



Global Watch Daily – July 16, 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 reveal that the Malaysian Prime Minister has pledged to deport any Israelis found within the country amid an investigation into the international technology community. Malaysia, a Muslim-majority nation with Buddhist and Christian minorities, maintains no diplomatic relations with Jerusalem. Meanwhile, Israeli security forces discovered a wanted Palestinian terrorist hiding in the trunk of a car at a Jerusalem checkpoint, underscoring the critical role these checkpoints play as “the line between a regular Tuesday and a tragedy,” according to an Israel Police spokesman. Additionally, strategic opportunities following the Assad regime’s decline in Syria are rapidly closing; unless Israel, the United States, and pragmatic Arab partners act swiftly, Turkey is poised to dominate Syria’s future landscape ([JNS](#); [JNS](#); [JNS](#)).

In a related development, Palestinians in the occupied West Bank have been reported fighting fires following attacks by settlers, highlighting ongoing tensions in the region ([Al Jazeera](#)).

Wars & Security (Israel and Region)

Recent analyses highlight the unraveling of the U.S.-Iran memorandum of understanding, signaling the death of the ceasefire with Iran. FDD Research Analyst Janatan Sayeh and Bill Roggio discuss Europe’s potential shift against Tehran, Israel’s possible re-engagement in active conflict, and the Islamic regime’s survival strategy through proxy terror activities across the Gulf. Syria has convened its first parliament since the Assad regime’s fall, marking a significant milestone in its political transition under President Ahmad al-Sharaa. This development coincides with Syria’s efforts to expand diplomatic relations and strengthen regional and international ties. Meanwhile, Saudi Arabia and the Houthis have resumed hostilities after attempts to restart direct flights between Tehran and the Houthi-controlled capital of Sanaa. Saudi airstrikes on Sanaa International Airport on July 14 aimed to prevent these flights, prompting retaliatory missile attacks by the Houthis ([Long War Journal](#); [Long War Journal](#); [Long War Journal](#)).



Further developments include an analysis of the Israel-Lebanon framework agreement signed on June 26, mediated by the United States, which aims to permanently end the state of conflict and address core issues such as Hezbollah's armament. While promising, the agreement faces significant implementation challenges. Additionally, the breakdown of the four-year truce between Saudi Arabia and the Houthis has escalated tensions following Iran and its Yemeni proxy's attempt to establish direct flights between Tehran and Sanaa. The impact of renewed U.S.-Iran conflict on Israel remains under scrutiny ([Long War Journal](#); [FDD](#); [FDD](#)).

Additional coverage notes that the ongoing U.S.-Iran hostilities have created an uneasy limbo for Israel, complicating its security environment. Despite U.S. export controls, Nvidia chips continue to reach China's military, raising concerns about technology proliferation. European NATO faces a critical four-year window to re-establish escalation dominance over Russia, as emphasized at a recent conference following the NATO summit in Ankara ([FDD](#); [FDD](#); [Chatham House](#)).

Taken together, these reports indicate a U.S. refocus of its air campaign in Somalia, targeting Al Qaeda's Shabaab with at least 74 strikes so far in 2026, marking a shift from the previous year's focus on the Islamic State. Concurrently, the U.S.-led Board of Peace announced plans to establish a "pilot zone" in Gaza, allowing unarmed civilians screened for Hamas links to cross into the Israeli-controlled area. Meanwhile, Hamas has reportedly escalated ceasefire violations between June 30 and July 9 ([Long War Journal](#); [Long War Journal](#)).

Global Macro & Geopolitics

Recent developments highlight an escalation of U.S. strikes into northern Iran, including the disabling of a ship attempting to breach the maritime blockade. Tensions between Iran and the United States have intensified in the Gulf, although recent releases of American detainees suggest a possible path toward de-escalation. Meanwhile, a global persecution report raises concerns about the erosion of religious freedom in Western countries, emphasizing the growing challenges faced by faith communities worldwide ([AP News](#); [Reuters](#); [www.christiantoday.com](#)).

AI Dominion, Deception & the Antichrist System

Uncrewed systems are the future for armed forces, and the Netherlands is leading the way 'to keep people out of danger zones'. On each side of the target ship, a black vessel keeps



a watchful distance. Defender 1 and Defender 2 are the eyes and ears of the navy – but they have nobody on board, and their paths are controlled by a computer system. This is the future of the Royal Netherlands Navy, according to Capt Sjoerd Feenstra, head of the expertise centre ([The Guardian](#)).

Pestilence & Global Health

Recent scientific breakthroughs include the discovery of a naturally occurring bacterium 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, offering a promising new avenue for solid tumor therapies. Furthermore, researchers have identified a previously unrecognized immune backup system that can amplify the effectiveness of mRNA cancer vaccines by recruiting unexpected immune cells, challenging long-held assumptions and opening pathways for more tailored treatments. In another advance, scientists have pinpointed a shared vulnerability among deadly gut bacteria such as *E. coli* and *Shigella*: enzymes that enable them to penetrate the gut's protective mucus layer. Targeting this "Achilles' heel" could lead to vaccines preventing multiple major diarrheal diseases ([ScienceDaily](#); [ScienceDaily](#); [ScienceDaily](#)).

In related research, Johns Hopkins scientists have developed a novel intranasal DNA vaccine for tuberculosis. This vaccine enhances the immune response against bacteria that evade antibiotics by hiding within the body. Animal studies demonstrated faster infection clearance, reduced lung inflammation, and prevention of relapse after treatment, indicating potential for improved tuberculosis control ([ScienceDaily](#)).

Natural Disasters & Signs in the Heavens

Recent seismic activity includes a magnitude 0.8 earthquake located 7 kilometers northwest of The Geysers, California, at a depth of 2.88 kilometers, recorded on July 16, 2026, at 12:23 UTC. Additionally, a magnitude 5.2 earthquake struck 122 kilometers southeast of McCarthy, Alaska, at a depth of 8.5 kilometers on the same day at 11:37 UTC ([USGS](#); [USGS](#)).

Additional reports note a magnitude 4.1 earthquake occurred 2 kilometers east-southeast of Frazier Park, California, on July 12, 2026, at a depth of 13.09 kilometers. On July 16, a green alert was issued for the magnitude 5.2 earthquake in Alaska, indicating that approximately 8,000 people experienced shaking of intensity level II or higher ([USGS](#); [GDACS](#)).



Middle Eastern Artifacts

Recent archaeological work in the Wadi Tumilat region of Egypt has uncovered a residential complex along with storage and production facilities. Excavations revealed pottery bearing seal impressions, ten mudbrick graves, and human burials, shedding light on the area's historical occupation. Concurrently, the first season of excavations at Ashdod has commenced, focusing on understanding the function, dating, and architectural plan of a city gate. Volunteer reports provide additional insights into the ongoing work ([BiblePlaces](#); [BiblePlaces](#)).

Further findings at Khirbat Jābir include twelve marble artifacts from a bathhouse excavation, featuring a female head sculpture, a small Corinthian capital, a lion-headed bracket, and other richly decorated architectural elements. Pottery recovered from the site spans the Byzantine through Early Islamic periods, indicating continuous activity during these eras. These discoveries contribute valuable knowledge to the understanding of regional history and culture ([Israel Antiquities Authority](#); [Israel Antiquities Authority](#)).