



Global Watch Daily – July 19, 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 the Israel Defense Forces have warned that Iranian missile launches targeting Jordan could inadvertently strike southern Israel. As a precaution, air-raid sirens may sound in the Eilat region. In the political arena, the 2026 Israeli elections have introduced new parliament members such as MK Yasmin Fridman, who emphasized the importance of investing in Israel's Arab society through education, employment, and infrastructure to prevent future societal challenges. Strategically, Israeli policy regarding Gaza is evolving, focusing on settlement expansion and restricting recovery efforts, reflecting a hardened stance in the ongoing conflict ([JNS](#); [JNS](#); [Al Jazeera](#)).

Additionally, a study from Bar-Ilan University has found that pregnant women residing in greener neighborhoods exhibit lower levels of chronic stress hormones, suggesting that vegetation may mitigate long-term stress during pregnancy. Meanwhile, the political landscape ahead of Israel's 2026 elections remains tightly contested, with major blocs separated by only a few seats. The outcome may hinge less on shifts between the leading parties, Likud and Yashar, and more on which smaller parties surpass the 3.25% electoral threshold ([JNS](#); [JNS](#)).

Wars & Security (Israel and Region)

Recent intelligence reports reveal that Iran has instructed the Houthi rebels in Yemen to close the Bab al Mandeb Strait—a critical maritime chokepoint at the southern end of the Red Sea—should the United States strike Iran's power infrastructure. This escalatory posture coincides with ongoing tensions between the Houthis and Saudi Arabia. Meanwhile, Venezuela is grappling with the aftermath of two devastating earthquakes that struck north-central regions on June 24, resulting in over 4,800 deaths, nearly 17,000 injuries, and the displacement of approximately 18,000 people. The scale of the disaster has overwhelmed emergency services and stalled the country's fragile political transition. In military developments, Russia has officially unveiled its new low-cost 'Banderol' cruise missile, which has seen increased deployment in Ukraine in recent months ([Long War](#)



[Journal](#); [Long War Journal](#); [Long War Journal](#)).

Further developments include Iraq's Ministry of Finance imposing sanctions on individuals and entities linked to Lebanese Hezbollah, mirroring U.S. designations issued earlier this year. Iraqi Prime Minister Ali al Zaidi is currently in the United States seeking support for expanded economic cooperation. Concurrently, the United States has reinstated a naval blockade against Iranian ports and conducted a week of strikes targeting Iran's military assets, escalating tensions amid Tehran's repeated provocations. The directive from Iran to the Houthis to potentially close the Bab al Mandeb Strait underscores the risk of broader regional disruption. These dynamics contribute to a precarious security environment in the Middle East ([Long War Journal](#); [FDD](#); [FDD](#)).

In related news, Ireland's lower house of parliament passed legislation criminalizing imports from Israeli settlements in the West Bank, including eastern Jerusalem, a move criticized as counterproductive. Former U.S. President Donald Trump has issued warnings of potential escalation in conflict with Iran, cautioning against repeating past mistakes. During his visit to Washington, Iraqi Prime Minister Zaidi met with President Trump and other officials to discuss security cooperation, investment, and efforts to bring weapons held by Iranian-backed militias under state control ([FDD](#); [FDD](#); [Long War Journal](#)).

Additional intelligence reports reveal that Syrian authorities intercepted a shipment of advanced weaponry concealed in an Iraqi oil tanker destined for Hezbollah in Lebanon. The cargo included sophisticated equipment such as first-person-view drones, fiber-optic cables, drone warheads, and anti-tank missiles. Meanwhile, analysis from FDD Research Analyst Janatan Sayeh and Bill Roggio highlights the collapse of the U.S.-Iran memorandum of understanding, signaling the end of the ceasefire and raising concerns about renewed proxy conflicts across the Gulf region ([Long War Journal](#); [Long War Journal](#)).

Global Macro & Geopolitics

The geopolitical landscape remains tense as the United States and Iran exchange strikes following the deaths of two U.S. soldiers in Jordan. Kuwait reported fires at an electricity and water plant after a second attack within two days, while Iran claims that U.S. strikes targeted an under-construction nuclear power facility. In Southeast Asia, competition between China and the United States is intensifying over nuclear reactor exports, which have become a significant arena for strategic influence. Additionally, oil loading at the Caspian Pipeline Consortium's terminal on Russia's Black Sea coast was suspended following a drone strike, highlighting vulnerabilities in critical energy infrastructure ([BBC](#)



[News](#); [The Diplomat](#); [Bloomberg](#)).

Further developments include ongoing U.S.-Iran trade and military confrontations linked to troop deaths and attacks in Ukraine. Meanwhile, southern China braces for heavy rainfall as rescue efforts continue following a landslide in Chongqing. These events underscore the interconnected nature of global strategic pressures, encompassing military conflict, energy security, and environmental challenges ([Bloomberg](#); [Reuters](#)).

Pestilence & Global Health

New research reveals that tiny plastic particles in drinking water may strengthen harmful bacteria by enhancing the resilience of the biofilms they form in water systems. These fortified biofilms increase bacterial resistance, posing a greater threat to public health. In cancer research, a bacterium naturally found in amphibian intestines has demonstrated the ability to completely eradicate colorectal tumors in mice with a single dose by both directly attacking cancer cells and activating the immune system. This discovery opens avenues for novel cancer therapies targeting solid tumors. Additionally, studies on mRNA cancer vaccines have identified a previously unrecognized immune cell that can be recruited to amplify tumor-fighting responses, challenging earlier assumptions and potentially improving vaccine efficacy ([ScienceDaily](#); [ScienceDaily](#); [ScienceDaily](#)).

In related findings, 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 common "Achilles' heel" may enable the development of a single vaccine capable of preventing multiple major diarrheal diseases, representing a significant advance in global health efforts ([ScienceDaily](#)).

Natural Disasters & Signs in the Heavens

Recent seismic activity includes a magnitude 2.2 earthquake located 84 kilometers north of Karluk, Alaska, at a depth of 5 kilometers, recorded on July 19, 2026, at 12:21 UTC. Additionally, a magnitude 4.5 earthquake struck 46 kilometers northeast of Tulsipur, Nepal, at a depth of 10 kilometers on the same day at 10:45 UTC ([USGS](#); [USGS](#)).

Additional reports detail a magnitude 5.5 earthquake near Sicaya, Peru, occurring on July 19 at 02:24 UTC, with a depth of 10 kilometers. The Nepal earthquake potentially affected approximately 3.7 million people within a 100-kilometer radius. These events continue to highlight the ongoing seismic risks in these regions ([USGS](#); [GDACS](#)).



Middle Eastern Artifacts

Archaeological excavations at the entrance to the City of David Visitor Center in Jerusalem have uncovered a small but significant collection of ceramics from the Early Islamic, Medieval, and Late Ottoman periods. The assemblage includes bowls, basins, storage jars, jugs, and cooking vessels, all found in stratified contexts that provide valuable insights into the area's historical occupation. Another study analyzes pottery from the Late Roman and Byzantine periods excavated at the same site, shedding light on the city's development during those eras ([Israel Antiquities Authority](#); [Israel Antiquities Authority](#)).

Further reports from the Wadi Tumilat site in Egypt reveal the discovery of a residential complex, storage and production facilities, pottery bearing seal impressions, ten mudbrick graves, and human burials. Meanwhile, excavations atop the City of David in Jerusalem have exposed six strata of remains spanning from the Late Roman through the Medieval and late Ottoman periods, offering a layered perspective on the city's long history ([BiblePlaces](#); [Israel Antiquities Authority](#)).