



WEEKLY ROUND-UP / GLOBAL SECURITY & GEOPOLITICS

Weekly Global Security Round-Up

8-14 August 2026

The purpose of the Weekly Roundup is to provide a recap of global mainstage events by region in the security and geopolitical arenas.

COVERAGE

Middle East | Europe | Africa | Asia-Pacific | Americas

Maritime security | Armed conflict | Political developments | Cyber & hybrid threats

WEEKLY ROUND-UP

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REPORTING PERIOD
8–14 August 2026**COVERAGE**
Global**CATEGORY**
Security & Geopolitics

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REGIONAL SECURITY

Middle East

9 August – Houthi attack killed seven at Mocha.

Houthi forces launched missiles and drones against the Red Sea port city of Mocha, Yemen, killing seven people according to Yemeni military authorities; air defences reportedly intercepted 11 participating drones. The attack represented a significant expansion of Houthi pressure against government-held territory and infrastructure near the strategically important Bab el-Mandeb maritime corridor.

10 August – Iran appointed Mohsen Rezaei to top security post.

Iran appointed former Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) commander Mohsen Rezaei as secretary of the Supreme National Security Council, placing the veteran hardliner in a central role coordinating national security and foreign policy. The appointment occurred as Tehran continued managing the military, economic and diplomatic consequences of its confrontation with the United States and regional opponents.

11 August – Deadly attack hit shipping in Bab el-Mandeb.

Four crew members aboard a cargo vessel were killed in a Houthi attack in the Bab el-Mandeb Strait on 11 August, while two Yemeni rescuers responding to the incident were also killed. The fatalities demonstrated the continuing direct threat to commercial crews operating through the Red Sea–Gulf of Aden maritime corridor.

11 August – U.S. forces struck a vessel in the Gulf of Oman.

The U.S. military said a Navy helicopter engaged a Panama-flagged vessel attempting to sail toward an Iranian port in breach of the U.S. naval blockade, while separate attacks affected shipping in the Red Sea. The incidents occurred as Iran maintained restrictions in the Strait of Hormuz and Washington continued maritime pressure against Iranian trade.

12 August – U.S.-Iran negotiations remained stalled.

A senior Iranian source told Reuters on 12 August that mediation efforts had made “absolutely no progress” toward restoring the June interim agreement between Tehran and Washington. The principal disagreements continued to concern the Strait of Hormuz, U.S. restrictions on Iranian ports and shipping, and frozen Iranian assets.

12 August – Saudi Arabia strengthened regional defence partnerships.

Saudi Arabia continued developing multinational defence arrangements involving Pakistan and Turkey while pursuing greater maritime cooperation in the Red Sea following attacks against Saudi territory and shipping. The measures reflect Riyadh's effort to increase deterrence and distribute the burden of protecting strategic infrastructure and maritime export routes.

13 August – U.S. threatened an indefinite Iran blockade.

U.S. officials said Washington possessed the military capacity to maintain its naval blockade of Iran “indefinitely” and intended to increase economic pressure on Tehran. The announcement reinforced the continuing importance of maritime interdiction to U.S. strategy while the Strait of Hormuz remained heavily disrupted.

13 August – Israel linked Lebanon withdrawal to Hezbollah disarmament.

Israeli Defence Minister Israel Katz stated that Israeli forces would remain in southern Lebanon until Hezbollah was disarmed, following U.S. criticism of suggestions that the deployment could become indefinite. Washington maintained that the agreed framework requires verified Hezbollah disarmament, Lebanese military deployment and a phased Israeli withdrawal.

13 August – Lebanon disputed a Hezbollah verification agreement.

A Lebanese official rejected reports that Beirut had agreed to Britain, Italy, Switzerland and Indonesia as a final shortlist of states potentially participating in third-party verification of Hezbollah's disarmament. Discussions with the United States nevertheless continued over an international mechanism capable of verifying Lebanese Armed Forces implementation of the disarmament process.

13 August – UN warned Yemen risk was highest since 2022.

UN Special Envoy Hans Grundberg warned that Yemen faced its greatest danger of returning to large-scale conflict since the 2022 truce, citing intensifying Houthi and government military activity. Fighting around Marib, Hadramawt and Mocha, combined with renewed attacks against commercial shipping, has increased the possibility that Yemen's internal conflict will merge further with wider regional confrontation.

REGIONAL SECURITY

Europe

8 August – Russian strikes killed four around Kyiv.

Russian drones killed a three-year-old boy and his grandparents in Kyiv region, while another person was killed during a ballistic-missile attack on the capital; Ukraine reported Russia launched six ballistic missiles and 151 drones overnight. Ukraine simultaneously struck Russia's Ilsky and Syzran oil refineries, where fires were reported.

8 August – Germany strengthened its response to drone threats.

German Interior Minister Alexander Dobrindt warned that Germany was confronting near-daily hybrid threats after authorities discovered an explosives-carrying drone at Leipzig/Halle Airport and recorded additional suspicious drone activity. Berlin planned to expand counter-drone personnel and operational capabilities while investigations into the incidents continued.

9 August – Major strikes hit Odesa, Kharkiv and Belgorod.

Russian strikes damaged Odesa's seaport and power infrastructure and attacks on Kharkiv killed three people and wounded 37, while Russian authorities reported five deaths and 25 injuries from a Ukrainian drone attack on Belgorod. The reciprocal strikes demonstrated the increasing emphasis by both sides on deep attacks against logistics, energy and urban infrastructure.

10 August – Poland and Baltic states reinforced critical infrastructure.

Poland, Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia increased protection around dams, power facilities, gas infrastructure and other strategic sites following intelligence warnings concerning possible sabotage or false-flag activity. Lithuania deployed military personnel to energy infrastructure while Latvia increased security at the Daugava River dam and Incukalna gas-storage facility.

11 August – Drone attack killed one in Voronezh.

A drone attack on Russia's Voronezh region killed one person and wounded two, while falling debris ignited fires at two Wildberries warehouses covering approximately 16,000 and 20,000 square metres. Governor Alexander Gusev said Russian air defences destroyed 15 drones over Voronezh city and five surrounding districts.

13 August – Russia struck Ukraine's Izmail grain port.

Russian forces attacked Izmail on the Danube River overnight, damaging port infrastructure, starting a fire and disrupting electricity in southeastern parts of the city. Romania scrambled two fighter aircraft after an aerial

target entered Romanian airspace for approximately two minutes during the attack before returning toward Ukraine.

13 August – Ukraine proposed a Black Sea maritime truce.

Ukraine transmitted a proposal through an intermediary for Russia and Ukraine to cease attacks against civilian shipping in the Black Sea as growing disruption threatened agricultural exports and international food supplies. Russia said it had not received a formal proposal, while attacks against Ukrainian ports and Russian maritime export infrastructure continued.

13–14 August – Ukrainian drones hit major Russian refinery.

Ukrainian drones struck the Gazprom Neftekhim Salavat refinery in Bashkortostan, approximately 1,300 km from Ukraine, igniting a fire at one of Russia's largest refining and petrochemical complexes. The attack formed part of a concentrated series of Ukrainian strikes against Russian oil infrastructure, with the Orsk refinery also reportedly forced to suspend operations.

13 August – Bomb killed Russian military officer in Crimea.

An explosive device in Sevastopol killed former Ukrainian naval officer Robert Shageyev, who defected to Russia following the 2014 annexation of Crimea, and Russian authorities detained a woman suspected of involvement. Four explosive-ordnance specialists and a guard were also reportedly killed while attempting to neutralise another device in Sevastopol.

13 August – Poland disclosed disrupted assassination plot.

Prime Minister Donald Tusk said Polish authorities had thwarted an alleged Russian intelligence operation to assassinate a Ukrainian-American citizen in Warsaw, with the suspect detained on 7 August in coordination with U.S. intelligence. The disclosure was significant because Polish authorities characterised the case as an attempted Russian-directed killing of a U.S. citizen on NATO territory.

14 August – French taxpayer data stolen in cyberattack.

France's Finance Ministry confirmed that information belonging to individual and professional taxpayers had been stolen following unauthorised access to government systems. The disclosure added another significant government-sector cyber incident to Europe's current security picture, although the ministry had not publicly established attribution by the reporting cut-off.

REGIONAL SECURITY

Africa

10 August – Libyan intelligence chief killed by car bomb.

The head of military intelligence for eastern Libya's Libyan National Army was killed when an explosive device detonated in his vehicle outside his home in Benghazi's Hawari district. The targeted killing of a senior intelligence official represented a significant security incident within eastern Libya despite the relative reduction in large-scale factional warfare.

11 August – Kebbi gunbattle killed 10 police officers.

Ten Nigerian police officers and two civilians were killed during a gunbattle with suspected armed bandits in Kebbi State, while police said 17 attackers were also killed and two officers wounded. The incident underscored the continuing operational capability of heavily armed criminal groups across northwestern Nigeria and the persistent threat to police patrols and road movement.

11 August – RSF captured Geissan in Sudan.

The Rapid Support Forces (RSF) said it captured Geissan in Blue Nile State as fighting expanded following recent RSF setbacks elsewhere in Sudan. Blue Nile authorities accused RSF forces of attacking farmers while Sudanese Armed Forces units fought to contest the advance.

12 August – RSF renewed its assault on al-Obeid.

Eight drones targeted strategically important al-Obeid in North Kordofan, killing two people and injuring others as the RSF renewed pressure against the Sudanese Armed Forces. Drone attacks were also reported in Khartoum, Bahri and Atbara, representing the first such strikes around the capital since May.

12 August – Chad anti-corruption inspectors were detained and assaulted.

Chad's Independent Anti-Corruption Authority said security personnel detained and assaulted inspectors while they examined crude-oil operations at the state-owned Chadian Hydrocarbons Company. The confrontation in N'Djamena highlighted institutional tensions surrounding oversight of the strategically important petroleum sector.

13 August – Mali secured release of 82 soldiers.

The Malian Armed Forces confirmed that 82 government soldiers held by armed groups were released into government custody, including personnel captured during the major nationwide attacks of 25 April. The Azawad Liberation Front confirmed the release on humanitarian grounds, although approximately 118 Malian soldiers were reported to remain captive.

13 August – Mali pardoned French embassy employee.

Malian authorities pardoned French national Yann Vézilier, an embassy employee who had been sentenced to 20 years' imprisonment after being accused of involvement in a plot to destabilise the country. The clemency did not overturn his conviction and required his immediate departure from Mali.

REGIONAL SECURITY

Asia-Pacific**8 August – Thailand school shooting left seven dead.**

Thai authorities said a 14-year-old student killed five staff members at Debsirin Nonthaburi School in Nonthaburi Province and also killed the two grandparents with whom he lived. The incident was one of two deadly shootings in Nonthaburi within less than a week and renewed national scrutiny of firearm availability and storage.

11 August – UN investigators reported intensified Myanmar attacks.

United Nations investigators said Myanmar's military had intensified air attacks and alleged abuses during the period surrounding the country's election, documenting an increasingly severe conflict environment. The findings were released on 11 August as fighting remained active across several states and regions.

12 August – Thailand ordered gun-control review.

The Thai government ordered a review of firearms controls and stronger enforcement against illegal weapons following two deadly shootings in Nonthaburi Province in less than one week. The government response included renewed attention to licensing, illegal firearms and controls intended to prevent authorised weapons from being misused.

12 August – Pakistan-administered Kashmir election saw continuing unrest.

Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz had secured 25 seats in the 53-seat assembly as results emerged, while authorities had postponed voting in seven constituencies following a period of deadly confrontations between protesters and security forces. The election occurred against a security backdrop in which dozens had reportedly been killed in unrest since June.

13 August – Taliban detained UN personnel in Afghanistan.

Human Rights Watch called for the release of two Afghan United Nations employees detained by Taliban authorities in Herat on 9 August, alongside six NGO workers detained during the preceding month. The latest detentions occurred immediately before the fifth anniversary of the Taliban's return to power and added to concerns over the operating environment for international organisations.

13 August – Faizabad mayor killed in vehicle explosion.

Habib Ur Rahman Mansoor, the Taliban-appointed mayor of Faizabad in Afghanistan's Badakhshan Province, was killed when an explosive device detonated in his vehicle on 13 August. The killing followed the shooting death two weeks earlier of provincial information and culture director Zabihullah Amiri, although no organisation had claimed responsibility by the reporting cut-off.

13 August – Kyrgyz president confirmed re-election bid.

Kyrgyz President Sadyr Japarov announced that he would seek a second term in the Central Asian state's presidential election scheduled for January 2027. Japarov stated that other candidates would be permitted to contest the election without restriction, making the announcement an important political development ahead of the forthcoming campaign.

14 August – North Korea threatened stronger deterrence.

North Korea's Foreign Ministry condemned forthcoming U.S.-South Korean military exercises and said Pyongyang would respond to what it described as an increased threat with a corresponding increase in deterrent capability. The statement was carried by KCNA on 14 August and specifically criticised expanding U.S.-Japan-South Korea defence cooperation.

REGIONAL SECURITY**Americas**

8 August – Car bomb struck southwest Colombia.

A vehicle bomb exploded at a toll plaza on the Pan-American Highway near Cali one day after President Abelardo De La Espriella took office, injuring two security guards and damaging surrounding property. Colombia's military blamed dissident former Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) factions, while regional authorities assessed that the attack was intended to increase pressure on transport access into Cauca.

10 August – Major earthquake devastated western Colombia.

A magnitude-7.4 earthquake struck western Colombia on 10 August, collapsing buildings and damaging hospitals and infrastructure across Cali, Quibdó, Pereira, Armenia and Manizales; the initial government death toll exceeded 100. President Abelardo De La Espriella declared a national state of emergency as rescue operations, curfews and emergency deployments began across affected areas.

12 August – Colombia earthquake death toll reached 265.

By 12 August authorities reported 265 confirmed deaths, almost 500 people missing and more than 3,700 injured following the 7.4-magnitude earthquake, with more than 9,500 homes destroyed. President De La Espriella announced an emergency reconstruction fund as rescue teams continued searching collapsed structures during the critical initial 72-hour survival window.

12 August – U.S. proposed joint strikes with Colombia.

U.S. Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth said Washington had discussed joint military strikes against designated armed organisations with Colombia as Bogotá joined the U.S.-led Americas Counter-Cartel Coalition. Potential targets discussed included the National Liberation Army (ELN) and dissident FARC organisations, marking a potentially significant expansion of bilateral counter-narcotics and counter-insurgency cooperation.

12 August – U.S. pledged expanded Colombian security assistance.

Washington outlined plans for approximately \$1 billion in security assistance as Colombia's new government moved toward closer cooperation with U.S.-led regional counter-cartel initiatives. The initiative followed President De La Espriella's pledge to intensify operations against illicit coca production, armed organisations and trafficking networks.

Strategic Outlook

The Middle East remained the principal geopolitical escalation risk during 8–14 August, with the combination of the U.S. naval blockade of Iran, continued disruption in the Strait of Hormuz, Houthi attacks around Bab el-Mandeb and renewed fighting inside Yemen creating overlapping maritime and military threats. Washington's statement that it can maintain the blockade indefinitely indicates that economic and maritime coercion is likely to remain central to U.S. strategy unless diplomatic negotiations produce substantive movement.

In Europe, the Russia-Ukraine war showed further movement toward increasingly deep and infrastructure-focused strikes. Russian attacks against Ukrainian ports and cities were accompanied by Ukrainian attacks against refineries hundreds of kilometres inside Russia, while Poland, Germany and the Baltic states simultaneously strengthened protection against drone, sabotage and hybrid threats.

The attempted assassination case disclosed by Poland and the explosives-carrying drone incident in Germany are particularly relevant to the wider European security picture because they extend concern beyond conventional battlefield activity. European authorities are increasingly treating protection of energy networks, airports, government systems and other critical infrastructure as part of the same broader security environment surrounding the war.

In Africa, the most significant operational developments occurred in Sudan, Nigeria, Libya and Mali. The renewed RSF offensive against al-Obeid and return of drone attacks to Khartoum and other cities indicate a renewed period of escalation in Sudan, while the deaths of 10 Nigerian police officers in Kebbi demonstrate the continuing ability of armed groups to inflict substantial casualties on state security forces.

The Asia-Pacific security picture was more fragmented, with no single event comparable in scale to developments in the Middle East, Ukraine or Sudan. The Nonthaburi school shooting and subsequent Thai government gun-control review were nevertheless significant local security developments, while the killing of the Faizabad mayor and detention of UN personnel reinforced continuing operating-environment concerns in Afghanistan.

In the Americas, Colombia dominated the reporting period. The 10 August earthquake rapidly became a major national emergency while the new De La Espriella administration simultaneously confronted an early car-bomb attack and moved toward substantially expanded counter-cartel and counter-insurgency cooperation with the United States.

Overall, the week was characterised by high operational tempo but geographically concentrated escalation rather than a broad deterioration across every region. The priority indicators for the next reporting period are further attacks on shipping in Hormuz and Bab el-Mandeb; any renewed U.S. or Iranian kinetic escalation; the trajectory of the RSF offensive around al-Obeid; Russian and Ukrainian attacks on maritime and energy infrastructure; and implementation of the emerging U.S.-Colombian security partnership.