



Global Watch Daily – August 18, 2026

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

Israel & Jerusalem

U.S. envoy Tom Barrack has expressed “deep concern” regarding a recent attack, although the Israel Defense Forces have not issued any comments on the incident. Jared Kushner, former President Donald Trump’s Middle East envoy and son-in-law, is actively working to secure Israeli support for the U.S.-backed Gaza peace plan. Additionally, a new program has been launched that allows young adults to live and study in Israel while earning an American-recognized Emergency Medical Technician certification ([JNS](#); [BBC News](#); [JNS](#)).

A vision for a confident and flourishing Israeli community emphasizes a commitment to Torah, economic responsibility, respect for those who protect the country, and a strong relationship with the state. The Israeli military reported striking “Hezbollah terror infrastructure” in retaliation for earlier attacks on its soldiers. Meanwhile, two families in the occupied West Bank have been confined to their homes for several days amid ongoing tensions ([JNS](#); [BBC News](#); [BBC News](#)).

Wars & Security (Israel and Region)

Kevin Rideout, an American missionary abducted by gunmen in Niamey, Niger, last October and held by the Islamic State, was released this week in Libya. Although details surrounding his release remain unclear, Rideout has publicly thanked Libyan officials for their assistance. Meanwhile, China, Russia, Iran, and North Korea are not only aligned in rhetoric but are actively coordinating efforts to undermine American military, economic, and cyber dominance, as discussed by Bradley Bowman of the Foundation for Defense of Democracies in an interview with Generation Jihad’s Bill Roggio. On August 6, the Iran-backed Houthi movement launched drone and missile attacks targeting Yemeni forces and civilian infrastructure across three governorates, escalating conflict in Yemen while simultaneously attacking Saudi Arabia and shipping in the Red Sea ([Long War Journal](#); [Long War Journal](#); [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 targeting Kurdish opposition groups in the region. Concurrently, U.S. envoy Jared Kushner met with Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu to discuss potential developments regarding the Gaza peace plan ([Long War Journal](#); [FDD](#)).

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 U.S. prison facility in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. After his release in 2006 and repatriation to Uganda, Kiyemba has remained under scrutiny due to ongoing concerns about his affiliations ([Long War Journal](#)).

The United States is losing influence in Somalia as increasing frustration with Mogadishu threatens critical African Union support and risks strengthening the Al Shabaab insurgency. In Mali, renewed U.S. airstrikes against the jihadist group JNIM raise questions about the effectiveness of air power alone without accompanying ground strategies or political reforms. Meanwhile, North Korea is reportedly sending up to 120 additional ballistic missiles to Ukraine as Kyiv seeks methods to destroy Russian missile launchers ([Long War Journal](#); [Long War Journal](#)).

Global Macro & Geopolitics

A significant global bond selloff has pushed the U.S. 10-year Treasury yield to its highest level since early 2025, driven by thin August trading and investor concerns over inflation, alongside a surge in corporate debt issuance. Canada is urgently negotiating with the Trump administration to reach an agreement before a looming midnight deadline that would otherwise impose a 50% tariff on billions of dollars of Canadian exports to the United States ([Bloomberg](#); [Bloomberg](#)).

Pestilence & Global Health

Research indicates that COVID-19 can reactivate dormant viruses within the body, including Epstein-Barr virus, cytomegalovirus, and several herpes viruses. A previously poorly understood viral family has been strongly linked to long COVID and persistent disability, providing a crucial insight into why some patients experience prolonged symptoms. In a promising development, scientists have discovered a novel approach to potentially eliminate HIV shortly after infection by administering a one-time combination



therapy. Tested in newborn nonhuman primates within three days of exposure, this regimen combines standard antiretroviral drugs with broadly neutralizing antibodies and additional agents, offering hope for early intervention strategies ([ScienceDaily](#); [ScienceDaily](#)).

Natural Disasters & Signs in the Heavens

The United States Geological Survey recorded a magnitude 1.0 earthquake near Cobb, California, and a magnitude 4.7 earthquake near Alhendín, Spain. Additionally, a magnitude 5.2 earthquake was registered near Otura, Spain. In Indonesia, a magnitude 4.7 earthquake occurred at a depth of 10.259 kilometers, affecting an estimated 860,000 people within a 100-kilometer radius ([USGS](#); [USGS](#); [USGS](#); [GDACS](#)).

Middle Eastern Artifacts

Archaeologists have uncovered a complete bath complex in Port Said that was in use for centuries, reflecting the region's rich historical heritage. Plans are underway to restore the ceremonial gateway to the ancient city of Persepolis. Excavations at the ancient city of Tralleis in Turkey revealed a mosaic-floored hall believed to date back nearly 2,000 years to the Roman Empire period; Lauren K. McCormick interviewed the lead excavator to discuss these findings ([BiblePlaces](#); [BiblePlaces](#)).

The glass assemblage from Oboda spans approximately four centuries of production in the Eastern Mediterranean, covering the Early Roman to early Byzantine periods. The collection includes forms characteristic of Palestine. Excavations in Oboda, located in the Negev Highlands, also uncovered faunal remains from Roman and Early Byzantine contexts dating from the late third to early fifth centuries CE. Analysis indicates that the local economy during both periods relied heavily on these resources ([Israel Antiquities Authority](#); [Israel Antiquities Authority](#)).