



Global Watch Daily – July 31, 2026

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

Israel & Jerusalem

An initiative uniting the IDF Military Rabbinate, Aleph Military, and the International Halacha Institute aims to address contemporary halachic challenges faced by Jewish service members. A senior Hamas official informed the BBC that they have agreed to the Board of Peace's plan, though Israel has yet to comment. If successful, this plan could remove the most significant obstacle to advancing the Trump-backed peace initiative in Gaza. ([JNS](#); [BBC News](#); [BBC News](#))

The infantry battalion has actively participated in numerous combat operations, including ongoing engagements against Hamas in Gaza and operations along Israel's northern border. ([Al Jazeera](#); [JNS](#); [Al Jazeera](#))

Wars & Security (Israel and Region)

Israel accused Hezbollah of launching an explosive-laden drone at its positions on the Al Al Taher Ridge on July 29, despite a ceasefire that took effect on June 19. Hezbollah has neither claimed responsibility nor denied the Israeli allegations. Former Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett pledged to declare Qatar an "enemy state" if reelected, citing Qatar's alleged funding of Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps as a primary reason. Lebanese security forces raided a home in Beirut over a family dispute and discovered a large weapons cache. Interrogations reportedly revealed that the cache belonged to a Hezbollah member. ([Long War Journal](#); [Long War Journal](#); [Long War Journal](#))

A 21-year-old German national, who had previously attempted to join the Islamic State, allegedly carried out a deadly vehicle-ramming attack at Berlin's Pride festival, resulting in one death and 29 injuries. ([Long War Journal](#); [FDD](#))

American and Saudi forces launched joint airstrikes against Iran-backed Iraqi militias, marking a new phase in the ongoing conflict with Iran. This action reflects growing impatience with Baghdad's inability to control armed factions responsible for drone attacks. Former Marine and New York Times journalist Thomas Gibbons-Neff recently



returned to Afghanistan seeking accountability and closure by confronting a Taliban commander he had engaged in 2010. Analysts Bill Roggio and Will Selber evaluated the significance of Gibbons-Neff's recent visit. ([FDD](#); [Long War Journal](#))

Washington continues to pressure Iraqi Prime Minister Ali al Zaidi to disarm Iran-aligned militias amid escalating tensions. Israel has approved the future deployment of the International Stabilization Force in Gaza, a critical step toward implementing the US-backed peace plan. This multinational force is expected to support humanitarian efforts, stabilization, and a transition toward new Palestinian governance. ([Long War Journal](#); [Long War Journal](#))

Global Macro & Geopolitics

Scheduled elections on September 14 represent a significant milestone, though the peace process is expected to continue well beyond the vote count. Two Federal Reserve officials dissented from the recent decision to maintain interest rates, warning that delaying action on persistent inflation could necessitate more aggressive policy measures later. ([The Diplomat](#); [Bloomberg](#); [Reuters](#))

Pestilence & Global Health

An experimental pill successfully prevented the airborne and close-contact spread of a measles-like virus in ferrets. The drug was effective when administered shortly before or after exposure, reducing illness duration and contagiousness. Researchers suggest this medication could eventually aid in controlling human disease. Scientists have revived the efficacy of vancomycin, a powerful antibiotic compromised by bacterial resistance, by pairing it with a small molecule called pghi-4 that inhibits a bacterial enzyme linked to resistance. Additionally, evolutionary theory is being applied to cancer treatment by rapidly switching therapies before tumors develop resistance, with mathematical models indicating this approach could improve cure rates. ([ScienceDaily](#); [ScienceDaily](#); [ScienceDaily](#))

Researchers have mapped how influenza A virus hijacks human cells, revealing a surprising mechanism that dissolves nuclear structures to release proteins the virus may use for replication. This molecular insight could identify new drug targets and aid the study of dangerous flu strains. A naturally occurring compound found in wheat germ, mushrooms, and aged cheese may enhance vaccine protection in older adults. In a pilot trial, spermidine supplements were given to adults over 65 following their third COVID-19



vaccine dose, showing promising results. New research indicates that nanoplastics in drinking water strengthen bacterial biofilms, making harmful bacteria more resistant within water systems. ([ScienceDaily](#); [ScienceDaily](#); [ScienceDaily](#))

Natural Disasters & Signs in the Heavens

The United States Geological Survey recorded a magnitude 1.9 earthquake near Nanwalek, Alaska, and a magnitude 4.5 earthquake near Titahi Bay, New Zealand. ([USGS](#); [USGS](#))

USGS also reported a magnitude 6.8 earthquake near Uto, Japan. Additionally, a magnitude 4.5 earthquake occurred in New Zealand at a depth of 55.622 kilometers, affecting approximately 650,000 people within 100 kilometers of the epicenter. ([USGS](#); [GDACS](#))

Middle Eastern Artifacts

Excavations opened six squares, revealing three distinct strata: Stratum I from the British Mandate period, Stratum II from the Middle Ages, and Stratum III from the Byzantine era. Most artifacts correspond to these periods. Notably, fragments of gold-glass tiles were found in situ for the first time, alongside well-known vessel types from the late Byzantine to Early Islamic periods. ([Israel Antiquities Authority](#); [Israel Antiquities Authority](#))

The first volume of two presents the results of excavations at Paneas conducted by Z.U. Ma'oz in the area that housed the Roman-period sanctuary of Pan (Paneion). Additionally, a fragment of a large stele belonging to Assyrian king Ashurbanipal (669–631 BC) was discovered at Nineveh. The front side features a high-relief sculpture of the king, while the back appears to document his achievements. ([Israel Antiquities Authority](#); [BiblePlaces](#))