

2,030 Israeli attacks in West Bank in August; Postal Service plan could disenfranchise millions; Nepal death toll passes 1,000

Drop Site Daily: September 1, 2026

Iran

- **Tankers attacked in Strait of Hormuz:**

- A tanker was [struck](#) by three unidentified projectiles while completing an outbound transit through the Strait of Hormuz, UK Maritime Trade Operations reported on Monday. The attack occurred 17 nautical miles east of Khasab, Oman. No casualties or environmental damage were reported.

- Separately, the UKMTO [reported](#) earlier on Monday that it received a report from a tanker's master of another incident involving a vessel and military forces in the Indian Ocean, off Oman. UKMTO did not identify the tanker or military force involved, nor whether anyone was injured or the vessel was damaged.

- **Death toll from U.S. attack on Larak Island rises to three:** The death toll from the U.S. attack on Iran's Larak Island rose to three on Monday, after a person succumbed to their injuries in hospital, according to the Tasnim news agency.

- **IRGC claims it shot down U.S. MQ-9 drone over Strait of Hormuz:** Iran's IRGC said its air defences intercepted a U.S. MQ-9 drone in the eastern part of the Strait of Hormuz on Monday, according to a statement carried by Iranian broadcaster Press TV.

- **Iran says U.S. must fulfill MOU commitments, Tehran will "immediately" reciprocate:** Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi told reporters at the Shanghai Cooperation Organization summit in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan that "the U.S. must return to its commitments and abide by the terms of the memorandum. Only then can we move out of the current situation, as all countries are concerned about bringing the war to an end as soon as possible."

- Iran will "immediately" reciprocate if the U.S. fulfills its commitments under the MOU, Iran's president Masoud Pezeshkian said.

- Signed in June, the Pakistan-brokered memorandum is an interim agreement that expired on August 17.

· **Trump strikes aggressive tone on Iran, claims U.S. control over Hormuz, reportedly mulls more strikes:** In a series of remarks on Monday, U.S. President Donald Trump **told** reporters that the U.S. was pondering further attacks on Iran and that it remains in control of the Strait.

- He called Iran a “failed nation” in remarks at the White House on Monday morning, and claimed that the U.S. would still “smack them” in response to Iran’s retaliatory strikes on U.S. bases in Jordan and strike on the UAE.

- He also said that the Strait of Hormuz was in “extremely good shape”, claiming that the U.S. Navy is assisting the movement of an average of “30 ships a night.”

- When **asked** by a reporter in the Oval Office if he had “ruled out using a nuclear weapon against Iran,” Trump responded that he would “never say that, but the answer is yes,” claiming that such an attack would be unnecessary, given that Iran had already been “totally defeated militarily.”

- White House spokesperson Kush Desai told Al Jazeera that the president is keeping all of his options regarding Iran open, and that “he’s willing to use every tool at his disposal,” with Desai noting that the economic tools presently in use are “very powerful.”

- Axios reported on Monday that Trump is **considering** a CENTCOM plan for periodic strikes on Iranian radar, air-defense and anti-ship missile sites around the Strait of Hormuz. The proposal, backed by War Secretary Hegseth, is intended to prevent Iran from rebuilding its capacity to attack ships.

· **Bessent says sanctions meant to force Iran to “come to the table”:** U.S. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent **told** CNBC on Monday that the goal of United States sanctions on Iran is “to create the conditions that they will want to come to the table” for negotiations.

- Bessent told the Associated Press on Monday that the U.S. plans to impose sanctions on another Iranian bank this week as part of its economic campaign against Iran, though he declined to name the bank.

- Bessent also **reiterated** the U.S. conditions for a deal with Iran, saying that Iran has to “give up their nuclear program,” “turn over the highly-enriched uranium,” “stop their support of proxies” and open the Strait of Hormuz.

- Bessent also suggested that the U.S. blockade had severely impaired Iran's oil industry, reducing Iranian oil remaining on the water to just 30 million barrels, far below Kpler's August 21 estimate of roughly 80 million barrels in floating storage outside the blockade zone. He argued that even if China keeps sending Iran payments for oil already sold, "that's going to run out" soon.
- **U.S. military commanders call Iran war "unsustainable":** Four senior U.S. commanders formally [warned](#) War Secretary Pete Hegseth that the prolonged Iran operation is unsustainable and is already weakening the military's ability to confront threats elsewhere, including threats to the U.S. homeland, according to the Washington Post.
 - The objections appeared in a classified August 14 assessment covering the worldwide availability of U.S. forces and weapons.
 - Those involved in the warning include the Navy's top admiral, Daryl Caudle, and the commanders of the European, Southern, and Indo-Pacific commands.
 - Caudle reportedly warned Hegseth that the Navy cannot maintain its current support for the war indefinitely, with barely one-quarter of the destroyer fleet reportedly ready to deploy.
 - The Pentagon attacked the publication of the classified information but did not deny that the commanders filed formal objections.
- **U.S. announces deals to make missile interceptors:** The U.S. Department of War [announced](#) new seven-year agreements with General Dynamics and Lockheed Martin to triple production capacity for PAC-3 MSE interceptors, used by the Patriot air-defense system, and to quadruple capacity for THAAD interceptors.
 - The Pentagon is committing to minimum annual purchases over the seven-year period. Congress will still have to approve the funding each year.
- **Kurdish group reportedly attacks Iranians in region bordering Iraq:** Fighters reportedly belonging to the Kurdistan Free Life Party (PJAK) attacked Iranian villagers in a western province bordering Iraq on Monday, Iran's semi-official Mehr news agency reported. An IRGC base in the same village was attacked by the group in 2018, according to Mehr.
- **Iran calls upon UN Security Council to intervene after U.S. attack on Larak Island:** In a letter to UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres on Monday, Gholamhossein Darzi, Iran's deputy permanent representative and ambassador to the UN, called for the UN Security Council to intervene after a U.S. attack on Larak Island killed and wounded soldiers and civilians, according to Iran's IRNA news agency.

- Darzi said in the letter that the attack was in “a clear violation of the sovereignty and territorial integrity” of Iran, and accused the U.S. of war crimes and crimes against humanity.
- The letter asked the council to demand the U.S. end its attacks.
- **Asian fuel imports fall to lowest level since Iran war began:** Asia’s imports of refined fuels have fallen to their lowest level since the U.S.-Iran war, Reuters reported on Monday, as supplies from the Gulf region have remained constrained as a result of the conflict over the Strait of Hormuz and the U.S. blockade of Iran.
 - The region, which consumes about 90 percent of Middle East crude, has cut its imports by nearly 4 million barrels a day and is depleting its inventories.
 - Imports of light and middle distillates fell to an estimated 5.10 million barrels per day (bpd) in August, down from 5.61 million bpd in July, according to data compiled by the commodities analyst Kpler and cited by Reuters.
 - Before the U.S. and Israel began attacks on Iran in February, the region’s three-month average stood at 7.06 million bpd. The shortfall matches almost exactly the volume lost from the Middle East.

Yemen

- **Saudi-backed Yemeni forces target Ansarallah positions, claim four drone boats destroyed in Red Sea:** Yemen’s Saudi-backed military said it carried out drone attacks on Ansarallah positions across several fronts, including targets in Baqam district in the northern Saada governorate. Separately, its navy said it destroyed four Ansarallah drone boats near the Hanish and Zuqar islands in the Red Sea.

Palestine

- **Killed and wounded in Gaza:** Over the past 24 hours, six Palestinians were killed and 13 were injured in attacks across Gaza, according to the Palestinian Ministry of Health. One Palestinian was killed in a building collapse, bringing the number of people killed in building collapses to 34.
 - The total recorded death toll since October 7, 2023 has risen to 73,462 killed, with 174,509 injured. Since October 11, the first full day of the so-called ceasefire, Israel has killed at least 1,326 Palestinians in Gaza and wounded 4,398, while 815 bodies have been recovered from under the rubble.

- **Israeli attacks on Gaza kill seven, including two children:** Israeli forces carried out heavy airstrikes and shelling in western Gaza City, killing four Palestinians, including two children and a woman, in the Al-Katiba area.

- Israeli Defense Minister Israel Katz later [claimed](#) a senior Hamas member had been captured, without identifying him. The Israeli military confirmed striking “a number of targets,” saying the attacks were intended to “remove threats to security forces.”

- A resistance-affiliated security channel said the operation had targeted a senior Hamas figure but was thwarted, while acknowledging that an unnamed security official was abducted. It said the force behind the operation suffered losses and left behind weapons and equipment, and that three “collaborators” who had provided support and gathered intelligence were detained—members of Israeli-backed Palestinian militias were reportedly seen in the area at the time of the attack.

- Separately, two Palestinians were killed by Israeli gunfire west of Khan Younis, southern Gaza. A 73-year-old Palestinian man also died from a gunshot wound sustained earlier in Deir al-Balah.

- Gaza’s Civil Defense said an Israeli strike critically wounded an officer and caused the amputation of parts of his limbs.

- Israeli naval forces opened fire on fishing boats and [detained](#) 10 fishermen off Al-Zawayda and Sheikh Ajlin, according to the Union of Fishermen’s Committees.

- **Report: 2,030 Israeli army and settler attacks in occupied West Bank in August:**

Israeli forces and settlers carried out 2,030 attacks against Palestinians, their land and property across the occupied West Bank in August, according to a [report](#) released Tuesday by the Wall and Settlement Resistance Commission. The commission recorded 1,402 attacks by Israeli forces and 628 by settlers, saying the attacks were concentrated in areas facing intensified settlement expansion and growing efforts to control roads, movement routes, and agricultural and grazing land. Attacks continued on Monday and Tuesday:

- **Ramallah:** Israeli settlers severely beat an elderly Palestinian woman as she and her husband resisted an attempt to steal their livestock in the village of Burqa, according to Al Jazeera Arabic. In a separate attack on Monday evening, Israeli settlers, under the protection of Israeli soldiers, [attacked](#) Burqa, injuring another Palestinian and her 10-year-old son. The settlers reportedly hit the mother in the head with clubs and stones, and pepper-sprayed the 10-year-old in the face, and raided another family home in the area, assaulting the women and children inside.

- **Nablus:** Settlers [attempted to set fire](#) to the Nur Al-Din Zengi Mosque in Bizzariya, northwest of Nablus, setting a nearby room ablaze after failing to break down the mosque's doors and spray-painting racist slogans. Separately, Israeli forces beat and injured a young Palestinian man during a raid on Nablus's Old City.
- **Bethlehem:** Israeli settlers [set fire](#) to a vehicle and spray-painted racist slogans on the wall of a home in the Bakoush area of Nahalin, west of Bethlehem, WAFA reported.
- **WFP halves food assistance in West Bank as needs rise:** The World Food Programme [said](#) Tuesday that funding shortages are forcing it to halve food assistance in the occupied West Bank from 400,000 to 200,000 people starting this month, even as Israeli military operations, settler violence, movement restrictions, demolitions, and displacement drive growing food insecurity. "At a time when WFP should be scaling up assistance to reach more people, we are being forced to make difficult decisions, prioritizing the most vulnerable while cutting assistance to others despite widespread needs," Shaun Hughes, WFP Country Director for Palestine, said in a statement.
 - WFP warned that funding shortages are also affecting assistance to 1.5 million people in Gaza and that further cuts will be unavoidable without additional funding.
- **Israel to return body of Palestinian 15-year-old it killed and held for nine months to family:** Israel's General Authority of Civil Affairs [announced](#) on Monday that the body of 15-year-old Jadallah Jihad Juma Jadallah, from Al-Fara'a refugee camp in Tubas, whom Israeli forces shot and killed nine months ago, would be handed over to his family on Thursday.
- **Palestinian female detainees describe harsh conditions, medical neglect in Israeli prisons:** Palestinian female detainees [held](#) at Israel's Damon Prison and other facilities are enduring overcrowding, medical neglect, poor food, and punitive raids, according to a Monday statement from Commission of Detainees and Ex-Detainees Affairs.
 - The Commission cited several cases, including that of Abeer Odeh, a detainee with a history of respiratory issues who has developed scabies while receiving only partial medical treatment, and Yasmeen Shaaban, who suffered a uterine injury from beatings and has been unable to receive a needed surgery since her re-detention in May 2025; the Commission said roughly 92 Palestinian women are currently held in Israeli detention.
 - The Commission noted National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir raided the prison on August 19 and "boasted of being directly responsible for imposing restrictions" on detainees.

- **Netanyahu touts ability to ‘influence’ U.S. politicians and media in reelection**

campaign: Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is campaigning for reelection by touting his ability to influence U.S. politics and media, pointing to his role in bringing Washington around during the war with Iran. Speaking to Israel’s Channel 14, Netanyahu [said](#), “It took a long time to bring the United States to its senses. I could do it,” citing “close to 1,000 hours on American television,” his “intimate knowledge” of U.S. leaders, and his “ability to influence the United States” and “navigate this field.”

- **British activist detained by settlers to be deported from Israel:** Finn Joughin, a British activist [detained](#) Saturday by armed Israeli settlers in the occupied West Bank village of Umm al-Kheir and handed over to police, is set to be deported from Israel after UK embassy officials raised his case with Israeli authorities, according to The Times of Israel.

- Settlers accused Joughin of assaulting an Israeli minor during his work in the village. He can be seen in video footage of the attack pressing his body against that of an Israeli minor in an apparent attempt to prevent the minor from passing through to a Palestinian home.

- Joughin’s lawyer noted this, and said Joughin was attempting to prevent settlers from dismantling a fence and damaging property in a Palestinian village. He also noted that police did not question the settlers who detained Joughin.

- Joughin’s case follows Israel’s deportation of dozens of foreign activists who have traveled to the occupied West Bank to protect Palestinians through “protective presence” work amid a surge in settler violence in the area.

Lebanon

- **Israeli forces demolish homes and set off explosions in southern Lebanon despite “ceasefire”:** Israeli vehicles [pushed](#) further into Al-Mansouri, in the Tyre (Sour) district Tuesday and demolished several homes, Lebanon’s National News Agency (NNA) reported. In Bint Jbeil district, Israeli forces set off a powerful explosion in Rshaf.

- On Monday, Israeli forces used illegal white phosphorus munitions in attacks on villages in Nabatieh, according to the NNA.

- In Nabatieh, a child [died](#) from wounds sustained when unexploded Israeli ordnance detonated in Habboush on Monday, also wounding another boy. Ibrahim’s father had previously been killed in an Israeli attack on southern Lebanon.

U.S. News

- **Whistleblower: USPS mail ballot plan could disenfranchise millions:** An anonymous federal official [warned](#) in a congressional disclosure that a rushed, insufficiently tested Postal Service portal could reject entire batches of mail ballots—potentially tens of thousands at a time—under a “zero-percent failure policy” if even a single sampled barcode fails to match voter data, Sen. **Richard Blumenthal** (D-Conn.) disclosed Tuesday.

- The newly designed system could thus prevent millions of Americans from receiving their ballots. “As designed, the process is entirely unforgiving,” the disclosure notes.

- The whistleblower said the online portal was built under constantly shifting requirements with as few as four working days for customer testing before its planned launch.

- The system stems from President Donald Trump’s executive order overhauling mail voting, which a federal judge has blocked for now. The Trump administration continues to pursue the order’s reinstatement ahead of North Carolina’s Friday ballot-mailing deadline.

- **Vance calls Michigan Senate hopeful Abdul El-Sayed “evil”:** Vice President **JD Vance** described Democratic Senate nominee **Abdul El-Sayed** as “very, very evil” during a Monday rally in Sterling Heights, Michigan, hosted by the pro-Trump super PAC MAGA Inc., pointing to El-Sayed’s recent apology over his response to a March synagogue attack and his alliance with Twitch streamer **Hasan Piker**.

- El-Sayed, who has been the subject of a wave of recent media attacks for his relationship with Piker, faces Republican **Mike Rogers** in November for the open seat currently held by Democrat **Gary Peters**.

- **Haitian college student dies in apparent suicide after losing TPS:** **Pierre Damas Bel**, a 20-year-old Haitian immigrant, walked into westbound Interstate 70 traffic in Springfield, Ohio Monday and was struck and [killed](#) by a tractor-trailer in what his family believes was a suicide, according to The Washington Post.

- Bel had grown increasingly distraught following the loss of his temporary protected status. He had been fitted with an ICE ankle monitor as a result, with his father saying that Bel “felt like he was treated like an animal.”

- Bel had written on Instagram in July, “now I’m walking through the streets of the United States with a GPS monitor on my leg, carrying a feeling of shame and humiliation that I never imagined I would experience.”

- Bel, who arrived in the U.S. in 2024 to reunite with his parents and had graduated high school with honors while planning to study medicine, had a pending asylum claim with a hearing scheduled for October.

- **Army Secretary Dan Driscoll resigns after feud with Hegseth:** U.S. Army Secretary **Dan Driscoll** has [submitted](#) his resignation to President Trump and is expected to leave the Pentagon within days, the Wall Street Journal reported on Monday.

- The Army’s top civilian official and a close ally of Vice President **JD Vance**, Driscoll had reportedly clashed for months with War Secretary **Pete Hegseth** over the service’s direction, blocked promotions, and Hegseth’s removal of senior officers.

- His departure will leave the Army without either a Senate-confirmed civilian leader or a confirmed chief of staff.

- **Kalshi suspends GOP House candidate Buckhout for betting on her own race:** On Monday, the prediction market Kalshi [suspended](#) Republican House candidate **Laurie Buckhout**, running in a swing North Carolina district against Democratic incumbent **Don Davis**, for three years and fined her about \$2,600 after finding she wagered less than \$1,000 on her own race.

- Buckhout, a retired Army colonel who cooperated with the investigation, acknowledged the mistake, saying “I bet on myself. Literally.”

- The action follows Kalshi’s April suspension of three other congressional candidates who bet on their races and coincides with a Monday lifetime ban imposed on former Rep. **George Santos** for failing to cooperate with the company’s investigation. Santos was fined earlier this year by the Commodity Futures Trading Commission for insider trading tied to a bet on his own State of the Union attendance.

- **Trump asks Supreme Court to immediately fire 29 transgender service members:** The Trump administration [filed](#) an urgent Supreme Court appeal seeking the immediate removal of 29 active-duty transgender service members before their case challenging the Pentagon’s transgender ban goes to trial in January, calling it a matter of “exceptional importance.”

- Solicitor General **John Sauer** called a lower court ruling that blocked the military from discharging the plaintiffs in U.S. v. Talbott “gravely erroneous.”

- The justices will decide this fall whether the Supreme Court will hear the case.
- **FTC sues Amazon over alleged secret ad price manipulation:** The Federal Trade Commission and more than 20 state attorneys general [sued](#) Amazon Monday, alleging the company secretly manipulated advertising auctions to raise prices for businesses advertising on its platform, generating tens of billions of dollars over seven years while costing advertisers more than \$20 billion.
 - The lawsuit alleges Amazon began entering its own bids in auctions starting in 2018—internally called a “soft reserve”—without disclosing the practice to advertisers.
 - The FTC claims Amazon intervened in 70%–80% of auctions in recent years and raised pay-per-click costs by 50% on major shopping days.
 - This will be the FTC’s third major case against the company.
- **U.S. progressives join hemispheric “anti-CPAC” summit pushing back on Trump’s Latin America agenda:** Congressional candidates **Adam Hamawy**, **Chris Rabb**, and New Yorkers **Claire Valdez** and **Darializa Avila Chevalier** were [part](#) of a U.S. progressive delegation that attended the third Pan-American Congress in Montevideo, Uruguay from Friday to Sunday, a parliamentary forum of left and progressive forces from across the Americas.
 - The gathering drew more than 150 lawmakers, former presidents, and political figures from 15 countries, including former Chilean President **Gabriel Boric** and Uruguayan Vice President **Carolina Cosse**.
 - Organizers characterized it as a counterweight to the right-wing CPAC network that helped elevate leaders like **Javier Milei**, and to what critics call Trump’s “Donroe Doctrine” of militarized intervention in the region.
 - The U.S. delegation was led by Reps. **Pramila Jayapal** and Jesús “**Chuy**” **García**.
 - Participants denounced U.S. interference in the region while calling for a foreign policy “rooted in multilateralism, cooperation, and respect for the sovereignty of all nations,” Hamawy said.

 Have a tip on Capitol Hill? Email DC Correspondent Julian Andreone at Julian@dropsitenews.com

Other International News

- **DRC Ebola outbreak becomes country's worst, with over 6,000 cases and nearly 3,000**

deaths: The Democratic Republic of Congo's Ebola outbreak has [surpassed](#) all previous surges to become the country's worst ever, with 6,041 confirmed cases and 2,911 deaths, according to the DRC Ministry of Communication.

- UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres called it "the fastest-spreading Ebola epidemic ever recorded."
- There is currently no approved vaccine or treatment for the Bundibugyo strain driving the outbreak.
- The response faces compounding challenges in the country's eastern provinces where fighting, displacement, and pre-existing humanitarian crises complicate care.

- **Death toll from Nepal flood passes 1,000:** The official death toll from Nepal's August 26 flash flood reached 1,050. More than 4,000 people remained missing, while at least 639 people were stranded at hydropower stations. According to Prime Minister Balendra Shah, More than 11,000 people have been rescued, Reuters [reported](#).

- **Russia strikes Ukrainian export and energy infrastructure near Romanian border:** Russian missiles and drones [struck](#) port facilities, a ferry crossing and energy infrastructure in Ukraine's Odessa region overnight, damaging export infrastructure and the Orlivka checkpoint on the Romanian border, according to Ukrainian officials.

- Ukraine's Naftogaz said the attack damaged main and auxiliary equipment at its Odessa combined heat-and-power plant, where debris-removal operations were underway.

- Russia has sharply intensified attacks on Odessa's export infrastructure in recent months, effectively blocking Black Sea ports that once handled 90% of Ukraine's exports.

- **U.S. approves \$800 million military helicopter sale to Iraq:** The U.S. State Department approved an \$800 million sale of Bell helicopters and related military equipment to Iraq, according to a statement issued on Monday.

- The department said that the principal contractor will be Bell-Textron of Fort Worth, Texas, and that the sale would "improve Iraq's capability to meet current and future threats."

- **Three minors killed in Colombian military strike on FARC dissidents:** A Colombian military air strike on August 27 in southern Guaviare department **killed** 10 people, including three minors aged 15 and 16, targeting a dissident faction of the former FARC rebel group, according to the country's National Institute of Legal Medicine and Forensic Sciences and the Ministry of National Defense.

- President Abelardo de la Espriella, a right-wing ally of Donald Trump who took office earlier this month, said the strike was part of intensified operations against armed groups and wrote on X that “the bandits, who for decades have recruited minors to turn them into combatants or human shields, must pay for these crimes.”

- **India rejects international court ruling on Indus Waters Treaty:** India **rejected** a Monday ruling by the Permanent Court of Arbitration ordering it to uphold the 1960 Indus Waters Treaty with Pakistan, with the Ministry of External Affairs saying the tribunal has “no jurisdiction whatsoever to pronounce on India's sovereign decisions.”

- India suspended the treaty in April last year, following an attack on a village in Kashmir that killed 26 people, in which two of three assailants were later identified by Indian authorities as Pakistani nationals. Pakistan has denied involvement in the incident.

- The tribunal, which is housed at the Hague, ruled that the treaty remains fully binding, ordered India to limit construction on the Ratle Hydro-Electric Plant in Kashmir, and restricted work on the dam wall and power intake structure above certain levels.

- The restrictions are expected to remain in place until 90 days after a World Bank-appointed neutral expert issues a decision in the case, which is expected by July 2027.

- **Eurasian leaders gather for Shanghai Cooperation Organization in Kyrgyzstan:** The leaders of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization's 10 member states—China, Russia, India, Iran, Pakistan, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan—**gathered** in Kyrgyzstan alongside representatives of numerous partner countries for a summit intended to deepen cooperation among non-Western powers.

- Chinese President Xi Jinping, Russian President Vladimir Putin, and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi attended alongside Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian and leaders from across Central Asia. Putin held separate meetings with Xi and Modi and is expected to meet Pezeshkian on Tuesday.