



## Global Watch Daily – August 29, 2026

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

### **Israel & Jerusalem**

Lucy Williamson of the BBC reports a surge in settler attacks against Palestinians over the past week. Within U.S. politics, Democrats are urging their Michigan Senate candidate to distance himself from a podcaster known for antisemitic rhetoric, reflecting a broader acceptance of such views on the political left. Former hostage Damari, after 15 months in captivity, recently married his partner Dani Amit in a ceremony attended by other ex-hostages ([BBC News](#); [JNS](#); [BBC News](#)).

Nickolay Mladenov has warned that the collapse of last October's ceasefire would mark a "point of no return" for the region, underscoring the fragile security situation ([BBC News](#); [Al Jazeera](#)).

### **Wars & Security (Israel and Region)**

Iraq's initiative to disarm Iranian-backed militias is encountering increasing political resistance, as some factions aim to delay or avoid the September deadline. Washington continues to press Baghdad to consolidate all weapons under state control. Meanwhile, the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces have announced their dissolution, coinciding with U.S. efforts to advance security discussions between Syria and Israel. Additionally, the United States has rescinded Syria's designation as a state sponsor of terrorism ([Long War Journal](#); [Long War Journal](#); [Long War Journal](#)).

The Taliban achieved notable victories with the surrender of dissident commander Juma Khan Fateh and the death of senior National Resistance Front leader Hasib Panjshiri, as Afghanistan's armed resistance strives to gain momentum. CIA Director John Ratcliffe's recent visit to Moscow coincides with U.S. intelligence warnings that Russian President Vladimir Putin may escalate tensions, testing the resolve of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization ([Long War Journal](#); [FDD](#)).

Iran remains trapped in a no-war, no-peace stalemate, but economic pressures may soon create an opportunity for Washington. Gas stations across Iran face long queues and



frequent closures, reflecting ongoing fuel shortages. In the United States, Jessica Bowie was arrested on August 19 for allegedly plotting to bomb the New York State Capitol, marking the fifth Islamic State-linked terrorism case this year ([FDD](#); [Long War Journal](#)).

Venezuela's recovery from the massive earthquakes of June 24 has become increasingly difficult as the death toll rises and infrastructure damage becomes clearer, placing additional strain on the fragile economy. However, the country's oil sector is showing signs of resurgence. Meanwhile, five years after Kabul's fall, Afghanistan's armed resistance continues to expand despite lacking territorial sanctuary, overt state sponsorship, or significant international support. Though it does not yet threaten Taliban rule existentially, its persistence remains a challenge ([Long War Journal](#); [Long War Journal](#)).

## **Global Macro & Geopolitics**

An investigation has been initiated concerning the storage of weapons near a residential area. Federal Reserve Chair Kevin Warsh indicated the central bank is ready to intervene if inflation does not clearly and rapidly approach the 2% target, while characterizing the broader U.S. economy as strong. On Bloomberg This Weekend, Kevin Gordon, head of macro research and strategy at the Schwab Center, provided analysis of these developments. The abrupt collapse of trade talks between the United States and Canada has sharply escalated tensions, prompting President Donald Trump to order the renaming of Lake Ontario on U.S. maps to "Lake America" ([BBC News](#); [Bloomberg](#); [Bloomberg](#)).

Six months into the conflict that President Trump predicted would last "four to five weeks," Republican strategists express concern that the ongoing war with Iran will damage the party's prospects in the November midterm elections ([Bloomberg](#); [Bloomberg](#); [AP News](#)).

Additional coverage is available from Reuters and The Washington Stand ([Reuters](#); [The Washington Stand](#)).

## **AI Dominion, Deception & the Antichrist System**

Post-quantum cryptography is beginning to spread across the digital identity stack, with vendors adding quantum-resistant protection to mobile credentials, PKI, secure hardware and developer platforms. Fobi artificial intelligence, WISe Key, and Atsign announced updates this week that illustrate how different parts of the digital identity ecosystem are preparing for the transition ([biometricupdate.com](#)).



## **Pestilence & Global Health**

A study involving over 500,000 older adults found that those vaccinated with the Shingrix shingles vaccine were 24% less likely to develop dementia over four years. Researchers estimate that approximately one case of dementia may be prevented for every 17 individuals vaccinated. In Australia, backyard bird feeders are emerging as potential hotspots for H5N1 avian influenza transmission, as the outbreak spreads and brings together species that rarely interact naturally. Experts recommend ceasing feeding, or at minimum reducing food amounts, avoiding hand-feeding, and maintaining careful hygiene to mitigate risk. Artificial intelligence has shown promise in predicting individual vaccine responsiveness by analyzing antibody patterns in over 4,000 people, identifying markers of “immune readiness” that distinguish strong from weak responders ([ScienceDaily](#); [ScienceDaily](#); [ScienceDaily](#)).

COVID-19 has been found to reactivate dormant viruses within the body, including Epstein-Barr virus, cytomegalovirus, and various herpesviruses. A poorly understood viral family has been strongly linked to long COVID and persistent disability, offering a potential clue to the prolonged symptoms experienced by some patients ([ScienceDaily](#)).

## **Natural Disasters & Signs in the Heavens**

The United States Geological Survey recorded a magnitude 3.9 earthquake near Happy Valley, Alaska, and a magnitude 4.8 earthquake near Petrolia, California ([USGS](#); [USGS](#)).

Green alerts have been issued for forest fires in the Russian Federation and floods in Poland ([GDACS](#); [GDACS](#)).

## **Middle Eastern Artifacts**

Visitors to biblical sites will benefit from reliable guidebooks. Recommended resources include Jerome Murphy-O'Connor's *The Holy Land* and Clyde E. Fant and Mitchell G. Reddish's *A Guide*. Archaeologists are currently excavating a Roman-era street at Troy. Additionally, a cave on a Turkish hillside overlooking the olive-covered slopes outside Izmir is traditionally known as the place where Homer composed *The Odyssey* ([BiblePlaces](#); [BiblePlaces](#)).

In February 2001, salvage excavations were conducted at the site of Bet Ha-Gaddi (Permit No. A-3370/2001; map reference 16334/59220) following damage caused by infrastructure works. 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](#)).