



Global Watch Daily – July 26, 2026

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A concise summary of significant developments in Israel and the world through a grounded Christian worldview.

Israel & Jerusalem

During a visit to Damascus, the United Nations Secretary-General referred to the Golan Heights as “Syrian territory,” reaffirming Syria’s claim over the area. Despite this, Palestinian workers continue to operate in industrial zones within the region. Tensions remain high as Palestinians report attacks on villagers by settlers, while the Israeli military states that a Palestinian individual stole a weapon and opened fire on hikers in the area ([JNS](#); [JNS](#); [BBC News](#)).

Israel has advanced plans to build 763 new homes in the Samaria town of Eli, a development that would nearly triple the size of the community. Meanwhile, the U.S. president has linked a landmark agreement to assist Saudi Arabia in developing nuclear energy to the kingdom’s formal accession to the Abraham Accords. The Iran-backed Houthi movement, which previously declared a “maritime embargo” against Saudi Arabia, claims to have struck another vessel in the Red Sea, escalating regional maritime tensions ([JNS](#); [BBC News](#); [BBC News](#)).

Wars & Security (Israel and Region)

Syria is intensifying energy and infrastructure cooperation as part of its efforts to revive its economy and enhance regional influence. Damascus is also rebuilding key state institutions, exemplified by the recent graduation of 1,000 new air force cadets. In Ukraine, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy’s controversial dismissal of his popular defense minister has unexpectedly led to the appointment of a highly respected, reform-minded officer as the country’s top general, a move that may ultimately strengthen Ukraine’s military leadership. The United States maintains that it is degrading Iran’s threat through renewed air campaigns, though after nearly two weeks, the effectiveness of these operations remains uncertain. A discussion featuring Generation Jihad’s Bill Roggio alongside FDD analysts Bradley Bowman and Cameron McMillan explores Iran’s breaking point amid ongoing conflict ([Long War Journal](#); [Long War Journal](#); [Long War Journal](#)).



The Houthi movement has declared a full maritime blockade of Saudi Arabia, framing it as retaliation for blockades imposed by the Saudi-led coalition supporting Yemen's internationally recognized government. Saudi Arabia condemned the blockade and vowed to protect its shipping, though multiple commercial vessels have rerouted to avoid the Bab al-Mandeb Strait. Following the announcement of a U.S.-Saudi nuclear cooperation agreement, former President Donald Trump expressed skepticism about the deal in a July 23 post on Truth Social, casting doubt on its prospects. Meanwhile, U.S. pressure on the Muslim Brotherhood continues to intensify, extending beyond the Middle East to target the group's support networks in Europe, as Washington seeks to disrupt the Islamist organization's infrastructure ([Long War Journal](#); [FDD](#); [FDD](#)).

Volker Turk, appointed United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in 2022, praised the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in an interview with the Guardian. However, concerns have been raised about efforts by the outgoing UN Secretary-General to renew the mandate of the Human Rights Commissioner, prompting calls for the U.S. to oppose these initiatives. In the United Kingdom, Ana Yang provided testimony to Parliament's Energy Security and Net Zero Committee on July 8, discussing the UK's role in shaping international climate policy ([FDD](#); [Chatham House](#)).

Somalia and its international partners announced the targeted killing of Maalin Jinow Ibrahim, a reported co-founder of Al-Shabaab and member of its central leadership council, earlier this month. Al-Qaeda's East African branch has yet to confirm his death. In Iraq, Prime Minister Ali al Zaidi is navigating a delicate balance between maintaining relations with Washington and managing regional pressures ([Long War Journal](#); [Long War Journal](#)).

Global Macro & Geopolitics

Images of Wang Wang, a stray dog whose story has captured global attention, have appeared on billboards worldwide, illustrating the limits of China's censorship apparatus. Meanwhile, central banks in Washington, London, and Tokyo are preparing to reveal their concerns about the potential return of oil prices to approximately \$100 per barrel, a development that could have significant inflationary consequences ([The Diplomat](#); [Bloomberg](#)).

Additional reports from AP News and Reuters provide further context on global economic and geopolitical pressures shaping the current international landscape ([AP News](#); [Reuters](#)).

AI Dominion, Deception & the Antichrist System



Artificial intelligence may not deliver on its promise of vast economic opportunity at a price that humanity is willing to pay. In March, Anthropic, the cutting-edge artificial intelligence business that gave us the chatbot Claude, published an analysis on the impact of artificial intelligence on employment, to help us assess the claim that intelligent robots were about to redefine human existence, ending demand for human labor. Last year in May ([The Guardian](#)).

Pestilence & Global Health

An experimental antiviral pill has demonstrated efficacy in preventing the spread of a measles-like virus among ferrets, blocking transmission both through the air and close contact. Administered shortly before or after exposure, the drug also shortened the duration of illness and the contagious period. Researchers anticipate that this medication could one day be adapted for human use. In another development, scientists have restored the effectiveness of vancomycin, a powerful antibiotic compromised by bacterial resistance, by pairing it with a small molecule called pghi-4 that inhibits a resistance-related bacterial enzyme. Additionally, evolutionary theory is being applied to cancer treatment strategies, with mathematical models indicating that rapid, carefully timed switches between therapies may improve cure rates by preventing tumor resistance ([ScienceDaily](#); [ScienceDaily](#); [ScienceDaily](#)).

Scientists have mapped how influenza A virus hijacks human cells, revealing a surprising mechanism whereby the virus dissolves small nuclear structures to release proteins essential for replication. This detailed molecular understanding may identify new drug targets and aid in studying dangerous flu strains. Spermidine, a naturally occurring compound found in foods such as wheat germ, mushrooms, and aged cheese, has shown promise in enhancing vaccine responses among older adults. In a small pilot study, supplementation with spermidine after a third COVID-19 vaccine dose improved immune protection. Research also indicates that nanoplastics in drinking water may facilitate the survival of harmful bacteria by strengthening the biofilms they form inside water systems, making these bacterial communities more resistant to treatment ([ScienceDaily](#); [ScienceDaily](#); [ScienceDaily](#)).

Middle Eastern Artifacts

Recent archaeological excavations in Jerusalem's City of David have uncovered burnt sycamore beams dating to the First Temple period, believed to be remnants of a courtyard roof destroyed by the Babylonians in 586 BCE. An engraved reed discovered in Wadi



Murabba'at represents a rare artifact from this era. Excavations at Shiloh have revealed a lavish ritual bath, a clay cooking pot, and a rare purple-dye snail shell, while ongoing digs at Gath have uncovered an Iron Age tomb. The City of David Visitor Center excavation yielded stratified ceramic assemblages from the Abbasid, medieval, and late Ottoman periods, offering valuable insights into the site's long occupational history. Additional pottery finds from Late Roman and Byzantine contexts suggest extensive residential occupation south of Jerusalem's Old City walls from the third to seventh centuries CE. In Egypt, discoveries at Marina El Alamein include eighteen ancient tombs, a granite sarcophagus, and numerous burial objects, highlighting the city's role as a cultural crossroads. Excavations in the Wadi Tumilat have revealed a Hyksos-period residential complex with storage and production facilities, mudbrick graves, and unusual burial positions, while temple inscriptions in the Bahariya Oasis provide further understanding of the region's historical narrative ([BiblePlaces](#); [Israel Antiquities Authority](#); [BiblePlaces](#)).