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# US and Israel seeking to 'sabotage' Iran talks – ex-CIA analyst

President Donald Trump's explanation for the latest escalation "doesn't make sense," Larry Johnson has told RT

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Civil defense workers inspect the site of an Israeli airstrike in Beirut, Lebanon, on April 8, 2026. © Marwan Naamani / picture alliance via Getty Images

The US and Israel carried out their latest strikes on Iran and Lebanon in a deliberate effort to sabotage the ongoing peace talks, former CIA analyst Larry Johnson has told RT.

On Wednesday local time, the US struck Qeshm Island and targets in southern Iran in response to the crash of a US AH-64 Apache attack helicopter off the coast of Oman – an incident US President Donald Trump blamed on Iran. Tehran, however, has refused to confirm that it was responsible for the crash.

Johnson argued that Trump's rationale for the latest escalation "doesn't make sense," especially since both pilots of the helicopter survived.

*"If they are alive, why does*



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*Donald Trump launch strikes on Iran when they are supposedly in the midst of peace talks? The only*

*reason I can come up with is that he did it deliberately to sabotage the talks," he said.*

Trump has been pressured by "the Zionist crowd" and pro-Israel politicians such as US Ambassador to Israel Mike Huckabee, Johnson said.

*"They are insistent on destroying Iran. They don't want a deal with Iran," he stated.*

Johnson said Israel's airstrikes on Beirut on Sunday were also aimed at provoking a conflict with Iran.

*"Too much progress was being made during the peace talks for the neocons and for Israel, so they did everything in their power to sabotage it. I think this is going to lead to a new round of escalation that can go on for a week or two," he said.*



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