



Global Watch Daily – September 13, 2026

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

Israel & Jerusalem

The Iran-backed Houthis have reportedly seized Perim Island, a strategic position along a major shipping route, marking a significant gain in their regional influence. While Hezbollah has experienced setbacks, the Houthis are growing more confident, militias in Iraq face increasing pressure, and pro-Iranian cells are attempting to reestablish a presence in Syria. Concurrently, tensions between Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad have become openly visible. Tehran is actively working to rebuild its proxy network in the region ([BBC News](#); [Al Jazeera](#); [JNS](#))

The rebels' capture of a stretch of Yemen's strategic coastline represents their most significant military achievement in several years. A powerful blast accompanying this action registered as a magnitude 4.1 earthquake, according to the US Geological Survey, underscoring the intensity of the conflict in the region ([BBC News](#); [BBC News](#); [Al Jazeera](#))

Wars & Security (Israel and Region)

Israeli Army Radio reported that Israeli troops withdrew from a contested ridge, reflecting the ongoing challenges on the ground where progress remains closely linked to Hamas's disarmament and Israel's political developments. The Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF) announced that operations in three pilot zones in southern Lebanon have achieved "operational control." Their first detailed official report on arms seizures revealed that approximately 86 percent of the 1,818 weapons and ammunition items confiscated were classified as "light" arms ([Long War Journal](#); [Long War Journal](#); [Long War Journal](#))

Analysis of America's munitions crisis highlights the origins, consequences, and necessary steps to rebuild the defense industrial base and production capacity to meet current and future demands. The discussion emphasizes the urgency of expanding munitions arsenals to sustain military readiness ([Long War Journal](#)).

Former U.S. Ambassador to Afghanistan Zalmay Khalilzad recently met with senior Taliban officials and attended the signing of a major oil and gas agreement with a Saudi company.



This occurred despite the U.S. State Department's assertion that Khalilzad was acting solely in a personal capacity, raising questions about the implications of his involvement in Afghanistan's energy sector ([Long War Journal](#)).

The Lebanese Armed Forces are intensifying their deployment in Nabatieh, southern Lebanon, while reinforcing positions in Zawtar al Gharbiyeh, one of the pilot zones under the June 26 Trilateral Framework involving the United States, Israel, and Lebanon. Meanwhile, authorities in Kuwait, Israel, Turkey, and France have disrupted suspected Islamic State plots and arrested sympathizers over the past month. These incidents demonstrate the jihadist group's persistent ability to recruit and radicalize individuals despite more than a decade of sustained counterterrorism efforts ([Long War Journal](#); [Long War Journal](#)).

Global Macro & Geopolitics

BRICS members have agreed on the need to establish a new global order, yet significant challenges remain over what should replace the current system and how to achieve it. Smaller member states value the forum, dominated by China, India, and Russia, as a platform that lets them participate without becoming subordinate to any single major power ([BBC News](#); [The Diplomat](#)).

AI Dominion, Deception & the Antichrist System

The goal is to simplify agentic payment transactions for service providers, agent platforms, and marketplaces while maintaining robust guardrails. Common trust signals can be recognized across the ecosystem, reducing integration complexity and duplicative agent identity-verification efforts, leading to faster time-to-market and lower integration costs without sacrificing trust. Tan wants smaller, American open-weight artificial intelligence labs to use the same kind of training techniques as American frontier artificial intelligence labs, giving the U.S. a more robust set of open-weight options that aren't Chinese ([biometricupdate.com](#); [TechCrunch](#)).

Stephen Aarons said he tried to use ChatGPT to create a 'bulletproof summary' during a murder conviction appeal ([The Guardian](#)).

U.S.-based KPMG LLP has taken a minority stake in deepfake detection developer Reality Defender and plans to integrate its fraud-protecting technology into its business services. The companies did not disclose the dollar amount invested or how much equity is



changing hands. The number of independent testing laboratories qualified to help biometrics vendors and enterprises with standards-based assessments is also increasing. A weeklong summer workshop brought higher education faculty to campus to explore how artificial intelligence and machine learning materials can be adapted for their classrooms (biometricupdate.com; [MIT News](https://news.mit.edu)).

Unico has announced it signed a definitive agreement to acquire Valida, “an Argentine biometric identity verification platform with an established presence in the country’s banking sector.” Unico is pursuing consolidation across Latin America, building on flagship operations in Brazil and Mexico as well as a strong client base in other countries throughout the region. The firm outlines its “hypergrowth strategy,” of which the Valida acquisition is one. For about two years now, leaders in the UK have been promising that, soon, people will be able to use a digital ID to prove their age when buying alcohol. In late 2024, Peter Kyle, the Technology Secretary at the time, proclaimed that, “by next Christmas, you won’t need to carry a wallet or risk losing important documents when heading out to celebrate.” Almost two years later, the UK changed the Mandatory Licensing Conditions for alcohol sales. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (Department of Homeland Security) has launched a government-wide procurement that could standardize how federal agencies capture fingerprints, faces, irises and palmprints for years to come (biometricupdate.com).

As Chinese electric car sales slow and share prices tumble, several of the automakers are ramping up humanoid robotics development. Ant-backed startup Joy In’s CEO published a Chinese article that raised questions about similarities between his company’s new model and OpenAI’s artificial intelligence publications. America’s housing market is short on inventory and workers, pressuring home affordability. Construction robots are a reality, but to date, not humanoid homebuilders ([cnbc.com](https://www.cnbc.com)).

Pestilence & Global Health

Long-lived bats exhibit a combination of powerful immune defenses and unique mechanisms for eliminating damaged cells, which may help them avoid cancer and disease for decades. Researchers hope to uncover genetic insights from bats that could inform new strategies to protect human health as we age. Additionally, GLP-1 drugs have been associated with about 20% fewer chronic obstructive pulmonary disease flare-ups, suggesting respiratory benefits beyond their established effects on diabetes and obesity. Research has also identified previously unrecognized bacterial groups linked to aging and colorectal cancer ([ScienceDaily](https://www.sciencedaily.com); [ScienceDaily](https://www.sciencedaily.com); [ScienceDaily](https://www.sciencedaily.com)).



Pterostilbene has been shown to reduce abnormal fat accumulation in cultured mouse muscle cells by enhancing fat breakdown and supporting cellular health. A year-long study comparing omega-3 supplements and low-dose aspirin found both approaches matched the effectiveness of antibiotics in treating severe gum disease, with approximately 58% of patients reaching treatment goals. These findings suggest potential new treatment avenues that could reduce reliance on antibiotics ([ScienceDaily](#); [ScienceDaily](#)).

Natural Disasters & Signs in the Heavens

The US Geological Survey recorded a magnitude 0.5 earthquake near Ocotillo Wells, California, and a magnitude 4.7 earthquake near Mutsu, Japan ([USGS](#); [USGS](#)).

The USGS recorded a magnitude 6.5 earthquake near Teluknaga, Indonesia. Additionally, Australia issued a green forest fire alert ([USGS](#); [GDACS](#)).

Middle Eastern Artifacts

By נראפ ושמש-רינ, Published on 09/07/26. By סייר גשיבא, Published on 09/07/26 ([Israel Antiquities Authority](#); [Israel Antiquities Authority](#)).

Archaeologists excavating the agora at Smyrna uncovered three rooms adorned with wall paintings and mosaics. In northern Iraq, nearly 180 years of archaeological focus on Nimrud's palaces and temples continues to yield insights. Excavations at the ancient city of Adramytteion in western Türkiye revealed a rare and personal glimpse into Roman domestic life: a mosaic from a 2nd-3rd-century AD villa depicting a cat and a dog ([BiblePlaces](#); [BiblePlaces](#)).