



Global Watch Daily – July 12, 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 detail Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) strikes targeting Hezbollah operatives transferring weapons in Southern Lebanon. The military confirmed secondary explosions following the attack, verifying the presence of munitions in the area. Separately, U.S. Congressman Ro Khanna reported being detained for 90 minutes by armed Israeli settlers while visiting the occupied West Bank. Additionally, the IDF has declassified its first operational order from the Second Lebanon War, which outlines preparations for extensive Katyusha rocket barrages on Israeli civilian areas. Furthermore, the Israeli government has voted to extend nationwide emergency measures through July 28. While these measures do not directly impact Israeli civilians, they grant the IDF expedited authority to impose new restrictions if necessary. Congressman Khanna has publicly spoken about his experience of harassment by Israeli settlers during his visit ([JNS](#); [BBC News](#); [JNS](#); [JNS](#); [Al Jazeera](#))

Wars & Security (Israel and Region)

The US-led Board of Peace announced plans to establish a “pilot zone” in Gaza designed to allow unarmed civilians, screened for Hamas affiliations, to cross the Yellow Line into Israeli-controlled areas. This initiative aims to facilitate safer movement for Gaza residents amid ongoing conflict. Concurrently, the IDF reported 13 ceasefire violations between June 30 and July 9. In a significant diplomatic shift, the Trump administration moved to rescind Syria’s designation as a State Sponsor of Terrorism following President Trump’s meeting with Syrian President Ahmad al-Sharaa at the NATO summit in Ankara, signaling a potential recalibration of U.S.-Syria relations. Meanwhile, the body of the slain Iranian Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei was received in Iraq for funeral rites in the Shiite holy cities of Najaf and Karbala. Notably, Iraq’s highest cleric was absent from the ceremonies due to health reasons. Further military developments include U.S. Central Command conducting strikes against Iranian targets after Tehran condemned the revocation of U.S. sanctions waivers. This escalation followed Iran’s attack on commercial shipping in the Strait of



Hormuz, prompting Washington to narrow oil sanctions waivers and respond militarily, with both sides exchanging accusations. European NATO members are intensifying efforts to strengthen the alliance, focusing on meeting defense spending commitments and enhancing collective security capabilities. Turkey's ongoing dispute with the U.S. over the S-400 missile system appears to be approaching a turning point, with discussions about selling the system to Qatar or the UAE as a solution to Ankara's challenges, though this does not resolve tensions with Washington. Additionally, former President Trump is reportedly beginning to view Ukraine as the likely winner in the ongoing conflict. Questions remain about the status of the Iran-U.S. Memorandum of Understanding, with some analysts debating whether it is defunct or functioning as intended. European NATO officials have emphasized the urgency of re-establishing "escalation dominance" over Russia within the next four years. Hamas has announced its willingness to dissolve its governing institutions in Gaza and transfer authority to the National Committee for the Administration of Gaza, a body supported by the U.S. and United Nations as part of the ceasefire framework. Israeli officials continue to express concerns regarding disarmament and security arrangements as negotiations proceed ([Long War Journal](#); [Long War Journal](#); [Long War Journal](#); [Long War Journal](#); [FDD](#); [FDD](#); [FDD](#); [FDD](#); [Chatham House](#); [Chatham House](#); [Long War Journal](#))

Global Macro & Geopolitics

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky has proposed replacing Prime Minister Yulia Svyrydenko as part of a comprehensive government reshuffle intended to implement an updated political strategy. This move reflects ongoing efforts to strengthen governance amid the protracted conflict. Meanwhile, the Pentagon released a new list of Chinese Military Companies, including prominent private firms such as Tencent, DJI, Unitree, and Alibaba, underscoring the complex intersection of commercial enterprises and military interests in U.S.-China relations. In the financial sector, SpaceX's recent initial public offering granted public investors access to one of the world's most valuable companies, but with unequal voting rights: CEO Elon Musk retains just over 40% of the equity while controlling more than 80% of the voting power. This dual-class share structure exemplifies how founder control continues to reshape public markets. Additional developments include the death of U.S. Senator Lindsey Graham at age 71, which may influence U.S. political dynamics amid escalating tensions with Iran following recent strikes. Despite the release of Pastor Jin, China continues to meet the standards of a religious freedom violator, according to Christianity Daily, highlighting ongoing concerns about religious liberty within the country ([France24](#); [The Diplomat](#); [Bloomberg](#); [Bloomberg](#); [Reuters](#); [Christianity Daily](#))



Pestilence & Global Health

Recent scientific findings reveal a naturally occurring bacterium derived from amphibian intestines that eradicated colorectal tumors in mice with a single dose. This bacterium attacks cancer cells directly while simultaneously activating the immune system, suggesting a promising new avenue for solid tumor therapies. In related research, scientists have identified a previously unrecognized immune backup system that could enhance the efficacy of mRNA cancer vaccines by recruiting unexpected immune cells to mount stronger antitumor responses. This overturns prior assumptions about vaccine mechanisms and could lead to more effective, tailored cancer treatments. Additionally, researchers have pinpointed a shared vulnerability among deadly gut bacteria such as *E. coli* and *Shigella*: enzymes that degrade the gut's protective mucus layer. Targeting this "Achilles' heel" may enable the development of a single vaccine capable of preventing multiple major diarrheal diseases. Further advancements include the development of an intranasal DNA vaccine against tuberculosis by Johns Hopkins scientists, which, in animal studies, accelerated infection clearance, reduced lung inflammation, and prevented relapse by targeting bacteria that evade antibiotics. Moreover, a novel antiviral defense system discovered in sea anemones operates through mechanisms distinct from those in humans, challenging existing theories on the evolution of animal immune responses ([ScienceDaily](#); [ScienceDaily](#); [ScienceDaily](#); [ScienceDaily](#); [ScienceDaily](#))

Natural Disasters & Signs in the Heavens

Recent seismic activity includes a magnitude 1.3 earthquake located 4 kilometers south-southeast of Frazier Park, California, at a depth of approximately 12 kilometers, recorded on July 12, 2026, at 12:27 UTC. Additionally, a magnitude 4.5 earthquake struck 27 kilometers south-southwest of Unalaska, Alaska, at a depth of 95 kilometers on the same day at 11:23 UTC. This event produced shaking with Modified Mercalli Intensity IV, potentially affecting around 1,000 residents. On July 11, a magnitude 6.4 earthquake occurred in the South Sandwich Islands region at a depth of 26 kilometers, classified with a green alert level by PAGER, indicating low likelihood of casualties or damage ([USGS](#); [USGS](#); [GDACS](#))

Middle Eastern Artifacts

Archaeological excavations at Khirbat Jābir have uncovered significant finds from multiple historical periods. The bathhouse excavation yielded twelve marble artifacts, including a female head sculpture, a small Corinthian capital, a lion-head bracket, and other richly



decorated architectural elements. These items reflect the site's artistic and architectural styles. Pottery recovered from Khirbat Jābir spans the Byzantine through the Early Islamic periods, indicating continuous occupation and activity. The majority of the pottery exhibits characteristic forms and decorations from these eras. Additional fieldwork at Khirbat Jābir revealed three distinct strata, with the earliest containing a well-preserved late Byzantine bathhouse dating to the sixth or seventh centuries CE, likely serving as a public facility. Later strata include an Early Islamic building and remains from the Ottoman period. Excavations at Ashdod have also commenced, focusing on understanding the function, dating, and layout of an ancient gate, with volunteer contributions providing valuable insights into the site's historical context ([Israel Antiquities Authority](#); [Israel Antiquities Authority](#); [BiblePlaces](#); [Israel Antiquities Authority](#))