



Libertarian Johnson asks 'what is Aleppo?'

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Libertarian presidential candidate Gary Johnson had this uncomfortable moment on MSNBC.

Asked by Fox News' Chris Wallace in late August about what exclusion from the debates would mean, Johnson said, "I would say game over".

Aleppo is a major city in Syria that's been engulfed by the civil war there and the refugee crisis, but Johnson seemed confused when "**Morning Joe**" co-host Mike Barnicle asked him: "What would you do if you were elected about Aleppo?"

"And what is Aleppo?".

The **city of Aleppo** has seen some of the worst of the Syrian crisis.

Barnicle, in seeming disbelief, said: "*You're kidding*".

Barnicle: "Aleppo is the epicenter of the refugee crisis".

"OK. Got it. With regard to Syria, I do think it is a mess", the Libertarian nominee said.

Although he trails far behind Republican Donald Trump and Democrat Hillary Clinton in polls, both main party candidates are said to be unpopular among many U.S. voters and analysts believe Mr Johnson could play a part in deciding the result. On Wednesday night, Mitt Romney, the 2012 Republican nominee, publicly called for Johnson and Weld to be included in the presidential debates. Currently, according to Real Clear Politics, Johnson is averaging 9 percent in recent polls. He needs to average 15 percent in a set of polls to qualify for the presidential debates, the first of which is September 26.

Perhaps Kaepernick and his colleagues can mention the unfairness of a debate commission run by the two parties who also control the media, and agree to stand for the anthem only if there are four-person debates.

The former New Mexico governor and Libertarian Party presidential nominee **Gary Johnson** has revealed a surprising lack of foreign policy knowledge on American television. I'll admit if someone brought up Aleppo outside of a context of discussing Syria it is quite possible I wouldn't have immediate recognition either (especially if I haven't had a proper amount of caffeine). When asked if it was a fair question, **he said**, "It's fair game". Maybe it's more comfortable to talk about Johnson's mistake than it is to talk about the tragedies occurring in Syria and what the global community could do to help.

"I have to get smarter and that's just part of the process", he said.

Johnson released **a statement** shortly after, saying he "blanked" and that the mistake served to set "aside any doubt that I'm human", while also protesting that he was otherwise well-versed in the challenge the five-year war presented.

"The question is, does this become the one thing that people know about him?" said David Boaz, executive vice president of the Cato Institute, a libertarian think tank. "I guess people will have to make that judgment", he said.