

You can't make them both. You got to make one or the other. What happened to the demand for aviation fuel? It went up because of the war with Iran. You've got all these planes flying—KC-135s, all the F-35s, the F-15s, the F-16s, the A-10 Warthogs, the helicopters, all of this. So that's chewing away at the supply. That means less and less available fuel. The United States could potentially run out of fuel in two weeks. And so if they choose to escalate in this, that can accelerate that process that's going to create a crisis. And maybe that's Iran's intent all along. I don't know. I could certainly make a case for it.

## **#Nima**

My concern is more about Lebanon than Iran, Larry, because I know that the war of attrition happening right now between Iran and the United States is not sustainable for the United States.

## **#Guest**

Right, right.

## **#Nima**

Because of the continuation of the war, they have to, again, send a lot of weapons and missiles to the region. They have, by the way, the missiles, they have everything there. But in the long run, this sort of fight is going to escalate. It's not going to stay at the same intensity that we're witnessing right now. It's going to escalate more and more.

## **#Guest**

Right. But, I mean, look... what's going on in Lebanon is horrible. The United States is playing an active role in creating that horror, and it's not going to end anytime soon. I mean, dude, it's been going on longer than you've been alive. You know, it started back in 1975, and you've still got this situation where the leader of Lebanon doesn't give a good goddamn about his own people. He cares only about himself. He's got his French passport and his escape ticket to get back to France if things get really rough. Meanwhile, they're not stopping the killing of the Lebanese people.

## **#Nima**

Many leaders in the region are talking about the concept of Greater Israel. Erdogan today was talking about it. The problem is Greater Israel and Zionism in the region. At least they're talking about it. This is something new. Before, nobody was talking about Greater Israel. What does it mean?

## **#Guest**

Well, that's true. But, okay, what's Erdogan doing about it? Is he cutting off the oil to Israel? No. So he can just shut up. Who cares what he says? I mean, just flapping his gums, you know, filling up some hot air. I look at the action. If he acts, if he says, okay, this is it, we can no longer tolerate this, we're going to cut off the flow of oil to Israel. You know, they can get it elsewhere. We're not going to be complicit. If he did that, I'd say, hey, pay attention to Erdogan. But right now he's just trash-talking. It means nothing yet.

## **#Nima**

The concept on the part of Iran is that we have to make Lebanon the graveyard of Greater Israel — the concept of Greater Israel. That must be the grave error of that concept. Without that, it's going to spread all over the region. But Lebanon is the base case to stop it. And that's why I'm telling you, it's my understanding of what's going on in Iran, because we have two sides basically disagreeing on the issue of how to deal with the United States with the new sort of arrangement in the region. One side says we have to keep the fight in Lebanon because Israel must stop in Lebanon. They're not

going to. And the reason they're arguing this way, Larry, is because look at what is happening in Lebanon with the new government. It's the same thing that was happening with the government, with the PLO, with Mahmoud Abbas in the West Bank. The guy was cooperating with the Israelis, and little by little, Israel annexed all of the West Bank. Not annexed — they just settled.

## **#Guest**

They put themselves in a position to do so. Yes, definitely.

## **#Nima**

This is the fear on the part of the Iranians.

## **#Guest**

Well, it's not an unfounded fear. It's a legitimate fear, yes.

## **#Nima**

But you mentioned Israel doesn't have the capabilities. Correct. What is your understanding of that? Why do you think they're not capable of doing that?

## **#Guest**

They've got 9 million people total. They don't have—if they're fighting a war in Gaza, a war in the West Bank, a war in Syria, and a war in Lebanon—they don't have enough resources for that. Hell, the United States couldn't do it.

## **#Nima**

Syria, Lebanon, and Gaza — three parts. Israel said, the Israeli Minister of Energy said that all of Gaza, the Gaza Strip, is under Israeli occupation and will remain under Israeli occupation. Do you think something is going to happen on that front to stop Israel in Gaza?

## **#Guest**

Eventually they'll suffer enough casualties at the hands of Hezbollah, they'll pull out, as they have in the past. So that's not... that's not new. So it's just, what changes this time is the amount of time they spend in Lebanon until they decide, okay, we've had enough suffering, let's go.

## **#Nima**

Yeah. The Iranian media is just reporting on the damage that was done so far. It says that the boats—yeah, they said that they're going to report on the attacks tonight. It seems that the attack is going to happen in the coming hours. Sure. We don't know the extent, and are they going to use, you know, missiles, or are they going to use drones?

## **#Guest**

I suspect this one will be mixed—use of drones and missiles. And they will go after the air base where these attacks were launched from. So if that's Muwaffaq al-Salti in Jordan, that's what they'll hit. If it's up in Kuwait, that's where they'll hit. I don't think it's Al Udeid in Qatar. In fact, I understand that Al Udeid used to be the site for the Combined Air Operations Center, CAOC, that coordinated all air movement, all air traffic, all combat air traffic, again, in this entire region, going from Turkiya down to Yemen and then over to Pakistan. My understanding is they've now closed that down at Al Udeid. They moved it to an Air Force base in South Carolina in the United States, a long way from that area.

## **#Nima**

You remember Project Freedom, Larry. Project Freedom, the main concept was sending a lot of these tankers and ships and vessels together in order to confuse the whole mechanism of Iran, the Iranian IRGC, to somehow make some sort of surprise move on their part, and they're not going to be able to hit all of these vessels together.

## **#Guest**

Right.

## **#Nima**

And this is the same strategy that is happening today, without having that war, without having the American presence in the Strait of Hormuz. They tried to facilitate that with the American Navy. Right now, the American Navy is not there. They're using these commercial vessels, tankers, and all of that in order to achieve that. My understanding is that they're going to hit these tankers as long as they see they're going to, they want to try to pass through the Strait of Hormuz without permission. And we're going to have these attacks.

## **#Guest**

You mean Iran's going to hit the oil tankers that are floating out?

## **#Nima**

They hit one of the oil tankers today.

## **#Guest**

Yeah, so if it's carrying 2 million barrels, that means it's what they call a VLCC tanker. So that's the next-to-largest size of oil tanker that there is. It can carry two to three million barrels. You've got these very, very, very large ones that can carry much more than that.

## **#Nima**

How much pressure are they receiving, the United States and the Trump administration, from other countries? For example, from Japan, from South Korea. Is there any sort of – I haven't seen any sort of report on that. Have you seen any?

## **#Guest**

No, I haven't. There may be. When you're talking diplomatic pressure, Japan doesn't have a lot of levers to pull with the United States. What they do have are MRI machines, some medical equipment, high-speed stuff. But they're not the dominant, from the U.S. standpoint, primary trading partner at all.

## **#Nima**

So basically, the problem that Donald Trump is under, the pressure that he's under, is coming from domestic problems. It's not anything from outside. Is that the case?

## **#Guest**

Well, he's getting outside pressure from the Zionists in Israel and from the Zionist cabal here in the United States that are not in government but are in business and the private sector. And so, yeah, they're applying a lot of pressure on Trump. And it's being done in some very subtle ways, some very strong ways. So it's, you know, we're right now in this escalatory cycle. The U.S. hit harder today than they did yesterday. Iran's going to strike back harder today than it did yesterday. That may mean the United States will say, okay, we've got to step it up. They're going to strike back harder. Iran will strike, and it'll keep escalating until somebody on the U.S. side says, okay, we've got to put a stop to this. Because Iran's not going to put a stop to it. They've been the defenders, or they've been the targets all along. And, you know, so now they're just going to say, we've got to continue to pressure the United States, make it costly for the United States so they can't continue this.

## **#Nima**

How?

## **#Guest**

Take out all the air tankers at Ben Gurion, for starters. Do that and continue to bomb any remaining radar sites and communication sites at any of the other U.S. bases in the area that are being used to launch attacks against Iran. I can see Iran deciding to be very legalistic about this, and that if the United States used their assets that came out of Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, and the UAE, then it would only retaliate against Jordan, Kuwait, and the UAE. If it wanted to go beyond that level, the next level would be, you know, they're going to hit civilian targets in Jordan, not just military targets. So, you know, that would be foolish, I think, to do from just a strategic standpoint, but you have to take into account that it could be done.

## **#Nima**

Here are new reports, Larry. It seems that two — Bandar-e-Lengeh and Bandar-e-Kong — two other areas were hit by four U.S. missiles, or maybe all of these attacks are coming from... I have never heard of any drone attack on the part of the United States. They're basically using fighter jets, yeah?

## **#Guest**

Yeah, they drop a JASSM, which is a cruise missile, or the Tomahawk. They may be using some other munition, but those have been the two most common.

## **#Nima**

Looking at the targets, it seems that basically they're flying over the UAE, and to get there, I think the only...

## **#Guest**

I don't know, because we don't know where they originated from, do we?

## **#Nima**

No. Let's assume they're coming from Jordan. They're coming from Jordan. I assume they're not going to use Saudi Arabian airspace.

## **#Guest**

They probably shouldn't. The Saudis have protested against that, unless they're playing another game behind the scenes that we're not seeing.

## **#Nima**

It's not going to be something too high. If they're using Saudi Arabian airspace, they're going to be found sooner or later. There is no report in the Iranian media. There is no report on where they're coming from.

## **#Guest**

And... but Iran knows. And the Chinese and Russians are helping out too with intelligence.

## **#Nima**

Larry, do you think that Europe, as of right now, what's going on? You mentioned how the United Kingdom was somehow spreading misinformation about the Strait of Hormuz and everything, just doing this and that, the new routes close to Oman. Are they participating in these sorts of operations?

## **#Guest**

How involved are they? Yeah, indirectly they're involved. But the actual military command that's involved is CENTCOM. And I don't know what the British component of this is, but the Brits are involved too.

## **#Nima**

The reports here, basically they're talking about the fighter jets. And I don't know if during the war the United States has used any of the fighter jets from Europe or not. The NATO Secretary General said that they have used 4,000 to 5,000 times the bases in Europe. And it seems they use all of the American assets in Europe, not European fighter jets.

## **#Guest**

Their jets aren't very good anyway, so it's no bother for them not to use them.

## **#Nima**

What's so amazing to me is that the MOU is a failed sort of contract between Iran and the United States. The case of Ukraine and Russia is just collapsing. And Donald Trump is telling us that Zelensky is doing great right now. Right. Yeah.

## **#Guest**

Yeah, he's not dead. It's like Weekend at Bernie's—they carry around a dead guy.

## **#Nima**

Oh, no, he's just relaxed. Yeah. And China, just watching, just sitting back and watching. Good. Good one. Do this. Do that. I don't see China being under any sort of pressure as the United States is today as an outcome of what is happening in the Strait of Hormuz. Yeah. They have the strategic sort of, you know, stockpile in China. They're not that much concerned about the Strait of Hormuz.

## **#Guest**

Well, they're concerned. I mean, they've got investments there too. But they're not doing it to apply overwhelming pressure on Iran to end this right now and not retaliate. They're not doing that. But I think they recognize that Iran has every right under international law to do so—and by that, I mean retaliate.

## **#Nima**

To the point of sanctions, Larry, do you see any sort of willingness among the people in Congress to lift the sanctions on Iran? Let's assume everything goes well.

## **#Guest**

Hell no. No. They'd have to be dragged kicking and screaming to do it. I think Trump might be able to get that passed, assuming he gets—well, we'll see what happens with the remaining primaries, whether the anti-Trumpers are taking the stage or not, the pro-Trumpers. In New Hampshire, you had one lady who's very much pro-Trump win. Same here in my district.

## **#Nima**

So... you're in Florida, and it's different. It's not going to reflect... Florida is a red state. Correct. Do you think that he's going to be defeated with the midterm elections in the United States? It doesn't seem that momentum is getting anywhere good for Donald Trump.

## **#Guest**

Yeah, no, I think he's going to have trouble being—his selection will have trouble being elected because he can't run for another term after this. He's done.

## **#Nima**

Yeah, repercussions out of the midterm election are going to be huge for the Trump administration. J.D. Vance, he went on Bill Maher's show.

## **#Guest**

I haven't watched it yet. I saw it, and, you know, in those sorts of circumstances, Bill Maher doesn't do hard-hitting questions necessarily. And it sounded like J.D. Vance held his own, and they had an interesting discussion.

## **#Nima**

And that's another sign that he's preparing for 2028, I think.

## **#Guest**

Maybe. You know, he's told Robert Barnes that he's not going to do it. Barnes has been steeped in D. C. politics for quite a while and was, you know, he's dealt with, I guess, a whole variety of issues. So yeah, let's just go to the next one.

## **#Nima**

He told me yesterday that Donald Trump really wants to get out of the race.

## **#Guest**

He does and he doesn't. It depends on who he talked to last. That's part of the problem. He's really his own worst enemy in this. He keeps sending mixed signals. Again, did Rubio go off on his own and do what he did, or did he do that with sort of the blessing of Donald Trump? I don't know. Either way, it's a terribly stupid thing to do because you're working at cross purposes and undermining yourself.

## **#Nima**

Rubio, I remember every time Rubio went to Europe, with the case of Ukraine, everything was getting worse. And he was... The same is happening, by the way, in West Asia.

## **#Guest**

He was standing back and keeping his hands off it. No, not my problem. Well, now he goes and, you know, basically contradicts the MOU with this stunt with the GCC. And apparently, you know, initially I'd been told that only Qatar, Kuwait, and Bahrain attended. But apparently, I mean, UAE, Bahrain, and Kuwait attended. But apparently Qatar and Saudi Arabia also had representatives there. So they're trying to salvage it.

## **#Nima**

Yeah. Let's see what happens in the coming hours, Larry. Thank you.

**#Guest**

I guess we'll have something to talk about tomorrow, probably.

**#Nima**

I think they're going to have huge sorts of missiles going to Jordan — basically Jordan, in my opinion. Let's see what happens.

**#Guest**

We'll see. All right, don't stay up too late.

**#Nima**

See you, Larry. See you soon.

**#Guest**

All right, my friend. Bye.

**#Nima**

Bye-bye. Bye-bye.