



Global Watch Daily – August 26, 2026

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

Israel & Jerusalem

If Arab political parties do not recognize Israel as a Jewish state, they will be prohibited from running for the Knesset, stated Mansour Abbas. An interim report on last year's Bondi Beach mass shooting recommended enhanced security measures at Jewish public events and called for further gun control reforms. Israel has completed the closure of the last Palestinian refugee agency facility in a sector of Jerusalem, following the passage of legislation banning its operation there ([JNS](#); [JNS](#); [BBC News](#)).

Zvi Sukkot's recent actions have drawn widespread condemnation, including from Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. The United Nations Secretary-General criticized Israel's construction at the contested site as "wholly unacceptable" and inconsistent with Israel's obligations under international law ([BBC News](#); [JNS](#)).

Prime Minister Netanyahu forecasted a significant wave of aliyah and pledged to eliminate remaining threats posed by Iran and its regional proxies ([JNS](#)).

Wars & Security (Israel and Region)

The Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces announced their dissolution as the United States seeks to advance security discussions between Syria and Israel. The U.S. also rescinded Syria's designation as a state sponsor of terrorism. In Afghanistan, the Taliban secured notable victories with the surrender of dissident commander Juma Khan Fateh and the killing of senior National Resistance Front leader Hasib Panjshiri, even as the armed resistance continues to build momentum ([Long War Journal](#); [Long War Journal](#); [Long War Journal](#)).

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



The U.S. unveiled a comprehensive new economic sanctions package against Iran, aiming to exert pressure without alienating the Iranian populace, considered the regime's primary existential threat. Secretary Bessent outlined this approach, emphasizing a broad range of options to counter Iran's influence. Meanwhile, Chatham House awarded its 2026 Prize to the women of Afghanistan for their significant contributions to improving international relations ([FDD](#); [FDD](#); [Chatham House](#)).

Venezuela's recovery from the twin earthquakes of June 24 has become increasingly costly as the death toll rises and infrastructure damage becomes clearer, placing additional strain on the fragile economy. Despite these challenges, Caracas' oil sector has seen a surge in sales. In Afghanistan, five years after Kabul's fall, the armed resistance continues to expand despite lacking territorial sanctuary, overt state sponsorship, or significant international support. While not an existential threat to Taliban rule, the resistance's persistence remains a challenge ([Long War Journal](#); [Long War Journal](#)).

Global Macro & Geopolitics

Eswatini remains one of only twelve countries worldwide—and the sole African nation—to maintain diplomatic relations with Taiwan. In Brazil, annual inflation slowed to within the central bank's tolerance range in early August, giving policymakers more flexibility as they consider extending monetary easing. Shortly after Toronto markets opened on Monday, former U.S. President Donald Trump announced via social media his intention to double tariffs on Canada's automotive sector, followed by a series of disparaging remarks targeting the United States' northern neighbor ([BBC News](#); [Bloomberg](#); [Bloomberg](#)).

Reuters also reports additional geopolitical developments and analyses ([Reuters](#)).

AI Dominion, Deception & the Antichrist System

Around 2017, individuals began to truly connect with the first wave of companion robots. These devices had personality, moved around, joked, and answered when you spoke to them ([IEEE Spectrum](#)).

Pestilence & Global Health

A study involving over 500,000 older adults found that those vaccinated with Shingrix, the shingles vaccine, were 24% less likely to be diagnosed with dementia over four years. Researchers estimate that approximately one case of dementia could be prevented for



every 17 individuals vaccinated. In Australia, backyard bird feeders have emerged as potential hotspots for the spread of H5N1 avian influenza, as they congregate species in unnatural ways. Experts recommend ceasing bird feeding as the safest measure, while smaller food quantities, avoidance of hand-feeding, and thorough cleaning can mitigate risks. Artificial intelligence has shown promise in predicting individual vaccine responsiveness by analyzing antibody patterns in over 4,000 subjects, identifying markers of “immune readiness” that differentiate strong from weak responders ([ScienceDaily](#); [ScienceDaily](#); [ScienceDaily](#)).

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, offering a critical clue to the prolonged symptoms experienced by some patients. Additionally, researchers have developed a one-time combination therapy that may potentially eliminate HIV shortly after infection. In newborn nonhuman primates treated within three days of exposure, this regimen—comprising standard antiretroviral drugs, broadly neutralizing antibodies, and other agents—showed promising results ([ScienceDaily](#); [ScienceDaily](#)).

Natural Disasters & Signs in the Heavens

The United States Geological Survey recorded a magnitude 1.3 earthquake near The Geysers in California and a magnitude 4.6 earthquake near Basco in the Philippines ([USGS](#); [USGS](#)).

Additionally, a magnitude 5.8 earthquake was recorded near Toride, Japan. Brazil has issued a green forest fire notification in response to ongoing wildfire activity ([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](#)).

Excavations at Troy have uncovered a Roman-era street. On a Turkish hillside overlooking the olive-covered slopes outside Izmir lies a cave long known to locals as the place where



Homer composed “The Odyssey.” Additionally, a 1,300-year-old industrial and commercial complex was recently uncovered during excavations at the Winter Stadium parking lot in Ramat Gan. Moshe Gilad has written about a new exhibit focused on Huqoq and the region’s archaeological heritage ([BiblePlaces](#); [BiblePlaces](#)).