



Global Watch Daily – August 2, 2026

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

Israel & Jerusalem

The head of government in Doha expressed well wishes to Khalil al-Hayya for success in serving the interests of the brotherly Palestinian people. Mohammed Dahlan reported that Jared Kushner assured him of ongoing efforts with the Israeli side to halt attacks on Gaza. Meanwhile, settler violence against Palestinians has increased in the West Bank amid the expansion of settlements and outposts ([JNS](#); [JNS](#); [BBC News](#)).

Hamas has announced acceptance of a disarmament plan for Gaza, which entails laying down arms and the withdrawal of Israeli troops from the territory. However, the complex realities of politics, ongoing conflict, mutual distrust, the deaths of thousands, and widespread destruction in Gaza make any agreement difficult to implement ([Al Jazeera](#); [BBC News](#); [BBC News](#)).

Wars & Security (Israel and Region)

US President Donald Trump unveiled a 15-point Board of Peace roadmap that outlines the transfer of governance and security responsibilities in Gaza. The plan conditions verified Hamas disarmament on a phased Israeli withdrawal, though the sequencing of these steps remains contested. In Afghanistan, three anti-Taliban resistance groups launched separate operations across Badakhshan province over two weeks, temporarily overrunning a district center and attacking Taliban positions in multiple districts, with no evidence of direct coordination among the groups. Israel accused Hezbollah of launching an explosive-laden drone at its positions on the Ali Al Taher Ridge on July 29, despite a ceasefire effective since June 19. Hezbollah has neither claimed responsibility nor denied the Israeli allegations ([Long War Journal](#); [Long War Journal](#); [Long War Journal](#)).

Former Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett declared his intention to designate Qatar as an “enemy state” if reelected, citing Qatar’s alleged financial support of Iran’s Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps. President Trump expressed optimism about Gaza’s future following the Board of Peace’s efforts to manage postwar reconstruction, though the



initiative has encountered obstacles. Meanwhile, Egypt has become a new front in Iran's regional pressure campaign after a drone strike on the port city of Damietta on July 29 damaged a U.S. gas facility, signaling an escalation of tensions ([Long War Journal](#); [FDD](#); [FDD](#)).

On July 30, tens of thousands of migrants crossed from Morocco into Ceuta, Spain's North African enclave, many swimming around a breakwater as Moroccan border controls lapsed; dozens drowned in the process. Lebanese security forces raided a home in Beirut amid a family dispute and discovered a large weapons cache. Interrogations revealed that the cache belonged to a Hezbollah member ([FDD](#); [FDD](#); [Long War Journal](#)).

A 21-year-old German man, 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. Former Marine and New York Times journalist Thomas Gibbons-Neff recently returned to Afghanistan seeking accountability and closure by locating a Taliban commander he had confronted in 2010. Analysts Bill Roggio and Will Selber have examined the implications of Gibbons-Neff's recent visit ([Long War Journal](#); [Long War Journal](#)).

Global Macro & Geopolitics

President Donald Trump has paused planned military action against Iran to allow ongoing negotiations concerning the Strait of Hormuz and Iran's nuclear program to proceed. This pause is contingent on reaching an agreement swiftly. Israel remains cautious amid these developments. Trump stated he is refraining from new strikes on Iran following commitments from Tehran and other Middle Eastern powers to work toward an agreement that could quickly reopen the Strait of Hormuz ([Bloomberg](#); [Bloomberg](#); [Bloomberg](#)).

Additional coverage from Reuters provides further context on the geopolitical dynamics surrounding the negotiations and military posturing in the region ([Reuters](#)).

Pestilence & Global Health

An experimental antiviral pill has successfully prevented a measles-like virus from spreading through the air or close contact in ferrets. The medication was effective when administered shortly before or after exposure, reducing both illness severity and the period during which infected animals remained contagious. Researchers suggest this drug could offer a new tool for controlling airborne viral diseases. Scientists have also



discovered a method to restore vancomycin's effectiveness, a powerful antibiotic that some bacteria have developed resistance to. By pairing vancomycin with a small molecule called pghi-4, which inhibits a bacterial enzyme linked to resistance, the antibiotic's potency is revived. Additionally, researchers are applying evolutionary theory to cancer treatment by rapidly switching therapies before tumors develop resistance, with mathematical models indicating that such timed treatment rotations could improve cure rates ([ScienceDaily](#); [ScienceDaily](#); [ScienceDaily](#)).

Researchers have mapped how influenza A virus commandeers human cells, revealing a surprising strategy in which the virus dissolves small nuclear structures to release proteins it may use for replication. This detailed molecular understanding could identify new drug targets and aid the study of dangerous flu strains. In a small pilot trial, older adults receiving spermidine supplements—a naturally occurring compound found in foods such as wheat germ, mushrooms, and aged cheese—showed improved immune responses following their third COVID-19 vaccine dose, suggesting potential to enhance vaccine efficacy in the elderly ([ScienceDaily](#); [ScienceDaily](#)).

Natural Disasters & Signs in the Heavens

The United States Geological Survey recorded a magnitude 1.7 earthquake near Ferry, Alaska, and a magnitude 5.3 earthquake north of Ascension Island. Additionally, a magnitude 6.8 earthquake occurred near Uto, Japan, accompanied by a magnitude 4.6 event at a depth of 10 kilometers, affecting an area with a population of approximately 5.2 million within 100 kilometers ([USGS](#); [USGS](#); [USGS](#); [GDACS](#)).

Middle Eastern Artifacts

Recent archaeological work includes a location map and images of the excavation site adjacent to the Teit̥bata pond, viewed looking northwest. This volume is the first of two presenting results from excavations at Paneas conducted by Z.U. Ma'oz, focusing on the sanctuary of Pan (Paneion) established during the Roman period. In Jerusalem, archaeologists discovered a mold for female figurines while sifting soil from the Kishle excavation south of the Tower of David. Although over one thousand female figurines have been found in Jerusalem, this is the first such mold discovered in the city ([Israel Antiquities Authority](#); [Israel Antiquities Authority](#); [Israel Antiquities Authority](#); [BiblePlaces](#)).