



## Global Watch Daily – July 8, 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 efforts by American evangelical leaders to counter a decline in support for Israel during wartime. Troy A. Miller, president and CEO of National Religious Broadcasters, emphasized that the primary challenge lies not with the political left, which he described as largely lost, but with the right wing, during a recent visit to Jerusalem. Meanwhile, Israel's Defense Forces shared footage of Home Front Command teams operating in Venezuela, where they assessed earthquake damage and assisted local authorities in restoring infrastructure. On the diplomatic front, Prime Minister Netanyahu asserted that Iran "definitely" possesses chemical weapons and would not hesitate to use them against Americans, a claim consistent with previous U.S. State Department statements regarding Tehran's non-compliance with the Chemical Weapons Convention. ([JNS](#); [JNS](#); [JNS](#))

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

Recent developments reveal heightened tensions in the Middle East. The United States Central Command conducted strikes against Iranian targets following Tehran's condemnation of the revocation of U.S. sanctions waivers. This escalation followed Iranian attacks on commercial shipping in the strategically vital Strait of Hormuz. Both Washington and Tehran have exchanged accusations amid these actions. In Gaza, Hamas announced its willingness to dissolve its governing institutions and transfer authority to the National Committee for the Administration of Gaza, a key element of the ceasefire framework supported by the U.S. and United Nations. However, Israeli officials remain skeptical about disarmament prospects. In Lebanon, a new 14-point trilateral framework aims to end hostilities, placing Hezbollah at a critical juncture: either disarm and allow Lebanon to secure its southern border or continue threatening Israel, risking the collapse of the fragile U.S.-Iran peace agreement. These analyses were provided by FDD Senior Fellow David Daoud. ([Long War Journal](#); [Long War Journal](#); [Long War Journal](#))



Additional reports detail Iranian ballistic missile operations from 2024 to 2026, noting at least 15 distinct missile launches targeting foreign entities. After a pause in 2023, these operations resumed with increasing frequency, underscoring Tehran's persistent regional aggression. Meanwhile, the political landscape in the U.S. reflects a complex intersection of identity and ideology, as several Democratic politicians openly identify as both socialists and Muslims, a dynamic explored in recent analyses. In Yemen, the establishment of a direct air route between Sanaa and Tehran marks a significant development, potentially facilitating Iranian efforts to arm Houthi rebels despite a Saudi-imposed air blockade. ([Long War Journal](#); [FDD](#); [FDD](#))

Other related coverage includes analysis of U.S. policy options regarding Cuba's uncertain future, highlighting possible outcomes amid ongoing political shifts. Additionally, concerns have been raised about a Chinese lidar manufacturer with ties to Nvidia, which has been accused of posing a cybersecurity risk to the United States. The 2026 London Conference featured an exhibition titled "Shaping Global Order," focusing on the evolving international landscape and power dynamics. ([FDD](#); [FDD](#); [Chatham House](#))

In Syria, the formation of a new People's Assembly has been completed with the appointment of the final 70 members of parliament, marking a step in the country's political transition following the fall of the Assad regime. Despite this, security tensions persist along Israel's northern border, with recent clashes and ongoing Israeli military activity. In Iraq, the government has launched a comprehensive anti-corruption campaign, resulting in the arrest of numerous politicians and senior officials across the political spectrum. These operations, conducted by elite security forces, are part of Prime Minister Ali al Zaidi's broader efforts to consolidate state authority and mandate the handover of militia weapons. ([Long War Journal](#); [Long War Journal](#))

## **Global Macro & Geopolitics**

Recent analyses emphasize strategic pressures shaping the global system. In Bosnia, scientists and local communities are opposing the construction of a large hydroelectric dam, warning of significant environmental damage amid a surge in dam projects driven by economic incentives. China's geopolitical leverage extends beyond rare earth elements to its dominance over the entire fluorine value chain, an often-overlooked source of economic influence. Meanwhile, Chile surprised analysts by keeping consumer prices flat in June, defying expectations of an inflation decline despite falling fuel costs and subdued economic activity. ([France24](#); [The Diplomat](#); [Bloomberg](#))



At the NATO summit, former President Donald Trump focused his remarks primarily on Iran, expressing frustration with European allies and signaling a shift away from U.S. efforts toward regime change in Tehran. He also criticized NATO for rejecting his proposal to claim Greenland. The U.S. dollar remained steady near a one-week high following Trump's declaration that the Iran Memorandum of Understanding is "over." These developments underscore ongoing tensions within the alliance and the broader geopolitical contest involving Iran. ([Bloomberg](#); [AP News](#); [Reuters](#))

Additional reporting highlights the arrest of a Nicaraguan bishop amid increasing persecution of Christians under President Ortega's regime, reflecting growing concerns about religious freedom and human rights in the region. ([The Washington Stand](#))

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

The U.S. is moving border screening away from its southwest border and into a distributed identity system built through foreign assistance, bilateral data-sharing agreements, and police technology ([biometricupdate.com](#)).

### **Pestilence & Global Health**

Scientists have identified a shared vulnerability among several deadly gut bacteria, including E. coli and Shigella. These pathogens rely on specific enzymes to penetrate the gut's protective mucus layer. Targeting this "Achilles' heel" could enable the development of a single vaccine capable of preventing multiple major diarrheal diseases. In related research, Johns Hopkins scientists have developed an intranasal DNA vaccine against tuberculosis. This nose spray vaccine enhances the immune response by targeting bacteria that evade antibiotics, leading to faster infection clearance, reduced lung inflammation, and prevention of relapse in animal studies. Additionally, researchers have discovered a novel antiviral defense mechanism in sea anemones that differs fundamentally from human immune responses. This finding challenges established views on the evolution of animal immune systems and suggests multiple evolutionary paths for combating viruses. ([ScienceDaily](#); [ScienceDaily](#); [ScienceDaily](#))

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

Recent seismic activity includes a magnitude 1.7 earthquake located 15 kilometers southwest of Toms Place, California, occurring on July 8, 2026, at 12:21 UTC, with a depth of 5.08 kilometers. On the same day, a magnitude 5.8 earthquake struck 91 kilometers



south-southwest of Isangel, Vanuatu, at a depth of 10 kilometers, with a green alert level indicating low impact. ([USGS](#); [USGS](#))

Additional reports note a magnitude 3.8 earthquake 2 kilometers east of Oak Harbor, Washington, on July 2, 2026, at 06:35 UTC, with a depth of 25.38 kilometers. Furthermore, a magnitude 5.2 earthquake occurred in Vanuatu on July 8, 2026, at 11:42 UTC, at a depth of 10 kilometers, with no reported casualties within a 100-kilometer radius. ([USGS](#); [GDACS](#))

### **Middle Eastern Artifacts**

Archaeological excavations at Khirbat Jābir have uncovered a variety of sculptured decorations from a late Byzantine bathhouse, including twelve marble items such as a female head, a small Corinthian capital, a lion-head bracket, and other richly ornamented architectural elements. Additionally, pottery finds from the Byzantine through Early Islamic periods indicate continuous occupation and activity at the site during these eras. ([Israel Antiquities Authority](#); [Israel Antiquities Authority](#))

Further reports describe the stratigraphy at Khirbat Jābir, revealing three distinct layers. The earliest stratum contains a well-preserved late Byzantine bathhouse dating to the sixth or seventh centuries CE, likely serving a public function. Subsequent layers include an Early Islamic building and Ottoman-period remains, illustrating the site's long-term historical significance. Additionally, a salvage excavation at Kefar Gevirol in August 1990 uncovered architectural remains comprising several rooms, contributing to the understanding of the region's historical development. ([Israel Antiquities Authority](#); [Israel Antiquities Authority](#))