



Global Watch Daily – July 17, 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 indicate that Colombia plans to withdraw from the International Court of Justice case against Israel. The incoming Colombian government has also committed to restoring full diplomatic relations with Jerusalem. Meanwhile, Israel's Knesset has dissolved, setting the stage for general elections in October. Political tensions are rising as Foreign Minister Sa'ar, speaking at a U.S.-hosted counter-terrorism conference in Washington, accused radical leftist groups and terror organizations of forming an "operational alliance" to advance the agendas of Hamas and Hezbollah ([JNS](#); [Al Jazeera](#); [JNS](#)).

In another development, military prosecutors have charged a terrorist suspected in the 2007 murder of an Israeli man. The suspect was apprehended in Qalqilya in May, shortly after being released from Palestinian Authority custody ([JNS](#)).

Wars & Security (Israel and Region)

Recent reports reveal that Iraq's Ministry of Finance has imposed sanctions on individuals and entities linked to Lebanese Hezbollah, mirroring U.S. designations from earlier this year. Iraqi Prime Minister Ali al Zaidi is currently in Washington, seeking support for expanded economic and security cooperation. During his visit, he met with U.S. President Donald Trump and other officials to discuss efforts to bring weapons held by Iranian-backed militias under state control. Meanwhile, Syrian authorities intercepted an advanced weapons shipment concealed in an Iraqi oil tanker destined for Hezbollah in Lebanon. The cargo included sophisticated arms such as first-person-view drones, fiber-optic spools, drone warheads, and anti-tank missiles ([Long War Journal](#); [Long War Journal](#); [Long War Journal](#)).

Further developments include the unraveling of the U.S.-Iran memorandum of understanding, signaling the collapse of the Iran ceasefire. Analysts Janatan Sayeh and Bill Roggio discuss whether Europe may be turning against Tehran, the possibility of Israel



reengaging actively, and the survival of the Islamic regime through its terror proxies across the Gulf. Iran-backed Houthis have been instructed to close additional shipping routes, escalating tensions in the region. Concurrently, the United States has launched airstrikes against Iran for a fifth consecutive night ([Long War Journal](#); [FDD](#); [FDD](#)).

Additional coverage highlights the ongoing U.S.-Iran conflict over control of the Strait of Hormuz, with Syria intercepting Iranian weapons shipments bound for Hezbollah. Syria has also convened its first parliament since the fall of the Assad regime, marking a significant step in its political transition under President Ahmad al-Sharaa. This assembly's opening coincides with Syria's efforts to expand diplomatic engagement and strengthen regional and international ties ([FDD](#); [FDD](#); [Long War Journal](#)).

Taken together, these reports illustrate escalating hostilities between Saudi Arabia and the Houthis over attempts to resume direct flights between Yemen's Houthi-controlled capital, Sanaa, and Tehran. Saudi airstrikes targeted Sanaa International Airport on July 14 to prevent such flights, prompting retaliatory missile attacks by the Houthis. Additionally, an analysis of the Israel-Lebanon framework agreement signed on June 26 reveals a U.S.-mediated effort to end the longstanding state of conflict by addressing Hezbollah's armament. While the agreement appears promising, significant challenges remain in its implementation ([Long War Journal](#); [Long War Journal](#)).

Global Macro & Geopolitics

Recent investigations have uncovered Russia's extensive propaganda efforts in West and Central Africa, where agents have placed hundreds of articles in French-speaking media outlets as part of a covert operation dubbed Project 'Afrika'. France 24 traveled to Dakar, Senegal, to examine this campaign in detail. Meanwhile, the Philippines has formally protested to China over a state media video generated by artificial intelligence that depicted Filipinos in a dehumanizing manner, demanding its immediate removal. In financial markets, HSBC upgraded Apple Inc. to a buy rating, citing the company's strong position in agentic artificial intelligence and its hardware pipeline, despite broader market faltering in AI-related trades ([France24](#); [The Diplomat](#); [Bloomberg](#)).

In other developments, a Kenyan court upheld the constitutionality of an import levy designed to fund the construction and operation of a China-backed high-speed railway. Meanwhile, the U.S. House of Representatives approved a 50% reduction in aid to Nigeria, citing concerns over Christian persecution in the country ([Bloomberg](#); [SundiataPost](#)).



Pestilence & Global Health

Scientific advances have revealed promising new approaches in cancer and infectious disease treatment. A naturally occurring bacterium from amphibian intestines was found to completely eliminate colorectal tumors in mice with a single dose by directly attacking cancer cells and activating the immune system. This discovery suggests a novel therapeutic pathway for solid tumors. Additionally, researchers identified a hidden immune backup system that can enhance the efficacy of mRNA cancer vaccines by recruiting an unexpected immune cell to mount stronger tumor-fighting responses, challenging previous assumptions about vaccine mechanisms. In the field of infectious diseases, scientists uncovered 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" could enable the development of a single vaccine to prevent multiple major diarrheal diseases ([ScienceDaily](#); [ScienceDaily](#); [ScienceDaily](#)).

In related research, Johns Hopkins scientists have developed a novel intranasal DNA vaccine against tuberculosis. This vaccine targets bacteria that evade antibiotics by hiding within the body. Animal studies demonstrated that the vaccine accelerates infection clearance, reduces lung inflammation, and prevents relapse after treatment, while also enhancing overall immune response ([ScienceDaily](#)).

Natural Disasters & Signs in the Heavens

Recent seismic activity includes a magnitude 1.7 earthquake located 18 kilometers north of Moose Pass, Alaska, occurring on July 17, 2026, at 12:19 UTC, with a depth of 7.6 kilometers. On the same day, a magnitude 5.3 earthquake struck 203 kilometers north of Hadibu, Yemen, at a depth of 10 kilometers ([USGS](#); [USGS](#)).

Additional reports note a magnitude 4.1 earthquake near Frazier Park, California, on July 12, 2026, with a depth of 13.09 kilometers. Furthermore, a green alert was issued for the magnitude 5.3 earthquake in the Owen Fracture Zone region on July 17, indicating no casualties within a 100-kilometer radius ([USGS](#); [GDACS](#)).

Middle Eastern Artifacts

Archaeological work in the Wadi Tumilat region of Egypt has uncovered a residential complex alongside storage and production facilities. Excavations have also 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 fieldwork ([BiblePlaces](#); [BiblePlaces](#)).

Further findings from Khirbat Jābir include twelve marble artifacts recovered from a bathhouse excavation, featuring a female head sculpture, architectural elements such as a small Corinthian capital, and a bracket adorned with a lion's head. Additionally, pottery dating from the Byzantine through the Early Islamic periods was uncovered, indicating continuous activity at the site during these eras. Most of the pottery exhibits characteristic features of these historical periods ([Israel Antiquities Authority](#); [Israel Antiquities Authority](#)).