



Global Watch Daily – July 23, 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 Defense Minister Katz's statement that the terror victim was among the founders of agricultural farms in Judea and Samaria. Following the dismantling of terror camps in Jenin and Tulkarem, Israeli forces remain prepared to take similar action in other areas as necessary. In a remarkable story of connection, a kidney transplant reunited a terror survivor with the family of the man who saved his life during a 2002 Hamas attack in Gush Katif. Additionally, Palestinians stabbed a 51-year-old Israeli man in Samaria after he and others rushed to extinguish a fire near a Jewish farm ([JNS](#); [JNS](#); [JNS](#)).

In other developments, National Security Minister Ben-Gvir described Jews praying on the Temple Mount during Tisha B'Av as "tremendous progress," emphasizing that "everywhere, people understand that the State of Israel is in charge." Meanwhile, the Iran-backed Houthi movement claimed attacks on oil tankers in the Red Sea, marking their first such actions since announcing a maritime embargo against Saudi Arabia. Over 2,300 Israelis reportedly stormed the Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem, intensifying tensions in the city ([JNS](#); [BBC News](#); [Al Jazeera](#)).

Wars & Security (Israel and Region)

The Houthis have declared a full maritime blockade of Saudi Arabia, asserting it is a response to blockades imposed by the Saudi-led coalition supporting Yemen's internationally recognized government. Saudi Arabia condemned the blockade and pledged to protect its vessels, while commercial ships have begun rerouting to avoid the Bab al Mandeb Strait. Somalia announced that it, along with international partners, killed Maalin Jinow Ibrahim, a senior Shabaab leader and co-founder, in a targeted operation earlier this month, though confirmation from Al Qaeda's East African branch is pending. Iran has escalated drone and missile attacks against Kurdish Iranian opposition groups and energy infrastructure in northern Iraq's Kurdistan Region amid rising tensions with the United States. Iraqi Prime Minister Ali al Zaidi is navigating a delicate balance between relations with Washington and regional dynamics ([Long War Journal](#); [Long War Journal](#);



[Long War Journal](#)).

Further reports indicate that Iran has instructed the Houthis to close the Bab al Mandeb Strait if the United States targets Iran's power grid. The Houthis remain engaged in an escalating conflict with Saudi Arabia, which began recently. Meanwhile, the Foundation for Defense of Democracies (FDD) highlights that Iran's nuclear program is a focus for the Trump administration. The Houthis' maritime blockade announcement on July 20 has led to increased rerouting of vessels to avoid the critical Bab al-Mandeb Strait ([Long War Journal](#); [FDD](#); [FDD](#)).

Additional coverage from FDD describes the Iranian regime as "suffering, desperate, and losing." The Trump administration has approved a nuclear deal with Saudi Arabia, signaling a strategic shift in the region. In Venezuela, two earthquakes on June 24 have resulted in at least 4,829 deaths, 16,740 injuries, and displaced approximately 18,000 people, overwhelming emergency response efforts and stalling political progress ([FDD](#); [FDD](#); [Long War Journal](#)).

Reports also reveal that Russia has officially acknowledged its new Banderol low-cost cruise missile, which has seen increased deployment in Ukraine in recent months. Iraq's Ministry of Finance has imposed sanctions on individuals and entities linked to Lebanese Hezbollah, mirroring U.S. designations from earlier this year. Prime Minister Ali al Zaidi is currently in the United States seeking support for expanded economic measures ([Long War Journal](#); [Long War Journal](#)).

Global Macro & Geopolitics

Yemen's Houthi rebels, supported by Iran, have attacked two Saudi oil tankers in the Red Sea, potentially opening a new front in the ongoing conflict between the United States and Iran. These strikes threaten critical maritime routes and could escalate regional tensions. Southeast Asian foreign ministers from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) have called for an immediate cessation of hostilities in the Middle East, warning of both immediate and long-term consequences for the region's stability and populations. Meanwhile, the European Central Bank has kept interest rates steady as it monitors the inflationary impact of the Iran conflict on the global economy ([France24](#); [The Diplomat](#); [Bloomberg](#)).

Additional developments include U.S. Senator Marco Rubio stating that the United States is prepared to assist in ending the "senseless war" in Ukraine, though no rapid resolution is



expected. The European Union has announced a new sanctions package targeting Russian banks in response to the ongoing conflict in Ukraine. Senator Ted Cruz has criticized the Nigerian administration under President Tinubu for allegedly prioritizing U.S. lobbyists over the protection of Christians, highlighting concerns about religious freedom and governance in the region ([AP News](#); [Reuters](#); [streamlinefeed.co.ke](#)).

Pestilence & Global Health

Scientists have successfully revived vancomycin, a powerful antibiotic that some superbugs had developed resistance to, by pairing it with a small molecule called pghi-4 that inhibits a bacterial enzyme responsible for resistance. This approach revives the drug's effectiveness without creating a new antibiotic. Researchers are also exploring new cancer treatment strategies based on evolutionary theory, employing rapid and carefully timed switches between multiple therapies to prevent tumors from developing resistance. Additionally, a detailed molecular map has revealed how influenza A virus hijacks human cells by dissolving nuclear structures and releasing proteins that aid viral reproduction, offering new drug target possibilities ([ScienceDaily](#); [ScienceDaily](#); [ScienceDaily](#)).

Further findings include a naturally occurring compound found in foods such as wheat germ, mushrooms, and aged cheese that may enhance vaccine efficacy in older adults. In a pilot trial, spermidine supplements were given to adults over 65 following their third COVID-19 vaccine dose, resulting in stronger immune responses. Research also indicates that nanoplastics in drinking water may strengthen harmful bacteria by reinforcing their biofilms, making them more resistant to treatment. In cancer research, a bacterium from amphibian intestines eliminated colorectal tumors in mice with a single dose by both attacking cancer cells and activating the immune system, suggesting promising new therapeutic avenues ([ScienceDaily](#); [ScienceDaily](#); [ScienceDaily](#)).

Related research reveals a hidden immune backup system that could enhance the effectiveness of mRNA cancer vaccines. This discovery overturns previous assumptions by showing that these vaccines recruit an unexpected immune cell type to launch powerful tumor-fighting responses, potentially leading to more effective and tailored cancer treatments ([ScienceDaily](#)).

Natural Disasters & Signs in the Heavens

Recent seismic activity includes a magnitude 2.3 earthquake located 9 km north-northeast of Bray, Oklahoma, at a depth of 3.6 km, and a magnitude 5.0 earthquake 38 km south-



southeast of Spearman, Texas, at a depth of 5.69 km. Both events were recorded on July 23, 2026 ([USGS](#); [USGS](#)).

Additional reports note a magnitude 5.5 earthquake 4 km south-southwest of Chupaca, Peru, on July 19, 2026, with a depth of 10 km. In Brazil, a forest fire that began on July 18 continues to burn as of July 23, 2026 ([USGS](#); [GDACS](#)).

Middle Eastern Artifacts

Excavations at the entrance to the City of David Visitor Center in Jerusalem have uncovered a 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. Another study analyzes pottery from the Late Roman and Byzantine periods excavated at the same site, providing valuable evidence for the city's occupation and development during those eras ([Israel Antiquities Authority](#); [Israel Antiquities Authority](#)).

Additional archaeological updates include discoveries at Shiloh, where a lavish ritual bath, a clay cooking pot, and a rare purple-dye snail shell were found. In Egypt, archaeologists uncovered 18 ancient tombs, a granite sarcophagus, and dozens of rare burial objects at Marina El Alamein, shedding light on the city's role as a cultural crossroads in antiquity ([BiblePlaces](#); [BiblePlaces](#)).