



## Global Watch Daily – June 22, 2026

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A concise summary of significant developments in Israel and the world through a grounded Christian worldview.

### **Israel & Jerusalem**

Recent reports highlight Maccabi Tel Aviv's Hélio Varela scoring at the World Cup. The Cape Verde winger netted a goal in the 61st minute shortly after being substituted on, securing a 2-2 draw in a group match against Uruguay and earning praise from Israel. In medical advances, Israeli researchers have developed a 'smart' gene therapy that activates only during epileptic seizures. Professor Tawfeeq Shekh-Ahmed of The Hebrew University of Jerusalem explained, "Our goal was to create a treatment that works with the brain, not against it." Meanwhile, the first round of US-Iran talks concluded in Switzerland with encouraging progress. These negotiations follow last week's agreement, which includes a commitment to finalize a deal within 60 days. ([JNS](#); [JNS](#); [BBC News](#))

In ongoing conflict developments, Israeli strikes in Gaza have killed six people, including an Al Jazeera cameraman. The Israeli military accused Ahmed Wishah of being a " Hamas sniper operative," though no evidence was provided. In the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ebola cases have surpassed 1,000 amid violence and displacement, with overcrowded camps facing heightened risks. Additionally, there is mounting evidence of systematic sexual violence against Palestinian detainees, prompting calls for the International Criminal Court to investigate Israel's use of such tactics. ([BBC News](#); [Al Jazeera](#); [Al Jazeera](#))

Additional coverage reports three Israelis died in a light plane crash in Maryland. Israel's consul in Washington and the Foreign Ministry's Department for Israelis Abroad are assisting the victims' families. In Colombia, a pro-Israel candidate, Abelardo de la Espriella, won the presidential election, pledging to open an embassy in Jerusalem and renew strategic ties with Israel. Despite a ceasefire agreement, Israel and Hezbollah continue to exchange strikes, with at least 20 people reportedly killed by Israeli air strikes after Hezbollah fired on Israeli troops in southern Lebanon. ([JNS](#); [JNS](#); [BBC News](#))

Tragically, Lebanese turtle conservationist Mona Khalil was killed by an Israeli air strike near Tyre, Lebanon. Khalil had steadfastly refused to leave the beach she had dedicated years to protecting and died after several days in the hospital. Her death has been



confirmed by environmental groups and news outlets. ([BBC News](#); [Al Jazeera](#))

## **Wars & Security (Israel and Region)**

Analysis reveals that Iran's Supreme Leader Khamenei has cautiously accepted the recent US-Iran memorandum of understanding, while hardliners in Tehran debate its implications. Despite the agreement aimed at ending recent conflicts, Iran appears to be preparing to increase support for Hezbollah. In Gaza, progress on a US-backed peace plan remains slow following Hamas's meetings in Cairo. Negotiations involving Hamas, Egyptian officials, and peace representatives focus on disarmament and the enclave's future security arrangements. Meanwhile, Ukraine has unveiled reforms designed to address its chronic manpower shortages by clarifying terms of service and improving pay. However, plans to discharge long-serving troops and reform mobilization procedures raise questions about implementation. ([Long War Journal](#); [Long War Journal](#); [Long War Journal](#))

Reports indicate a resurgence of pirate attacks in the Gulf of Aden. Since late April, armed assailants in small boats have targeted ships off Yemen's southern coast and surrounding waters near the Horn of Africa at levels unseen since the 2011 piracy peak. The Foundation for Defense of Democracies (FDD) podcast "Strait Talk" offered an in-depth analysis of the US-Iran memorandum of understanding. Additionally, Tehran appears to prioritize protecting Hezbollah over further negotiations with the United States, using Lebanon and its proxy as leverage in ongoing regional dynamics. ([Long War Journal](#); [FDD](#); [FDD](#))

Further analysis from FDD emphasizes that deterring China's aggression cannot be achieved by neglecting Europe, where US forces support NATO's deterrence of Moscow. Commentary also clarifies that the memorandum of understanding is not equivalent to a peace deal. In Iraq, Prime Minister Ali al Zaidi met with US envoy Tom Barrack amid militia pressures, underscoring Washington's efforts to bolster stability, security cooperation, and political reform. Discussions focused on strengthening Baghdad-Washington relations amid ongoing regional tensions. ([FDD](#); [FDD](#); [Long War Journal](#))

In a broader context, President Trump announced that the US and Iran have signed a two-page memorandum of understanding intended to end the war and reopen the Strait of Hormuz. However, questions remain whether this agreement will bring lasting peace or simply delay conflict. The Israeli Defense Forces confirmed the killing of Ali Mousa Daqduq, a Hezbollah commander responsible for establishing Iran-backed militias in Iraq and leading attacks inside Israel. Daqduq was a high-value target and his death marks a



significant development in regional security. ([Long War Journal](#); [Long War Journal](#))

## **Global Macro & Geopolitics**

Recent developments include the blocking of former Kenyan justice minister Martha Karua from entering Uganda. Karua is representing detained Ugandan opposition leader Kizza Besigye, who faces treason charges. Meanwhile, Norway's World Cup fans brought their signature 'Viking row' to New York's Times Square ahead of their match against Senegal, a viral cultural phenomenon that has spread to various locations. In Indonesia, the government announced changes to its free meal program, which serves 83 million children and pregnant women nationwide, citing concerns over budget efficiency. ([BBC News](#); [France24](#); [The Diplomat](#))

Oil shipments through the Strait of Hormuz have resumed despite Iran's warnings, with estimates indicating increased crude flows from the Persian Gulf. Alan Greenspan, former Federal Reserve chairman who led the US economy through a boom before the 2008 financial crisis, passed away at 100 years old. His legacy remains complex, reflecting both economic expansion and subsequent turmoil. ([IMF](#); [Bloomberg](#); [Bloomberg](#))

Additional reports note that Colombia elected conservative lawyer Abelardo de la Espriella as president, signaling a shift toward pro-business and pro-US policies after four years of leftist governance. India's rapid urban growth has outpaced infrastructure, with many cities lacking navigable sidewalks, which contribute to a significant share of road accident fatalities. France is experiencing a week of intense heat, prompting widespread red alerts. ([Bloomberg](#); [Bloomberg](#); [Google News](#))

Reports also highlight political instability in the United Kingdom, where Starmer resigned as Prime Minister after just two years in office. In Nigeria, ongoing insecurity continues to undermine religious freedom, as noted by a United Nations envoy. ([Google News](#); [Google News](#))

## **AI Dominion, Deception & the Antichrist System**

Google News reported that wibmo Unveils Agentic Risk Intelligence Assistant - an AI Assistant for Financial Crime Operations - Sin Chew Daily. Google News reported that wibmo Unveils Agentic Risk Intelligence Assistant - an AI Assistant for Financial Crime Operations - WhaTech. ([Google News](#); [Google News](#))



Google News reported that saviynt strengthens AI security with intent-based access controls – Back End News. ([Google News](#))

## **Pestilence & Global Health**

Scientific studies reveal that plague was already causing human fatalities 5,500 years ago, long before the establishment of cities, farming, or the presence of rats typically associated with historic outbreaks. Researchers analyzed ancient DNA from Siberian hunter-gatherer cemeteries and found early plague strains in nearly 40% of the individuals tested. In medical innovation, a new experimental vaccine developed by Scripps Research shows promise in preventing fentanyl overdoses by training the immune system to recognize a broad range of fentanyl-related substances before the drug reaches the brain. Meanwhile, a deadly tapeworm, *Echinococcus multilocularis*, linked to severe cancer-like disease, has spread to the Pacific Northwest of the United States. Researchers found the parasite in 37% of coyotes tested around Puget Sound, marking its first detection in wild animals along the West Coast. ([ScienceDaily](#); [ScienceDaily](#); [ScienceDaily](#))

## **Natural Disasters & Signs in the Heavens**

Recent seismic activity includes a magnitude 1.2 earthquake located 15 km north of Borrego Springs, California, that occurred on June 22, 2026, at 12:27 UTC, with a depth of 15.32 km (9.52 mi). Additionally, a magnitude 4.8 earthquake struck 76 km east of Kimbe, Papua New Guinea, on the same day at 10:58 UTC, reaching a depth of 108.07 km (67.15 mi; [USGS](#); [USGS](#))

Additional reports note a magnitude 2.4 earthquake 8 km northeast of Bel Air North, Maryland, on June 15, 2026, at 15:02 UTC, with a shallow depth of 5 km (3.11 mi). The Papua New Guinea earthquake potentially affected approximately 290,000 people within a 100 km radius. ([USGS](#); [GDACS](#))

## **Middle Eastern Artifacts**

Archaeological excavations continue to yield significant finds in Israel. In March 2010, a trial excavation was conducted approximately 100 meters north of the Be'er Sheva North Railroad Station in the Ramot neighborhood of Be'er Sheva (Permit No. A-5896). Similarly, excavations on Ben Gamli'el Street in Yafo (Permit A-8559) have provided detailed location maps and findings. ([Israel Antiquities Authority](#); [Israel Antiquities Authority](#))



Recent discoveries include two well-preserved marble busts from the Roman era found in a Byzantine winepress near the coastal town of Binyamina. Additionally, a mother-of-pearl seal was recently published from Tel Yafo, providing further insight into the region's ancient history. ([BiblePlaces](#); [Israel Antiquities Authority](#))