



Global Watch Daily – September 15, 2026

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

Israel & Jerusalem

Israel's ambassador to the United Nations in Geneva criticized the UN for commemorating the Durban conference, stating that it perpetuates the practice of singling out Israel, which he described as a standard part of the UN's approach. France requested a briefing following the Iran-backed Houthi group's seizure of control over the Bab al-Mandeb Strait, a critical maritime chokepoint. Meanwhile, Israel's National Security Minister condemned the political slate led by retired General Yair Golan, labeling it as "an antisemitic, anti-Israel party." ([JNS](#); [JNS](#); [JNS](#))

Wars & Security (Israel and Region)

Following a major offensive launched on August 6, the Houthi forces have captured Yemen's entire Red Sea coastline and a strategic island in the Bab al-Mandeb Strait as of September 11. The internationally recognized Yemeni Armed Forces have initiated a counteroperation to regain control. In response to drone attacks originating from Iraq, Saudi Arabia closed its East-West Crude Oil Pipeline, a vital export route alternative to the Persian Gulf after the Strait of Hormuz was closed. Israeli Army Radio reported that Israeli troops subsequently withdrew from a contested ridge. ([Long War Journal](#); [Long War Journal](#); [Long War Journal](#))

Progress on the ground remains contingent upon the disarmament of Hamas and political developments within Israel. Discussions on international stabilization forces for Gaza continue, highlighting the conflict's complex dynamics. The United States is also focusing on strengthening deterrence in the Taiwan Strait amid rising tensions. ([Long War Journal](#); [FDD](#); [FDD](#))

The Lebanese Armed Forces have declared "operational control" in three pilot zones in southern Lebanon following extensive operations. Their first detailed report on arms seizures in these areas reveals that approximately 86 percent of the 1,818 items confiscated consist of light weapons and ammunition. ([Long War Journal](#))



Concerns about America's munitions crisis have been raised, focusing on the causes, consequences, and necessary steps to rebuild the defense industrial base and munitions stockpiles. 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, despite the U.S. State Department emphasizing that he acted solely in a personal capacity. His engagement has sparked debate regarding U.S. policy and influence in the region. ([Long War Journal](#); [Long War Journal](#))

Global Macro & Geopolitics

Mexico is seeking ways to revive growth in its once-thriving beach destinations, which have experienced a slowdown in visits from affluent tourists, signaling broader economic challenges. China's domestic economy remains sluggish, though its artificial intelligence sector continues to support export growth. Amazon is turning its proprietary logistics network into a comprehensive supply-chain platform for other companies, reflecting shifts in global trade and logistics strategies. ([Bloomberg](#); [Bloomberg](#); [Bloomberg](#))

[Vision Times](#)

AI Dominion, Deception & the Antichrist System

Tan wants smaller, American open-weight AI labs to use the same training techniques as American frontier AI labs, giving the U.S. a more robust set of open-weight options that aren't Chinese ([TechCrunch](#)).

In the biggest-ever legal action against harmful deepfake websites, the Manhattan District Attorney's Office has seized 12 sites that collectively targeted around 1,200 victims ([WIRED](#)).

A weeklong summer workshop brought higher education faculty to campus to explore how they can adapt artificial intelligence and machine learning materials for their classrooms ([MIT News](#)).

An analysis of 160 deepfake websites found politicians from 22 countries. Nearly all of them are women ([WIRED](#)).

Interpol is working with Moldova to increase its biometric border capacities, in part through two initiatives targeting border crossings by organized criminals and terrorists in the war-torn area around Ukraine. Moldova is currently deploying mobile fingerprint



scanners from Integrated Biometrics through the initiatives. U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) is seeking a biometric capture system that can photograph Global Entry travelers while they continue walking through airport arrival lanes, moving the trusted traveler program toward continuous-flow facial comparison without requiring travelers to stop at a kiosk or portal when no additional inspection is needed. The European Union has allowed at least nine Schengen countries to postpone full enforcement of its new Entry/Exit System (EES). France, Germany, Italy, Belgium, the Netherlands, Greece, Malta, Portugal, and Switzerland have been given flexibility to suspend biometric collection to “maintain border fluidity.” Although Brussels previously insisted there would be no extension to the grace period that expired on September 6, the countries have reportedly (biometricupdate.com).

Agility Robotics is launching Digit 5, its next-generation humanoid robot that can work with humans outside the cage. 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 an article in Chinese that raised questions about similarities between his company’s new model and OpenAI’s publications (forbes.com; cnbc.com).

Pestilence & Global Health

Ancient DNA analysis reveals that plague was already killing hunter-gatherer populations in Siberia 5,500 years ago, predating urban centers and flea-borne epidemics. These prehistoric plague strains may have been particularly virulent due to a genetic factor that triggered severe immune responses. Research on long-lived bats suggests they have powerful immune defenses and unique mechanisms for eliminating damaged cells, potentially helping them avoid cancer and disease for decades. Scientists hope these genetic insights could inform new strategies to protect human health as we age. Additionally, GLP-1 drugs have been associated with approximately 20% fewer chronic obstructive pulmonary disease flare-ups, suggesting respiratory benefits beyond their established effects on diabetes and obesity. ([ScienceDaily](https://sciencedaily.com); [ScienceDaily](https://sciencedaily.com); [ScienceDaily](https://sciencedaily.com))

Natural Disasters & Signs in the Heavens

The United States Geological Survey recorded a magnitude 2.0 earthquake near Chignik, Alaska, and a magnitude 4.8 earthquake near Tual, Indonesia. ([USGS](https://usgs.gov); [USGS](https://usgs.gov))

Additionally, a magnitude 6.5 earthquake was recorded near Teluknaga, Indonesia. Australia issued a green forest fire notification. ([USGS](https://usgs.gov); [GDACS](https://gdacs.org))



Middle Eastern Artifacts

Excavations at the agora in Smyrna uncovered three rooms adorned with wall paintings and mosaics, shedding light on the site's artistic heritage. Meanwhile, archaeologists studying Nimrud in northern Iraq have traditionally focused on palaces and temples for nearly 180 years, but recent work is expanding the understanding of the area's broader cultural landscape. ([BiblePlaces](#))