



Global Watch Daily – August 23, 2026

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

Israel & Jerusalem

Regional alliances are shifting, placing Israel's peace agreements with Egypt and Jordan under increasing strain. Despite these tensions, shared security, economic, and strategic interests continue to support ongoing cooperation among these nations. Jonathan Pollard has announced his candidacy for the Knesset on the slate of the newly formed Israel First Party, founded by former deputy foreign minister Sharon Haskel. Meanwhile, there has been a notable expansion of building and road construction on Palestinian land occupied by Israel in recent years ([JNS](#); [JNS](#); [BBC News](#)).

Seven World Central Kitchen workers were killed during an Israeli strike on their convoy in 2024, an incident that continues to draw attention and concern ([BBC News](#); [Al Jazeera](#); [Al Jazeera](#))

The film production company involved in a recent dispute stated, "We are, as always, troubled when antisemitic tropes are invoked in purported service of a business dispute." Meanwhile, thirty "pioneer families" have arrived amid a wave of nationalism driven by Israel's government, which has caused fear among nearby Palestinian residents ([JNS](#); [BBC News](#); [Al Jazeera](#))

Wars & Security (Israel and Region)

Jessica Bowie was arrested on August 19, accused of plotting to bomb the New York State Capitol in support of the Islamic State. Her arrest marks the fifth Islamic State-linked terrorism case or incident in the United States this year ([Long War Journal](#)).

Venezuela's recovery from the massive earthquakes of June 24 has become increasingly costly as the death toll rises and the extent of infrastructure damage becomes clearer. Reconstruction efforts are placing additional strain on an already fragile economy, although Caracas' oil sector has seen some growth ([Long War Journal](#)).



Five years after the fall of Kabul, Afghanistan's armed resistance continues to expand despite lacking territorial sanctuary, overt state sponsorship, and meaningful international assistance. While it does not pose an existential threat to Taliban rule, its persistence challenges the regime's stability ([Long War Journal](#)).

Twenty-five years after 9/11, analysts remain divided over whether Al Qaeda is a spent force or a resurgent threat. Bill Roggio and Will Selber of Generation Jihad discuss this uncertainty with Graeme Wood, staff writer at The Atlantic, analyzing the group's complex legacy ([Long War Journal](#)).

The United Arab Emirates is taking steps to economically constrain Iran but has left a significant source of regime revenue untouched. Following high-level discussions on August 18, the UAE's approach to sanctions enforcement remains cautious ([FDD](#)).

Iraq's new prime minister, Ali al-Zaidi, appears intent on reining in Iranian-backed militias that have contributed to terror and disunity within the country. However, recent arrests suggest limits to his authority, as Tehran's proxies continue to operate with impunity ([FDD](#)).

On August 19, the FBI's Joint Terrorism Task Force arrested Jessica Bowie, 35, of Albany, New York, after she allegedly took possession of what she believed was an explosive device intended for an attack on the New York State Capitol. The Chatham House Prize was recently awarded to the women of Afghanistan for their significant contributions to improving international relations ([FDD](#); [Chatham House](#)).

Israeli airstrikes targeted Syria's Abu al Duhur military airbase overnight between August 17 and 18, underscoring rising tensions between Israel and Turkey over Ankara's expanding role in Syria. Syria condemned the strikes, while the United States continued efforts to de-escalate the situation. Additionally, Russia is reportedly supplying explosives, drone components, and other military goods to Iran, aiding the Islamic Republic in replenishing its arsenals for potential future conflicts with the United States and Israel ([Long War Journal](#); [Long War Journal](#)).

Global Macro & Geopolitics

Mediators representing the Rwanda-backed Armed Forces of the Congo and the M23 armed group, along with the Democratic Republic of Congo, issued a joint statement on Sunday agreeing on a roadmap for peace talks. Both parties emphasized the importance of a standardized method for reporting allegations of violations ([France24](#)).



Chrystia Freeland indicated that a tentative US-Canada trade agreement may prevent new US tariffs from taking effect. However, this depends on Canada making significant concessions, including easing retaliation measures, allowing US alcohol back into provincial stores, and aligning with Washington on certain digital trade issues. Existing US trade policies remain a point of tension ([Bloomberg](#)).

China's economic growth fell further below Beijing's annual target of 4.5% to 5% at the start of the third quarter, according to Goldman Sachs. This slowdown has increased expectations for monetary easing to stimulate the economy ([Bloomberg](#)).

Norway announced plans to maintain its aid to Ukraine at 85 billion kroner (approximately \$9.1 billion) in 2027. Most of this funding is expected to support Ukraine's military, although the precise allocation will be disclosed later ([Bloomberg](#); [AP News](#)).

AI Dominion, Deception & the Antichrist System

Malaysia's government is considering making a bid to buy out Datasonic Technologies, maker of national digital ID cards My Kad and the country's biometric passports, from parent company Nex G. Nex G said on Thursday that the government has inquired about a price to acquire Datasonic, The Edge Malaysia reports ([biometricupdate.com](#)).

Pestilence & Global Health

Artificial intelligence may soon predict an individual's response strength to vaccines before administration. By analyzing antibody patterns in over 4,000 people, researchers identified markers of "immune readiness" that distinguish strong responders from weaker ones. Unexpectedly, even subtle immune signatures proved significant ([ScienceDaily](#)).

COVID-19 has been found to reactivate dormant viruses within the body, including Epstein-Barr virus, cytomegalovirus, and several herpes viruses. One poorly understood viral family showed a strong association with long COVID and lasting disability, providing an important clue to why some patients experience prolonged symptoms ([ScienceDaily](#)).

Researchers have discovered a promising new approach to potentially eliminate HIV shortly after infection using a one-time combination of three therapies. In newborn nonhuman primates treated within three days of exposure, the regimen—which includes standard antiretroviral drugs, broadly neutralizing antibodies, and additional agents—showed significant efficacy ([ScienceDaily](#)).



Natural Disasters & Signs in the Heavens

The United States Geological Survey recorded a magnitude 1.5 earthquake near Warner Springs, California, and a magnitude 5.8 earthquake near Toride, Japan ([USGS](#); [USGS](#)).

Additionally, USGS reported a magnitude 3.9 earthquake near Hope, Alaska. Meanwhile, a green forest fire notification was issued in Brazil ([USGS](#); [GDACS](#)).

Middle Eastern Artifacts

In February 2001, a salvage excavation was conducted at the site of Bet Ha-Gaddi (Permit No. A-3370/2001; map reference 16334/59220) after infrastructure works damaged antiquities. Another excavation (Permit No. A-3508/2001; map reference 18584/58707) was undertaken on behalf of the Israel Antiquities Authority and funded by the Jewish community ([Israel Antiquities Authority](#); [Israel Antiquities Authority](#)).

Recent excavations in the Winter Stadium parking lot in Ramat Gan uncovered a 1,300-year-old industrial and commercial complex. Moshe Gilad has written about a new exhibit concerning Huqoq and the findings. Additionally, Jerusalem Seminary announced the completion of a merger between the University of the Holy Land and Jerusalem Seminary, which will continue under the Jerusalem Seminary name. The University of the Holy Land was a significant institution in the region ([BiblePlaces](#); [BiblePlaces](#)).