



Global Watch Daily – August 24, 2026

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

Israel & Jerusalem

The Heritage Ministry, collaborating with oceanographic researchers, located the sunken Irgun vessel intact at a depth of 1,650 feet. This unauthorized event, organized by unknown parties, is scheduled to coincide with the 129th anniversary of Herzl's first Zionist Congress. This discovery follows reports that Israel recently struck a military airbase near the Turkish border ([JNS](#); [JNS](#); [BBC News](#)).

There has been a marked increase in building and road construction on Palestinian land occupied by Israel in recent years. In 2024, an Israeli strike on a convoy resulted in the deaths of seven World Central Kitchen workers. Meanwhile, thirty “pioneer families” have arrived, driven by a wave of nationalism promoted by Israel's government. This rapid transformation has caused apprehension among nearby Palestinian residents ([BBC News](#); [BBC News](#); [BBC News](#)).

Wars & Security (Israel and Region)

The Taliban achieved significant victories with the surrender of dissident commander Juma Khan Fateh and the death of senior National Resistance Front commander Hasib Panjshiri, as Afghanistan's armed resistance strives to gain momentum. In the United States, Jessica Bowie was arrested on August 19, accused of plotting to bomb the New York State Capitol; this marks the fifth Islamic State-linked terrorism case or incident in the country this year. Venezuela's recovery from the devastating earthquakes on June 24 has become increasingly costly, with rising death tolls, extensive infrastructure damage, and reconstruction efforts straining an already fragile economy. Nevertheless, Caracas's oil sector has shown signs of resilience ([Long War Journal](#); [Long War Journal](#); [Long War Journal](#)).

Five years after Kabul's fall, Afghanistan's armed resistance continues to expand despite lacking territorial sanctuary, overt state sponsorship, and meaningful international assistance. Although it does not yet pose an existential threat to Taliban rule, its



persistence challenges the regime's stability ([Long War Journal](#)).

The 2026 Chatham House Prize was awarded to the women of Afghanistan, recognizing their significant contributions to improving international relations amid ongoing challenges ([Chatham House](#)).

Twenty-five years after 9/11, analysts remain divided on whether Al Qaeda is a spent force or a resurgent threat. Generation Jihad's Bill Roggio and co-host Will Selber interviewed Graeme Wood, staff writer at The Atlantic, to discuss his recent article examining the group's uncertain legacy. Meanwhile, Israeli airstrikes targeted Syria's Abu al Duhur military airbase overnight between August 17 and 18, intensifying 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 ([Long War Journal](#); [Long War Journal](#)).

Global Macro & Geopolitics

Canada's leader adopted a rare firm stance opposing President Trump's latest tariffs, highlighting growing tensions between the two nations. The upcoming U.S. midterm elections and ongoing conflict involving Iran are intensifying conflicts between Trump's economic and military objectives. Recent developments in Riyadh and Abu Dhabi provide insight into Gulf officials' perspectives on their stock markets amid fresh Iran-related sanctions ([Bloomberg](#); [Bloomberg](#); [Bloomberg](#)).

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

Researchers found that artificial intelligence can predict an individual's strength of response to vaccines before administration by analyzing antibody patterns from over 4,000 subjects. This analysis revealed markers of "immune readiness" that distinguish strong responders from weak ones. Additionally, COVID-19 has been shown to reactivate dormant viruses within the body, including Epstein-Barr virus, cytomegalovirus, and



several herpes viruses. One poorly understood viral family was strongly linked to long COVID and persistent disability, offering important insights into why some patients experience prolonged symptoms. In a breakthrough for HIV treatment, scientists demonstrated a promising approach to potentially eliminate the virus soon after infection using a one-time combination of three therapies. In newborn nonhuman primates treated within three days of exposure, this regimen—which includes standard antiretroviral drugs, broadly neutralizing antibodies, and additional agents—showed significant efficacy ([ScienceDaily](#); [ScienceDaily](#); [ScienceDaily](#)).

Natural Disasters & Signs in the Heavens

The United States Geological Survey recorded a magnitude 1.7 earthquake near The Geysers in California and a magnitude 4.9 earthquake near Cot, Costa Rica ([USGS](#); [USGS](#)).

USGS also reported a magnitude 3.9 earthquake near Hope, Alaska. Meanwhile, a green forest fire alert was issued in the Russian Federation ([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](#)).

Archaeologists are excavating a Roman-era street at Troy. On a Turkish hillside overlooking the olive-covered slopes outside Izmir lies a cave known to generations of locals as the place where Homer composed “The Odyssey.” Additionally, recent excavations in the Winter Stadium parking lot in Ramat Gan uncovered a 1,300-year-old industrial and commercial complex. Moshe Gilad discusses a new exhibit about Huqoq and these significant findings ([BiblePlaces](#); [BiblePlaces](#)).