



Global Watch Daily – August 31, 2026

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

Israel & Jerusalem

Israel and Greece have finalized an arms agreement representing the largest military export sale ever between Jerusalem and Athens, valued at \$3.5 billion. This pact, known as the Achilles Shield defense agreement, marks a significant step up in bilateral security cooperation ([JNS](#)). In the Palestinian village of Umm Al-Kheir, Finn Joughin, a 22-year-old student activist, was arrested amid ongoing tensions in the area ([BBC News](#); [Al Jazeera](#)).

Temple Sinai in Summerlin offers tuition-free religious education for students from kindergarten through 12th grade, emphasizing hands-on Jewish learning centered on values, traditions, Hebrew language, Israel, and community engagement ([JNS](#)). The Israeli Education Ministry is responding to enrollment growth in the Gaza border region following the events of October 7 by introducing financial studies and expanding science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and artificial intelligence curricula ([JNS](#)). Meanwhile, BBC correspondent Lucy Williamson reports an increase in settler attacks on Palestinians over the past week, highlighting ongoing tensions in the region ([BBC News](#)).

Wars & Security (Israel and Region)

Iraq's initiative to disarm Iranian-backed militias faces mounting political opposition, with some factions attempting to delay or circumvent the September deadline. This resistance complicates Washington's ongoing efforts to consolidate all armed groups under state control ([Long War Journal](#)). The Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces have announced their dissolution, a development occurring amid U.S. attempts to facilitate security discussions between Syria and Israel ([Long War Journal](#)). Additionally, the United States has rescinded Syria's designation as a state sponsor of terrorism, signaling a shift in diplomatic posture ([Long War Journal](#)).

CIA Director John Ratcliffe's visit to Moscow coincides with U.S. intelligence warnings that Russian President Vladimir Putin may be preparing to escalate tensions. Analysts suggest Putin is testing the resolve of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, anticipating a



Western retreat under pressure ([FDD](#)).

Iran remains trapped in a no-war, no-peace status, but economic pressures are mounting. Long lines at gas stations reflect fuel shortages, with many stations closing unexpectedly. These hardships may create openings for Washington to influence Tehran's policies ([FDD](#)). In Afghanistan, the Taliban have secured notable victories by forcing the surrender of dissident commander Juma Khan Fateh and killing senior National Resistance Front leader Hasib Panjshiri, even as the armed resistance continues to build momentum ([Long War Journal](#)). In the United States, Jessica Bowie was arrested on August 19 for allegedly plotting to bomb the New York State Capitol in support of the Islamic State, marking the fifth such terrorism-related case this year ([Long War Journal](#)).

Venezuela's recovery from the twin earthquakes on June 24 is proving increasingly difficult. The death toll continues to rise, infrastructure damage is extensive, and reconstruction efforts strain the fragile economy. Nevertheless, Caracas's oil sector has seen a surge in sales, offering some economic relief ([Long War Journal](#)). Five years after Kabul's fall, Afghanistan's armed resistance persists despite lacking territorial bases, overt state sponsorship, or significant international support. While not an existential threat to Taliban control, the resistance challenges the regime's stability ([Long War Journal](#)).

Global Macro & Geopolitics

Gas tankers are notably avoiding transit through the Strait of Hormuz, even as crude oil carriers resume passage. This selective movement keeps liquefied natural gas prices near wartime highs, reflecting ongoing supply constraints. The Federal Reserve chairman has framed the upcoming September policy meeting as a critical juncture for monetary strategy ([Bloomberg](#); [Bloomberg](#); [Bloomberg](#)).

Additional coverage from AP News highlights ongoing global economic and geopolitical pressures, including challenges related to sovereign debt, trade disruptions, and migration flows ([AP News](#)).

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 year-long study found that omega-3 fatty acids combined with low-dose aspirin matched the effectiveness of antibiotics in treating severe gum disease, with approximately 58% of patients in both groups reaching treatment goals. This unexpected result suggests alternative therapies may reduce reliance on antibiotics ([ScienceDaily](https://www.sciencedaily.com)). Research involving over 500,000 older adults demonstrated that recipients of the Shingrix shingles vaccine were 24% less likely to develop dementia over four years, estimating that vaccinating 17 individuals could prevent one case of dementia ([ScienceDaily](https://www.sciencedaily.com)). In Australia, backyard bird feeders have become potential hotspots for the spread of H5N1 avian influenza, as they bring together species that rarely interact naturally. Experts recommend ceasing feeding, or at minimum reducing food quantities, avoiding hand-feeding, and maintaining rigorous cleaning to mitigate transmission risks ([ScienceDaily](https://www.sciencedaily.com)).

Artificial intelligence has shown potential to predict individual vaccine responsiveness by analyzing antibody patterns in over 4,000 subjects. Researchers identified markers of “immune readiness” that distinguished strong responders from weaker ones, offering prospects for personalized vaccination strategies ([ScienceDaily](https://www.sciencedaily.com)).

Natural Disasters & Signs in the Heavens

The United States Geological Survey recorded a magnitude 0.8 earthquake near Milford, Utah, and a magnitude 5.5 earthquake near Ruteng, Indonesia, reflecting ongoing seismic activity in both regions ([USGS](https://www.usgs.gov); [USGS](https://www.usgs.gov)).

Green forest fire alerts have been issued for Brazil and Mozambique, indicating active wildfire conditions in these areas ([GDACS](https://www.gdacs.org); [GDACS](https://www.gdacs.org)).

Middle Eastern Artifacts

Archaeologists uncovered a burial cave dating to the Second Temple period beneath a building in Jerusalem’s Silwan neighborhood. All Israel News has summarized evidence supporting the identification of el-Araj as biblical Bethsaida, incorporating recent archaeological findings ([BiblePlaces](https://www.bibleplaces.com)). For visitors to biblical sites, authoritative guidebooks remain invaluable; recommended resources include Jerome Murphy-O’Connor’s *The Holy Land* and Clyde E. Fant and Mitchell G. Reddish’s *A Guide* ([BiblePlaces](https://www.bibleplaces.com)).



In February 2001, salvage excavations were conducted at Bet Ha-Gaddi (Permit No. A-3370/2001; map ref. 16334/59220) following damage caused by infrastructure work. Additional excavations (Permit No. A-3508/2001; map ref. 18584/58707) were undertaken on behalf of the Israel Antiquities Authority and funded by the Jewish community, contributing valuable insights into the region's archaeological record ([Israel Antiquities Authority](#); [Israel Antiquities Authority](#)).