



Global Watch Daily – August 15, 2026

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

Israel & Jerusalem

Two families remain confined to their homes in the occupied West Bank amid ongoing tensions. Iran's proxy forces claimed responsibility for striking a ship carrying Saudi military equipment in the Red Sea, escalating regional hostilities linked to the US-Iran conflict. A former New York Magazine editor criticized a recent publication for its inability to celebrate one part of Jerusalem without diminishing or erasing another, highlighting the city's complex and contested narratives. ([BBC News](#); [BBC News](#); [JNS](#))

The co-chair of the Democratic Socialists of America was questioned on a podcast regarding the Hamas-led atrocities in southern Israel. Her response was notable for its revealing and troubling implications. ([JNS](#))

Wars & Security (Israel and Region)

China, Russia, Iran, and North Korea have moved beyond rhetorical alignment to active coordination aimed at undermining American military, economic, and cyber dominance. In a recent discussion, Generation Jihad's Bill Roggio interviewed Bradley Bowman, senior director of the Foundation for Defense of Democracies' Center on Military and Political Studies, to explore this axis of aggressors. The Iran-backed Houthis intensified drone and missile attacks on Yemeni forces and civilian infrastructure across three governorates on August 6, escalating the conflict while simultaneously targeting Saudi Arabia and shipping routes in the Red Sea. Meanwhile, General Esmail Qaani, commander of Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps-Qods Force, visited Iraq amid Baghdad's legislative efforts to place all weapons under state control. This visit coincides with ongoing Iranian drone and missile strikes against Kurdish opposition groups in the region. ([Long War Journal](#); [Long War Journal](#); [Long War Journal](#))

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 and was subsequently detained at the US Guantanamo Bay prison. After his release in 2006



and repatriation to Uganda, Kiyemba's activities have continued to draw attention. ([Long War Journal](#); [FDD](#))

Iraq's economy remains heavily dependent on oil revenue, which accounts for over 90 percent of its budget. However, exports have declined to roughly half of the pre-closure average of 3.4 million barrels per day after Iran closed the Strait of Hormuz. The United Arab Emirates may offer alternative export routes to alleviate this pressure. Former President Donald Trump recently indicated a shift in US policy toward Iran, describing it as "low-keying it" and "semi-negotiating," while noting Tehran's difficulties in funding its military forces. Concurrently, the United States faces diminishing influence in Somalia as frustration with Mogadishu threatens critical African Union support and risks strengthening Al Shabaab's control. Renewed US airstrikes against Jama'at Nasr al-Islam wal Muslimin in Mali raise concerns about the effectiveness of air power without accompanying ground strategies or political reforms. ([FDD](#); [FDD](#); [Long War Journal](#))

North Korea is reportedly sending up to 120 additional ballistic missiles to Ukraine as Kyiv seeks means to destroy Russian missile launchers. In Sudan, the military's recapture of the Al Sadarat highway represents its most significant victory against the Rapid Support Forces in the fourth year of the civil war. However, the RSF's increasing reliance on tribal mobilization and the growing use of foreign-backed drone warfare indicate a shift in the conflict's dynamics. ([Long War Journal](#); [Long War Journal](#))

Global Macro & Geopolitics

China continues to secure international support for its increasingly rigid interpretation of the One China principle, extending its influence from Indonesia to Africa and Oceania. Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in his Independence Day address, outlined an ambitious vision for India to become a developed economy by 2047, emphasizing self-reliance, semiconductor manufacturing, artificial intelligence, and nuclear power. Meanwhile, Mexico is promoting a land-based trade corridor in the south as a strategic alternative to global shipping routes threatened by disruptions at critical waterways such as the Panama Canal, the Strait of Hormuz, and the Red Sea. ([The Diplomat](#); [Bloomberg](#); [Bloomberg](#))

Ukraine announced a strike on a Roscosmos space agency production facility deep inside Russia, continuing its campaign against military and related infrastructure. ([Bloomberg](#); [Bloomberg](#); [AP News](#))



From Reuters highlights ongoing global geopolitical tensions and economic pressures. ([Reuters](#))

Pestilence & Global Health

Researchers have identified a promising new approach to potentially eradicate HIV shortly after infection through a one-time combination therapy. In newborn nonhuman primates treated within three days of exposure, this regimen—comprising standard antiretroviral drugs, broadly neutralizing antibodies, and additional agents—showed significant efficacy. Furthermore, studies indicate that low arginine levels may enable cancer cells and viruses to evade the immune system by suppressing the production of a vital cellular warning protein. In mouse models, arginine-rich diets resulted in fewer colon tumors and milder viral infections, suggesting that simple dietary supplementation could offer powerful therapeutic benefits. ([ScienceDaily](#); [ScienceDaily](#))

Natural Disasters & Signs in the Heavens

The United States Geological Survey recorded a magnitude 1.0 earthquake near The Geysers in California, United States, and a magnitude 5.2 earthquake near Ende, Indonesia. ([USGS](#); [USGS](#))

A magnitude 7.4 earthquake was recorded near San José del Palmar, Colombia. Additionally, a magnitude 4.9 earthquake at a depth of 66.357 kilometers occurred in Taiwan on August 15, 2026, at 11:30 UTC, affecting an area with approximately 4.2 million people within 100 kilometers. ([USGS](#); [GDACS](#))

Middle Eastern Artifacts

The glass assemblage excavated from Oboda spans roughly four centuries of glass production in the Eastern Mediterranean, covering the Early Roman through early Byzantine periods. The collection includes forms characteristic of Palestine. Archaeological excavations in Oboda, located in the Negev Highlands, uncovered faunal remains dating to Roman and Early Byzantine contexts (late third to early fifth century CE). Analysis indicates that the site's economy during both periods was reliant on these resources. ([Israel Antiquities Authority](#); [Israel Antiquities Authority](#))

Archaeologists have uncovered a Ramesside-era tomb belonging to “Paser” on Luxor’s west bank. An Egyptian archaeological mission also discovered three New Kingdom rock-cut tombs at the Bubasteion Necropolis in Saqqara. Additionally, archaeologists found over



one thousand female figurines in Jerusalem; however, until recently, no corresponding mold had been identified in the city. Archaeologists discovered such a mold while sifting soil from the Kishle excavation site south of the Tower of David. ([BiblePlaces](#); [BiblePlaces](#))