



Global Watch Daily – September 16, 2026

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

Israel & Jerusalem

Consumer vehicle imports through Israel's southern port have declined by 75%, rendering the facility barely able to cover its operating costs. Dozens remain missing beneath the rubble of a building struck by an Israeli airstrike last year, where approximately ten families had been residing. Meanwhile, the Houthis have denied targeting the Islamic holy city after the Saudi-led coalition in Yemen accused them of a "disgraceful act" ([JNS](#); [BBC News](#); [BBC News](#)).

The Dutch court rejected five grounds for an injunction filed by a Dutch importer and declared the claims brought by the European Jewish Association inadmissible. Newly released transcripts reveal that an indicted Louisiana resident coordinated the supply of rifles and scarce ammunition as invaders entered Israeli border towns ([JNS](#); [JNS](#)).

Wars & Security (Israel and Region)

Federal authorities arrested Jonathan Hunter Kramer in Cranberry Township, Pennsylvania, on September 12. He allegedly acquired a semiautomatic rifle and ammunition while preparing to carry out an attack inspired by the Islamic State ([Long War Journal](#); [FDD](#)).

United States officials have expressed frustration with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu for resisting parts of their Gaza strategy. The US-backed Board of Peace, tasked with overseeing Gaza's political transition, has seen Netanyahu stall several initiatives amid his campaign in a closely contested election ([Long War Journal](#); [FDD](#)).

Following a major campaign launched on August 6 against forces of Yemen's internationally recognized government, the Houthis seized the entire Red Sea coast of Yemen and a strategic island in the Bab al Mandeb Strait by September 11. The Yemeni Armed Forces have initiated a counteroperation to regain control ([Long War Journal](#)).

Riyadh announced the closure of its East-West Crude Oil Pipeline after drone attacks originating from Iraq. This pipeline had served as a vital oil export route alternative to the



Persian Gulf following the closure of the Strait of Hormuz ([Long War Journal](#)).

Tehran, facing diminishing leverage, expanded the battlefield by attacking the United States and its allies from new fronts, as evidenced by recent fighting in Yemen. Meanwhile, protests over soaring fuel prices erupted across Syria, with demonstrators in Aleppo calling for basic living conditions rather than new infrastructure projects. Israeli Army Radio reported that Israeli troops subsequently withdrew from a contested ridge area ([FDD](#); [FDD](#); [Long War Journal](#)).

Progress on the ground remains contingent on Hamas's disarmament and Israel's political developments. The Lebanese Armed Forces reported that operations in three southern Lebanon pilot areas have established "operational control." Their first detailed official report on arms seizures in these zones indicates that approximately 86 percent of the 1,818 weapons and ammunition items confiscated consist of "light" arms ([Long War Journal](#); [Long War Journal](#)).

Global Macro & Geopolitics

Dozens remain missing beneath the rubble of a building struck by an Israeli airstrike last year at the al-Zara gold mine in West Kordofan province. The paramilitary Rapid Support Forces control this area and have been engaged in ongoing conflict. Meanwhile, the US central bank chief faces mounting pressure to maintain a tough stance on consumer-price growth by overseeing an interest-rate hike ([BBC News](#); [France24](#); [Bloomberg](#)).

Additional sources include Bloomberg, AP News, and Reuters, providing further context on global economic pressures and geopolitical tensions shaping the current strategic environment ([Bloomberg](#); [AP News](#); [Reuters](#)).

AI Dominion, Deception & the Antichrist System

Proof, the identity and transaction-security company formerly known as Notarize, launched its Verifiable Digital Credential, a portable digital identity that lets consumers complete identity proofing once and reuse that verified identity across financial institutions and other organizations that accept Proof credentials. The VDC became generally available through Proof's platform and API on September 15. Two opposing camps are emerging in the artificial intelligence regulation debate, with Trump and Huang on one side and Amodei. Altman and Musk on the other ([biometricupdate.com](#); [cnbc.com](#)).



In this episode of Guardian Australia's weekly US politics podcast, co-hosts Jonathan Yerushalmy and Reged Ahmad look at whether there is any appetite across the political spectrum to put guardrails on artificial intelligence as existential fears mount worldwide that the technology is developing too quickly. They also explain what the latest Supreme Court ruling on the Trump administration's mail-in ballot restrictions means for the midterms ([The Guardian](#)).

A new European patent awarded to the Austrian State Printing Company (OSD) provides IP protection for a technology the company says could establish a new standard for securing the data included on identity documents. The patent granted for "Securing and Authenticating of a Personal Identity Document" describes a process to protect identity data with the company's "Open Secure Document Biometric Barcode" for physical IDs. The market around biometrics and digital identity testing has developed to the point where accredited labs and evaluation bodies are choosing strategic directions that differentiate them from their competition. In the latest example of this trend, Fime has acquired cybersecurity and compliance automation provider Red Alert Labs to advance its position as an overall digital trust provider ([biometricupdate.com](#)).

Despite the recent deluge of videos of humanoid robots doing backflips and kung-fu, the actual pace of progress towards humanoids that can do economically viable jobs at scale has at times seemed a bit plodding. There are some good reasons for this: a humanoid robot needs to be powerful enough to do useful work, safe enough for humans to walk past, and have enough battery life to limit how much of the day it's hooked to a charger ([IEEE Spectrum](#)).

Pestilence & Global Health

Ancient DNA analysis reveals that plague was already affecting hunter-gatherer populations in Siberia 5,500 years ago, predating cities and flea-driven epidemics. These prehistoric strains may have been particularly virulent due to a genetic factor that provoked severe immune reactions. Long-lived bats exhibit powerful immune defenses combined with unique strategies for eliminating damaged cells, potentially enabling them to avoid cancer and disease for decades. Researchers hope these genetic mechanisms might inform new approaches to protecting human health during aging. 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 ([ScienceDaily](#); [ScienceDaily](#); [ScienceDaily](#)).



Natural Disasters & Signs in the Heavens

The US Geological Survey recorded a magnitude 4.9 earthquake near Kinablangan, Philippines, and a magnitude 5.1 earthquake near Saipan in the Northern Mariana Islands, United States ([USGS](#); [USGS](#)).

Additionally, a magnitude 6.5 earthquake was recorded near Teluknaga, Indonesia. A green forest fire notification was also issued for Indonesia ([USGS](#); [GDACS](#)).

Middle Eastern Artifacts

Surveys conducted by the Survey of Israel and research by Donald T. Ariel, published on October 31, 2002, provide valuable insights into Middle Eastern artifacts ([Israel Antiquities Authority](#); [Israel Antiquities Authority](#)).

During excavations of the agora at Smyrna, archaeologists uncovered three rooms adorned with wall paintings and mosaics. For nearly 180 years, archaeological studies of Nimrud in northern Iraq have primarily focused on palaces and temples. These findings were detailed by Liora Kolska Horwitz and published on October 31, 2002 ([BiblePlaces](#); [Israel Antiquities Authority](#)).