



Global Watch Daily – July 21, 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 calls by former Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister to declare Mamdani persona non grata, alongside Sharren Haskel's demand for the permanent barring of New York City's mayor from entering Israel. Meanwhile, the Lebanese army has entered a designated 'pilot zone' as villagers begin returning under an agreement with Israel. Reflecting on history, the legacy of Jabotinsky, founder of Zionist Revisionism and the Betar youth movement, remains pertinent even 86 years after his era, with his early 19th-century focus resonating with contemporary issues ([JNS](#); [Al Jazeera](#); [JNS](#)).

Additional developments include Yemen's Houthi movement announcing a maritime embargo on Saudi Arabia, effective immediately, as retaliation against the Saudi blockade of Yemeni ports and airports. Hamas has appointed Khalil al-Hayya as its new overall leader, succeeding Yahya Sinwar, who was killed by Israeli forces in Gaza in 2024. Palestinians in Gaza express a desire simply to live amid the ongoing political shifts following Hamas's internal elections ([BBC News](#); [BBC News](#); [Al Jazeera](#)).

Wars & Security (Israel and Region)

Recent intelligence indicates 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 directive reflects escalating tensions between the Houthis and Saudi Arabia. Concurrently, Venezuela is grappling with the aftermath of two devastating earthquakes on June 24, which have claimed at least 4,829 lives, injured over 16,700, and displaced approximately 18,000 people. The scale of the disaster has overwhelmed emergency services and impeded the country's fragile political transition. Meanwhile, Russia has officially unveiled its 'Banderol' low-cost cruise missile, which has seen increasing deployment in the ongoing conflict in Ukraine ([Long War Journal](#); [Long War Journal](#); [Long War Journal](#)).



In related developments, Iraq's Ministry of Finance has imposed sanctions on individuals and entities linked to Lebanese Hezbollah, aligning with 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. Analysis suggests that Iran's ruling elite maintains a wartime resolve that provides a strategic advantage, enduring hardships beyond those faced by their adversaries. In Syria, the Druze-majority provincial capital of Suwayda displays diminished government presence, with the Druze flag replacing state symbols, highlighting ongoing internal struggles ([Long War Journal](#); [FDD](#); [FDD](#)).

Additional coverage notes that former President Trump has challenged relations with China by alleging election interference. The U.S. military has identified soldiers killed in recent Iranian attacks. During his first official visit to Washington, Iraqi Prime Minister Zaidi met with President Trump and other officials to discuss security cooperation, investment, and efforts to bring Iranian-backed militia weapons under state control. Syrian authorities intercepted a shipment of advanced weapons concealed in an Iraqi oil tanker destined for Hezbollah in Lebanon, including first-person-view drones, fiber-optic spools, drone warheads, and anti-tank missiles. Analysts debate the collapse of the U.S.-Iran ceasefire memorandum of understanding, with concerns that Europe may be distancing itself from Tehran, Israel might reengage militarily, and Iran could intensify proxy conflicts across the Gulf ([FDD](#); [FDD](#); [Long War Journal](#); [Long War Journal](#); [Long War Journal](#)).

Global Macro & Geopolitics

Trade tensions have escalated sharply as former President Trump imposed 50% tariffs on Canadian goods, marking a significant intensification of economic rivalry between the two North American neighbors. The United Nations refugee agency reported that 144 migrants and refugees are dead or missing following multiple maritime disasters off the coast of Mauritania, highlighting ongoing humanitarian crises linked to migration flows. Meanwhile, ASEAN foreign ministers convened amid regional instability, calling for the restoration of safe and uninterrupted passage of vessels and aircraft through the Strait of Hormuz, a vital energy and shipping chokepoint threatened by conflict in the Middle East ([BBC News](#); [France24](#); [The Diplomat](#)).

Further developments include a Chinese oil tanker executing a U-turn in the southern Red Sea after Houthi rebels in Yemen threatened to attack vessels heading to or from Saudi ports, underscoring the fragility of maritime trade routes amid regional conflict. In the United Kingdom, Prime Minister Andy Burnham's efforts to reduce household energy costs are being undermined by a surge in wholesale gas prices, a consequence of disruptions



linked to the US-Iran war. Additionally, Iranian forces have targeted Bahrain and Kuwait following U.S. strikes on southern Iran, intensifying regional military tensions ([Bloomberg](#); [Bloomberg](#); [Reuters](#)).

Pestilence & Global Health

New research reveals that tiny plastic particles in drinking water may contribute to the resilience of dangerous bacteria by reinforcing the slimy biofilms they form within water systems. These strengthened biofilms exhibit increased resistance to treatment, raising concerns about water safety. In cancer research, a naturally occurring bacterium from amphibian intestines has demonstrated the ability to completely eliminate colorectal tumors in mice with a single dose by both directly attacking cancer cells and activating the immune system. This breakthrough suggests promising avenues for novel cancer therapies. Additionally, scientists have discovered a previously unrecognized immune backup system that enhances the effectiveness of mRNA cancer vaccines by recruiting unexpected immune cells to mount powerful tumor-fighting responses. This insight could lead to more effective and tailored cancer treatments ([ScienceDaily](#); [ScienceDaily](#); [ScienceDaily](#)).

Natural Disasters & Signs in the Heavens

Recent seismic activity includes a magnitude 1.1 earthquake located 13 kilometers west-southwest of Stanton, Texas, at a depth of 4.37 kilometers, recorded on July 21, 2026, at 12:14:55 UTC. Additionally, a magnitude 4.9 earthquake struck 78 kilometers northeast of Simao, China, at a depth of 10 kilometers on the same day at 11:43:08 UTC. Earlier, on July 19, a magnitude 5.5 earthquake occurred 2 kilometers west-southwest of Sicaya, Peru, causing significant shaking and felt intensity. The 4.9 magnitude earthquake in China potentially affected approximately 2.1 million people within a 100-kilometer radius, underscoring the ongoing seismic risks in these regions ([USGS](#); [USGS](#); [USGS](#); [GDACS](#)).

Middle Eastern Artifacts

Archaeological excavations at the entrance to the City of David Visitor Center in Jerusalem have uncovered a noteworthy collection of ceramics spanning the Early Islamic, Medieval, and Late Ottoman periods. The assemblage includes bowls, basins, storage jars, jugs, and cooking vessels, all recovered from stratified contexts that shed light on the city's historical occupation. Another study focuses on Late Roman and Byzantine pottery from the same site, providing valuable evidence for Jerusalem's development during these eras.



Elsewhere, Egyptian archaeologists have uncovered 18 ancient tombs, a granite sarcophagus, and numerous rare burial objects at Marina El Alamein, illuminating the city's role as a cultural crossroads in antiquity. At Shiloh, ongoing excavations have revealed a lavish ritual bath, a clay cooking pot, and a rare purple-dye snail shell, while Iron Age tomb discoveries continue at Gath, contributing to the understanding of the region's ancient history ([Israel Antiquities Authority](#); [Israel Antiquities Authority](#); [BiblePlaces](#); [BiblePlaces](#)).