



Global Watch Daily – August 16, 2026

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

Israel & Jerusalem

Sixty years ago this week, the United States first recognized the strategic benefits offered by the small nation of Israel. Recently, Israel's military reported striking "Hezbollah terror infrastructure" in retaliation for earlier attacks on its soldiers. These developments underscore Israel's ongoing security challenges in the region ([JNS](#); [BBC News](#); [Al Jazeera](#))

"Straight Up," the incisive JNS news show hosted by former director of Israel's Government Press Office Danny Seaman, offers sharp, unapologetic analysis on Israel and Middle East affairs. Israel's U.N. envoy has stated that recent inquiries reveal anti-Israel hostility is "not organic" but influenced by foreign efforts to sow division. Meanwhile, two families remain confined to their homes in the occupied West Bank amid ongoing tensions ([JNS](#); [BBC News](#))

Iran's proxy forces claimed responsibility for striking a ship carrying Saudi military equipment in the Red Sea, intensifying tensions amid ongoing hostilities between the United States and Iran. These actions contribute to the volatile security environment in the region ([BBC News](#); [Al Jazeera](#))

Wars & Security (Israel and Region)

China, Russia, Iran, and North Korea have moved beyond rhetorical alignment to actively coordinate efforts aimed at undermining American dominance in military, economic, and cyber domains. In a recent discussion, Bill Roggio of Generation Jihad interviewed Bradley Bowman, senior director of the Foundation for Defense of Democracies' Center on Military and Political Analysis, highlighting this axis of aggressors ([Long War Journal](#)).

The Houthis escalated hostilities in Yemen by launching drone and missile attacks on Yemeni forces and civilian infrastructure across three governorates on August 6. These assaults have intensified the civil conflict while the Iran-backed group simultaneously targets Saudi Arabia and maritime traffic in the Red Sea ([Long War Journal](#)).



General Esmail Qaani, commander of Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps-Qods Force, traveled to Iraq amid Baghdad's legislative efforts to place all weapons under state control. This visit coincides with ongoing Iranian drone and missile attacks on Kurdish opposition groups within Iraq, reflecting Tehran's persistent influence in the country's security dynamics ([Long War Journal](#)).

Jamal Kiyemba, a Ugandan national arrested in northwest Pakistan in 2002 for allegedly attempting to join Al Qaeda in Afghanistan, was detained at the U.S. Guantanamo Bay prison until his release in 2006 and subsequent transfer to Uganda. Since then, Kiyemba has been involved in ongoing security concerns related to extremist networks ([Long War Journal](#); [FDD](#)).

Iraq's economy remains heavily dependent on oil revenue, which accounts for over 90 percent of its budget. However, oil exports have dropped to roughly half of the pre-crisis level of 3.4 million barrels per day following Iran's closure of the Strait of Hormuz. The United Arab Emirates may offer alternative export routes to alleviate this pressure. Meanwhile, former President Donald Trump has indicated a shift toward "low-key" and "semi-negotiating" policies toward Iran, noting the regime's financial struggles in maintaining its military forces. Concurrently, the United States faces diminishing leverage in Somalia as frustrations with Mogadishu threaten African Union support and risk strengthening Al Shabaab. Renewed U.S. airstrikes in Mali against the jihadist group JNIM raise questions about the effectiveness of air power without complementary 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 methods to neutralize Russian missile launchers. In Sudan, the military's recapture of the Al Sadarat highway represents its most significant gain against the Rapid Support Forces in the ongoing civil war. However, the RSF's increasing reliance on tribal mobilization and the expanding role of foreign-backed drone warfare suggest a shift in the conflict's dynamics ([Long War Journal](#); [Long War Journal](#)).

Global Macro & Geopolitics

A market specializing in second-hand records, posters, toys, and tools suffered an attack injuring six individuals. China continues to extend its influence by persuading countries from Indonesia to Africa and Oceania to endorse its increasingly rigid interpretation of the One China principle. Dan Williams, Bloomberg's Middle East reporter, discussed on Bloomberg This Weekend how the expiration of the U.S.-Iran memorandum of



understanding is unlikely to trigger renewed full-scale conflict, as diplomatic efforts over the Strait of Hormuz persist despite repeated attacks ([BBC News](#); [The Diplomat](#); [Bloomberg](#)).

Israel's economy rebounded in the second quarter, recovering from a contraction caused by the military campaign against Iran. This economic recovery reflects resilience amid regional instability ([Bloomberg](#); [Bloomberg](#); [Reuters](#)).

AI Dominion, Deception & the Antichrist System

Biometric fundamentals and foundational ID are considerations at the very beginning of the identity lifecycle that are sometimes overlooked. If organizations handle them better, the rewards include more trustworthy service delivery and stronger defenses against fraud ([biometricupdate.com](#)).

Pestilence & Global Health

COVID-19 has been found to reactivate dormant viruses within the body, including Epstein-Barr virus, cytomegalovirus, and various herpes viruses. A previously poorly understood viral family shows a strong association with long COVID and persistent disability, offering important insight into why some patients experience prolonged symptoms. Researchers have identified a promising approach to potentially eliminate HIV shortly after infection using 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—demonstrated significant efficacy. Additionally, low arginine levels may enable cancer cells and viruses to evade the immune system by reducing production of a vital cellular warning protein. In mouse studies, arginine-rich diets resulted in fewer colon tumors and milder viral infections, suggesting that simple dietary supplementation could offer powerful therapeutic benefits ([ScienceDaily](#); [ScienceDaily](#); [ScienceDaily](#)).

Natural Disasters & Signs in the Heavens

The United States Geological Survey recorded a magnitude 1.5 earthquake near Susitna North, Alaska, and a magnitude 5.3 earthquake near Ruteng, Indonesia ([USGS](#); [USGS](#)).

Additionally, a magnitude 6.9 earthquake struck near Pematangsiantar, Indonesia. Meanwhile, a green forest fire notification was issued for Angola, indicating ongoing



environmental challenges ([USGS](#); [GDACS](#)).

Middle Eastern Artifacts

The Temple Mount Sifting Project has published research on reconstructing the temple courts' colorful geometric floor patterns, including new digital reconstructions of the Temple. The glass assemblage from Oboda spans approximately four centuries of production in the Eastern Mediterranean, from the Early Roman to early Byzantine periods, featuring forms characteristic of Palestine ([BiblePlaces](#); [Israel Antiquities Authority](#)).

Excavations in Oboda, located in the Negev Highlands, uncovered faunal remains from Roman and Early Byzantine contexts dating from the late third to early fifth centuries CE. Findings indicate that the site's economy during both periods relied significantly on animal husbandry. Archaeologists also discovered a Ramesside-era tomb belonging to "Paser" on Luxor's west bank. Furthermore, an Egyptian archaeological mission has uncovered three New Kingdom rock-cut tombs at the Bubasteion Necropolis in Saqqara, adding to the understanding of ancient Egyptian burial practices ([Israel Antiquities Authority](#); [BiblePlaces](#)).