



Global Watch Daily – September 18, 2026

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

Israel & Jerusalem

Israeli Defense Forces conducted extensive operations, seizing over 100 weapons and searching more than 1,200 locations, including a facility dedicated to manufacturing explosives. Meanwhile, BBC Verify traced the location of a video released by Houthi forces showing the wreckage of an F-15 fighter jet they claim to have downed. These developments highlight ongoing security challenges in the region. ([JNS](#); [BBC News](#); [Al Jazeera](#))

Wars & Security (Israel and Region)

Syria's military, under the post-Assad regime, is undergoing rapid rebuilding. However, its structural vulnerabilities and reliance on foreign powers, particularly Turkey and Russia, may restrict Damascus's capacity to align with U.S. security objectives. Cooperation from these external actors often comes with conditions that could undermine Syria's potential as a strategic partner. Israeli assessments indicate that the Lebanese Armed Forces are coordinating with Hezbollah in designated pilot areas aimed at disarming non-state actors. This claim is supported by years of evidence, with recent cooperation resulting in negotiated access, handovers, and seizures. Concurrently, Baghdad faces mounting pressure over militia activities and ongoing Iranian strikes targeting Kurdish Iranian opposition groups within Iraqi territory. ([Long War Journal](#); [Long War Journal](#); [Long War Journal](#))

Federal authorities arrested Jonathan Hunter Kramer in Cranberry Township, Pennsylvania, on September 12. He is accused of acquiring a semiautomatic rifle and ammunition with the intent to carry out an attack inspired by the Islamic State. The Federal Bureau of Investigation led the operation. Despite the United Nations' founding mission to prevent war, the world currently experiences more armed conflicts than at any time since the UN's establishment. ([Long War Journal](#); [FDD](#))



David Daoud (@DavidADaoud) stated on i24NEWS that any replacement for the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) would likely be equally ineffective in disarming Hezbollah. The Syrian military's foreign influence, primarily from Turkey and Russia, combined with the persistence of extremist factions within its ranks, will continue to limit Damascus's ability to pursue security objectives aligned with Western interests. United States officials have expressed frustration with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who has resisted aspects of the U.S.-backed Gaza strategy. Netanyahu's political campaigning has stalled initiatives by the Board of Peace, which oversees Gaza's political transition. ([FDD](#); [FDD](#); [Long War Journal](#))

Following a major offensive launched on August 6 against the internationally recognized government of Yemen, Houthi forces captured the entire Red Sea coastline of Yemen and a strategic island in the Bab al Mandeb Strait by September 11. 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 that serves as an alternative to the Persian Gulf following the closure of the Strait of Hormuz. ([Long War Journal](#); [Long War Journal](#))

Global Macro & Geopolitics

Italian Finance Minister Giancarlo Giorgetti criticized the European Central Bank's recent interest-rate hikes, stating that they fail to address the persistent surge in consumer prices across the eurozone. With the U.S. midterm elections roughly six weeks away, President Donald Trump's approval ratings remain near historic lows. Polling indicates that voters currently trust the Democratic Party more than Republicans on a range of critical issues, including economic management, healthcare, immigration, the federal deficit, cost of living, and foreign military engagements. ([Bloomberg](#); [Bloomberg](#))

AI Dominion, Deception & the Antichrist System

Facebook said it was wrong to leave up artificial intelligence-generated videos of a Labor councilor and Muslim campaigner, amid calls to curb fakes. Meta's "supreme court" has ordered the tech company to take down deepfake videos of a UK politician and a young Muslim woman from Facebook and do more to tackle artificial intelligence-generated fake imagery. A fake video showing a Labor Party councilor in Scotland making inflammatory comments. A vendor supporting the Transportation Security Administration's (TSA) biometric checkpoint system could access and extract passengers' driver's license and passport images during troubleshooting and system upgrades without the agency's



knowledge, according to a new Department of Homeland Security (DHS) inspector general (IG) audit. The unclassified summary, dated September 15, says TSA had no clear policies governing the ([The Guardian](#); [biometricupdate.com](#)).

Newly unsealed court filings show Microsoft privately called OpenAI's data practices "theft" while both companies scraped paywalled Times content, built datasets from it, and warned internally it would gut publishers ([TechCrunch](#)).

With agentic commerce projected to reach trillions by 2030, the extent to which we remain the ones who define the agent's goals and mandate is a measure of human agency, not the agent's ([forbes.com](#)).

By Professor Fraser Sampson, former UK Biometrics & Surveillance Camera Commissioner. Biometrically speaking, our faces don't reveal much. Their points of individuality are great for comparison against database images to confirm ID but, compared to genetic information like DNA, our faces are quite shy. Indonesia's Ministry of Home Affairs has launched an Early Market Engagement process to guide the procurement of a next-generation Automated Biometric Identification System. The Directorate General of Population and Civil Registration (Ditjen Dukcapil) manages the initiative, with support from the World Bank under the \$250 million ID for Inclusive Service Delivery and Digital Transformation in Indonesia project ([biometricupdate.com](#)).

The company also disclosed previously unreported incidents in which its artificial intelligence models behaved in misaligned ways, including uploading files to the internet without being asked ([WIRED](#)).

Pestilence & Global Health

Ancient DNA analysis reveals that plague affected hunter-gatherer populations in Siberia 5,500 years ago, predating urban centers and flea-driven epidemics. These prehistoric strains may have been particularly virulent due to a genetic factor that triggered severe immune responses. Related research has found that long-lived bats combine robust immune defenses with unique mechanisms for removing damaged cells, which may help them avoid cancer and disease over decades. Scientists hope these genetic insights could inform new strategies to protect human health as we age. ([ScienceDaily](#); [ScienceDaily](#))

Natural Disasters & Signs in the Heavens



The United States Geological Survey recorded a magnitude 1.3 earthquake near Calumet, Oklahoma, and a magnitude 4.6 earthquake near Daocheng, China. Additionally, a magnitude 6.5 earthquake struck near Nikolski, Alaska. Somalia is currently under a green flood alert. ([USGS](#); [USGS](#); [USGS](#); [GDACS](#))

Middle Eastern Artifacts

Published by the Survey of Israel and Donald T. Ariel on October 31, 2002, recent archaeological reports detail significant findings. Excavations at the agora in Smyrna uncovered three rooms adorned with wall paintings and mosaics. For nearly 180 years, archaeological focus at Nimrud in northern Iraq has centered on palaces and temples, revealing insights into ancient Mesopotamian civilization. These discoveries deepen understanding of the region's historical and cultural heritage. ([Israel Antiquities Authority](#); [Israel Antiquities Authority](#); [BiblePlaces](#); [Israel Antiquities Authority](#))