



Global Watch Daily – August 12, 2026

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

Israel & Jerusalem

Iran's proxy forces claimed to have struck a ship carrying Saudi military equipment in the Red Sea, heightening tensions amid the ongoing US-Iran conflict. The family of a fallen Israeli soldier expressed profound pride in the Israel Defense Forces' unwavering moral commitment to honoring the memory and dignity of their loved one ([JNS](#); [BBC News](#); [JNS](#)).

Following a ceasefire late last year, the Israeli military reports that Hamas has escalated abuses against civilians. Meanwhile, the Trump administration appears unperturbed by Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu's rejection of a proposed Gaza deal, interpreting it as campaign rhetoric ahead of the upcoming general election ([JNS](#); [BBC News](#)).

Wars & Security (Israel and Region)

Jamal Kiyemba, a Ugandan national residing in the United Kingdom, was arrested in northwest Pakistan in 2002 for allegedly attempting to join Al Qaeda in Afghanistan. He was detained at the US prison facility in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, until his release in 2006 and subsequent transfer to Uganda. Since then, his status remains uncertain. The United States is losing influence in Somalia as growing frustration with the government in Mogadishu threatens critical support for the African Union mission and risks strengthening Al Shabaab's control. In Mali, renewed US airstrikes against the jihadist group JNIM raise concerns about the effectiveness of air power alone without accompanying ground strategies or political reforms. North Korea is reportedly sending up to 120 additional ballistic missiles to Ukraine, as Kyiv seeks means to destroy Russian missile launchers ([Long War Journal](#); [Long War Journal](#); [Long War Journal](#)).

The Sudanese military's recapture of the Al Sadarat highway represents its most significant success against the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) during the fourth year of the Sudanese civil war. However, the RSF's increasing reliance on tribal mobilization and the expanding use of foreign-backed drone warfare indicate a shift in the conflict's dynamics. While Western sanctions continue to isolate Russia's economy, Moscow is investing in



alternative trade routes to circumvent these measures. The intergovernmental council of the Eurasian Economic Union recently concluded its 47th meeting, highlighting efforts to create new pathways for potential sanctions evasion. During the Cold War, Americans took communism seriously, prompting Columbia University in 1946 to establish the Russian Institute to train experts in the ideology of adversaries. This historical context informs current analyses of Islamist movements ([Long War Journal](#); [FDD](#); [FDD](#)).

The Afghan United Front has commenced operations against the Taliban, likely focusing on southern Afghanistan, which would expand resistance efforts beyond their traditional northern strongholds ([FDD](#); [Long War Journal](#)).

Yemen's Houthi rebels claimed responsibility for attacks on eight Saudi-linked vessels, as well as energy facilities and an airport, aiming to enforce their blockade of Saudi Arabia. Saudi Arabia is reportedly pursuing diplomatic efforts to de-escalate the conflict but remains prepared to consider military options if necessary. Iraq faces increasing pressure to control militias while managing tensions with neighboring countries, the United States, and Iran. The Kurdistan Region in northern Iraq has endured nearly 1,000 drone and missile attacks by Iran and its proxies since late February, underscoring the escalating threat in the area ([Long War Journal](#); [Long War Journal](#)).

Global Macro & Geopolitics

Achieving peace on the Korean Peninsula requires adopting a new approach that preserves effective existing measures while addressing unresolved issues individually. US stock futures rose ahead of key inflation data, as investors awaited insights into the next phase of the market rally following renewed optimism fueled by recent earnings in the artificial intelligence sector. Thailand reaffirmed its longstanding military cooperation with the United States, emphasizing that security collaboration will remain separate from ongoing trade negotiations and will not be used as leverage in tariff discussions ([The Diplomat](#); [Bloomberg](#); [Bloomberg](#)).

Pestilence & Global Health

Research indicates that low arginine levels may enable cancer cells and viruses to evade the immune system by reducing the production of a critical cellular warning protein. In mouse studies, diets rich in arginine resulted in fewer colon tumors and milder viral infections, suggesting that a simple dietary supplement could have significant therapeutic potential ([ScienceDaily](#)).



Natural Disasters & Signs in the Heavens

The United States Geological Survey recorded a magnitude 6.0 earthquake near the South Sandwich Islands region and a magnitude 5.2 earthquake near Naalehu, Hawaii. Additionally, a magnitude 7.4 earthquake was registered near San José del Palmar, Colombia. A green alert was issued for a magnitude 6.0 earthquake at a depth of 10 kilometers in the South Sandwich Islands region on August 12, 2026, at 11:47 UTC ([USGS](#); [USGS](#); [GDACS](#)).

Middle Eastern Artifacts

The glass assemblage from Oboda encompasses approximately four centuries of glass production in the Eastern Mediterranean, spanning from the Early Roman to the early Byzantine periods. The collection includes forms characteristic of Palestine. Excavations in the town of Oboda, located in the Negev Highlands, uncovered faunal remains from Roman and Early Byzantine contexts dating to the late third through early fifth centuries CE. Findings indicate that the site's economy during both periods was reliant on these resources ([Israel Antiquities Authority](#); [Israel Antiquities Authority](#)).

This volume is the first of two presenting the results of excavations conducted at Paneas by Z.U. Ma'oz in the area that housed the sanctuary of Pan (Paneion), established during the Roman period. Archaeologists also discovered a Ramesside-era tomb belonging to "Paser" on Luxor's west bank. Additionally, an Egyptian archaeological mission uncovered three New Kingdom rock-cut tombs at the Bubasteion Necropolis in Saqqara. A new volume detailing these findings has been released ([Israel Antiquities Authority](#); [BiblePlaces](#)).