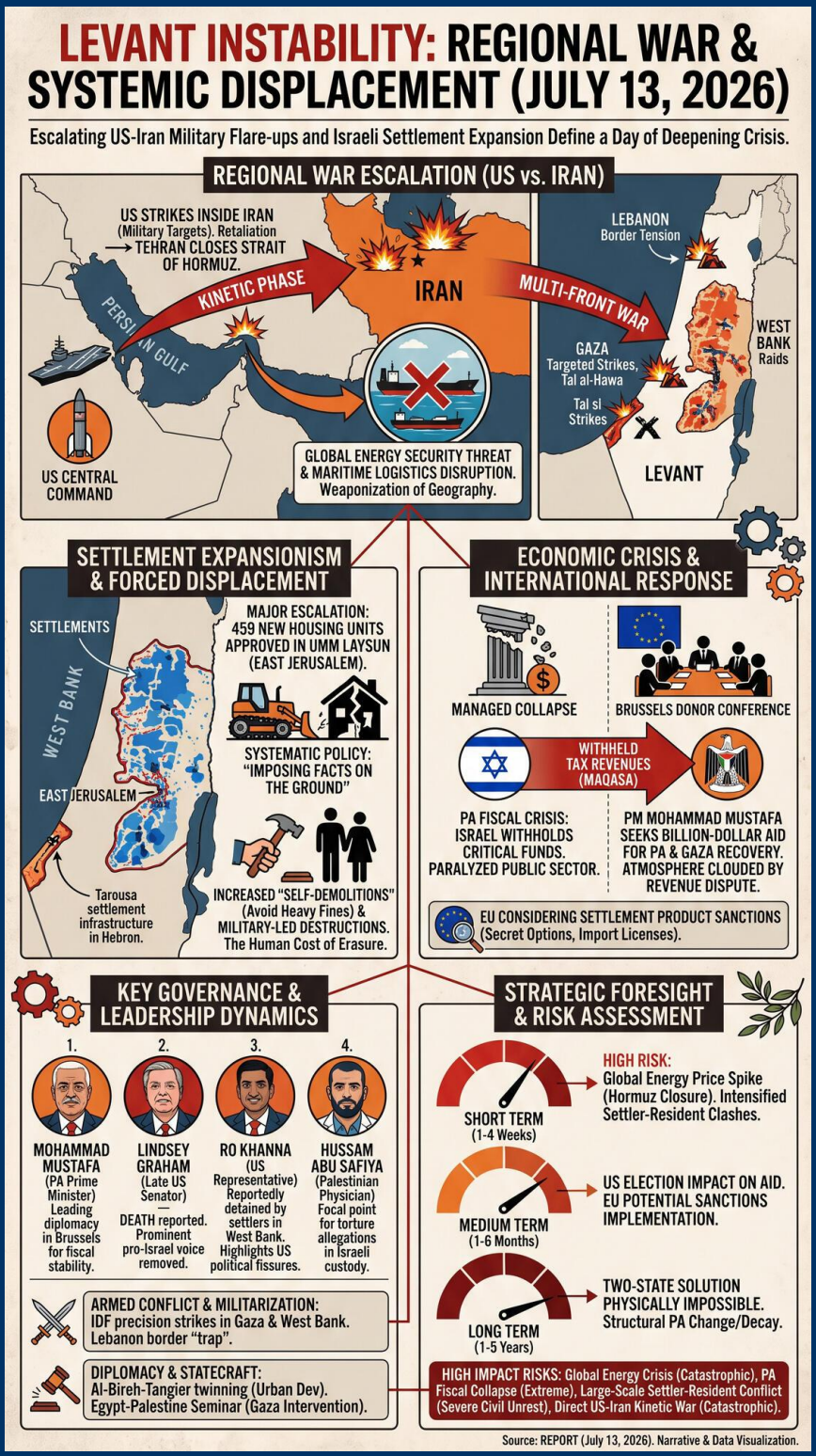
TODAY'S MEDIA TRENDS

PALESTINETV

JULY 13, 2026

THE GDELT PROJECT



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ESCALATING SETTLEMENT EXPANSION AND REGIONAL MILITARY FLARE-UPS BETWEEN THE US AND IRAN DEFINE A DAY OF DEEPENING SYSTEMIC INSTABILITY ACROSS THE LEVANT.

DAY-AT-A-GLANCE

July 13, 2026, was characterized by a dangerous convergence of localized displacement and broad regional militarization. In the occupied territories, a major expansion of the settlement enterprise was reported, centered on the approval of 450 new housing units in Umm Laysun and intensified infrastructure projects in the Hebron governorate. These developments were framed not merely as construction, but as a systematic policy of "imposing facts on the ground" and forced displacement through self-demolitions and military-led destructions of Palestinian homes in East Jerusalem and the West Bank. This domestic pressure is occurring as the Palestinian Authority (PA) seeks to bolster its international standing through donor meetings in Brussels and symbolic diplomatic twinning projects, such as the Al-Bireh-Tangier agreement.

Concurrently, the regional security architecture faces a potential collapse following reported U.S. military strikes against targets within Iran, a significant escalation confirmed by U.S. Central Command. In retaliation, Tehran has declared the closure of the Strait of Hormuz, a critical maritime chokepoint, citing the presence of U.S. naval assets as an unacceptable threat. These events, coupled with ongoing hostilities on the Lebanon-Israel border and targeted strikes in Gaza, indicate that the conflict has fully transitioned from a localized struggle into a multi-front regional war with global economic implications. Skepticism remains regarding the efficacy of international donor mechanisms, as Palestinian officials openly criticize the withholding of tax revenues by Israel, which continues to paralyze the PA's fiscal capacity.

MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS

- **Regional War Escalation:** The conflict between the U.S. and Iran has entered a kinetic phase, with U.S. Central Command reporting strikes on targets inside Iran, while Tehran retaliated by closing the Strait of Hormuz U.S. strikes inside Iran. This move threatens global energy security and maritime logistics closure of Hormuz.
- **Settlement Expansionism:** Israeli authorities approved the deposit of a plan for 450 new housing units in Umm Laysun, East Jerusalem, representing a major escalation in settlement construction 450 new units. This coincided with new road projects in the Hebron area to benefit the Tarousa settlement Tarousa infrastructure.

- **Brussels Donor Conference:** Palestinian Prime Minister Mohammad Mustafa led a high-level delegation to Brussels to secure financial support for the PA and Gaza's recovery, though the atmosphere was clouded by Israel's continued withholding of tax revenues Brussels donor meeting.
- **Forced Displacement Policies:** Reports detailed an increase in "self-demolitions" where Palestinian residents are forced to destroy their own homes to avoid heavy fines from Israeli municipalities, specifically in Umm Tuba forced self-demolition.
- **European Union Policy Shifts:** The EU is reportedly considering secret options to sanction settlement products, including import licenses or high tariffs, in response to increased settler violence and settlement expansion EU settlement sanctions.
- **Death of US Senator Lindsey Graham:** The death of a prominent pro-Israel U.S. Senator was reported, noted for his aggressive stance toward Iran and staunch support for Israeli military operations Graham's death.

KEY GOVERNANCE TOPICS

Armed Conflict & Militarization

- U.S. Central Command reported using precision munitions against military targets in Iran to degrade its capability to threaten international maritime lanes US strikes.
- The IDF conducted targeted strikes on a motorcycle in Gaza's Tal al-Hawa neighborhood, alongside overnight raids across the West Bank Gaza strikes.
- Border tensions in Lebanon remain high, with narratives emphasizing the "mud of Lebanon" as a trap for Israeli ground forces Lebanon border war.

Diplomacy & Statecraft

- The Palestinian Prime Minister utilized the Brussels forum to advocate for PA sovereignty and the release of withheld "Maqasa" tax funds tax revenue crisis.
- The Al-Bireh municipality signed a twinning agreement with Tangier, Morocco, to enhance urban development and cultural exchange Al-Bireh-Tangier agreement.
- A seminar in Egypt emphasized the historical depth of Egyptian-Palestinian relations and the necessity of high-level political intervention to save the Gaza Strip Egypt-Palestine seminar.

Critical Infrastructure Security

- Iran's closure of the Strait of Hormuz serves as a weaponization of maritime geography, directly impacting global oil markets maritime chokepoint.
- Settlement road projects in the Hebron governorate are disrupting existing Palestinian property lines and agricultural movements Hebron road leveling.

Legal Warfare & Regulatory Risk

- The EU is reportedly reviewing a "secret paper" regarding import licenses for Israeli settlement products, a potential shift toward economic statecraft against the occupation EU secret paper.
- Palestinian human rights groups continue to challenge home demolition orders in Israeli courts, though with limited success legal challenges.

DEEP DIVE: TRENDS AND THEMES

The Weaponization of Geography

A clear trend has emerged involving the tactical use of geographic chokepoints and physical space to exert political pressure. At the regional level, Iran's closure of the Strait of Hormuz is a direct response to U.S. kinetic action, leveraging its control over oil transit routes Hormuz closure. Locally, Israeli settlement expansion and road construction in the West Bank serve to fragment Palestinian territory, creating "facts on the ground" that preclude a contiguous state territorial fragmentation. This "creeping annexation" is being facilitated by infrastructure projects designed to integrate settlements while isolating Palestinian communities.

International Frustration and Economic Statecraft

There is a growing divergence between the Palestinian leadership's reliance on traditional donor diplomacy and a more aggressive European stance. While the PA Prime Minister is in Brussels asking for financial support donor requests, the EU is moving toward more punitive measures against settlement products EU product sanctions. This suggests that European states may be losing patience with purely financial interventions and are beginning to explore economic leverage to influence Israeli policy.

The Human Cost of Erasure

The transcripts highlight a trend of psychological and cultural erasure accompanying physical displacement. The focus on "self-demolitions" emphasizes the humiliation inherent in the occupation's legal mechanisms home self-demolition. Conversely, Palestinian civil society is attempting to counter this through cultural resilience, such as puppet theaters for children in isolated villages and ballet schools in Al-Bireh, framing artistic expression as a form of national survival cultural puppet theater, Palestinian ballet.

INTERNAL DYNAMICS & DOMESTIC INSTABILITY

The PA is facing an existential fiscal crisis due to the withholding of tax revenues by Israel, which has restricted the government's ability to pay civil servants and maintain basic services PA fiscal crisis. This economic instability is exacerbating social tensions, although the transcripts attempt to project a sense of national unity through cultural and community events. There is a notable focus on the PA's domestic legitimacy being tied to international recognition and support, as seen in the Brussels donor meeting Prime Minister in Brussels.

Israeli domestic dynamics are framed through the lens of settlement expansion and military aggression. The transcripts portray a government captured by far-right settler interests, as evidenced by the approval of new housing units during a period of high regional tension settler influence. The death of Senator Lindsey Graham, a key international ally, may also shift the landscape of external support for the current Israeli administration loss of Graham.

THE ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT

The Palestinian economy is in a state of managed collapse, heavily dependent on external aid and vulnerable to Israeli fiscal policy. The Brussels conference is the primary focus for immediate capital injection, but long-term stability is undermined by the tax revenue dispute. Regional economic indicators are also under severe threat due to the Strait of Hormuz closure, which is likely to trigger a spike in global energy prices and

disrupt supply chains for metals and agricultural products.

- **Tax Revenues (Maqasa):** Israel continues to withhold critical funds, paralyzing the Palestinian public sector revenue withholding.
- **Donor Aid:** The Brussels meeting seeks billion-dollar commitments for Gaza recovery and PA budget support Brussels funding.
- **Energy Markets:** The closure of the Strait of Hormuz has created a global risk premium on oil, with immediate impacts on maritime insurance and shipping costs energy risk.
- **Agriculture:** Settler violence and land leveling in the West Bank are directly degrading Palestinian agricultural output and supply chains agricultural damage.

LEADERSHIP CHANGES

Recent shifts in personnel and status signal changing political dynamics within the U.S. and Palestinian spheres.

- **Mohammad Mustafa (Palestinian Prime Minister):** Emerging as the primary face of Palestinian diplomacy, currently leading efforts in Brussels to stabilize the PA's finances Mustafa in Brussels.
- **Lindsey Graham (U.S. Senator):** His death removes a powerful pro-Israel voice from the U.S. Senate, potentially impacting the continuity of bipartisan support for military aid Graham's death.
- **Ro Khanna (U.S. Representative):** His reported detainment by settlers during a visit to the West Bank highlights growing fissures in the U.S. Democratic Party regarding Israel policy Khanna incident.
- **Hussam Abu Safiya (Palestinian Physician):** His case has become a focal point for allegations of systemic prisoner abuse and torture in Israeli custody Abu Safiya case.

EDITORIAL POSTURE & STORY HIERARCHY

The network maintains a staunchly nationalistic and analytical editorial posture. The lead stories consistently focus on the twin threats of settlement expansion and regional war. There is a clear hierarchy that prioritizes the "ground truth" of Palestinian suffering (home demolitions, prisoner abuse) alongside high-level diplomatic maneuvers. The tone is often fear-inducing regarding regional escalation but reassuring regarding Palestinian cultural resilience. CONSPICUOUS OMISSIONS include any detailed coverage of internal Palestinian political divisions or criticisms of the PA's governance, focusing instead on external Israeli and U.S. pressure.

GEOPOLITICAL FRAMING

The transcripts portray a world in flux, with traditional alliances under strain and new fronts opening.

- **Israel** is framed as an expansionist and chaotic power, increasingly driven by far-right settler interests and militarism Israeli expansion.
- **The United States** is portrayed as a stable but biased ally of Israel, whose internal politics are fracturing over the human rights implications of the conflict US internal split.

- **Iran** is framed as a principled but strong regional actor, willing to use its strategic geography to counter U.S. military pressure Iranian strength.
- **The European Union** is increasingly seen as a competent and potentially principled actor that is beginning to move beyond rhetoric toward economic statecraft EU statecraft.
- **Egypt** remains a stable and critical friend of the Palestinian cause, providing a venue for strategic dialogue and regional mediation Egypt's role.

INFORMATION WARFARE ENVIRONMENT

The media environment is a site of active narrative seeding. Palestinian TV focuses on the "meta-narrative" of displacement and resistance, often using emotive human-interest stories to illustrate larger political trends. Conversely, it highlights Israeli "facts on the ground" as a form of geographic disinformation designed to erase Palestinian presence. The closure of the Strait of Hormuz is framed as a defensive necessity by Iran, while U.S. strikes are portrayed as aggressive and destabilizing. There is a significant delta between the official PA narrative of diplomatic progress in Brussels and the likely ground truth of continued fiscal paralysis.

HYPOTHESES AND FUTURE OUTLOOK

- The PA may face a total collapse if tax funds are not released soon, potentially leading to a power vacuum or civil unrest PA collapse risk.
- The U.S.-Iran conflict could escalate into a broader naval engagement if the Strait of Hormuz remains closed for an extended period naval war risk.
- EU-Israel relations are likely to deteriorate as the European Commission moves toward formalizing sanctions on settlement products EU sanctions path.

STRATEGIC FORESIGHT

- **Short Term (1-4 Weeks):** Expect a spike in global energy prices and potential supply chain disruptions due to the Hormuz closure. In the West Bank, settler-resident clashes are likely to intensify following the new housing unit approvals.
- **Medium Term (1-6 Months):** The results of the November U.S. elections will be critical in determining the trajectory of military aid and diplomatic cover for Israel. European states may begin implementing the settlement product sanctions discussed in secret papers.
- **Long Term (1-5 Years):** The continued fragmentation of Palestinian territory through settlements will likely render a two-state solution physically impossible, forcing a structural change in the PA's strategy toward a one-state reality or total institutional decay.

RISK ASSESSMENT

- **Global Energy Crisis:** The closure of the Strait of Hormuz could lead to a massive oil price spike. TRIGGERS: Prolonged Iranian naval blockade, failed maritime escort operations. LIKELIHOOD: High. IMPACT: Catastrophic. MITIGATIONS: U.S.-led maritime coalition, diplomatic de-escalation with Iran.

- **Palestinian Authority Fiscal Collapse:** The continued withholding of tax revenues threatens the PA's existence. TRIGGERS: Continued Israeli cabinet refusal to release funds, donor aid shortfall in Brussels. LIKELIHOOD: High. IMPACT: Extreme. MITIGATIONS: International pressure on Israel, immediate PA governance reforms.
- **Large-Scale Settler-Resident Conflict:** Settlement expansion in East Jerusalem and Hebron is a flashpoint for violence. TRIGGERS: Eviction orders in Umm Laysun, construction starts on Hebron roads. LIKELIHOOD: Very High. IMPACT: Severe civil unrest. MITIGATIONS: Halt to settlement projects, deployment of international observers.
- **Direct US-Iran Kinetic War:** Escalation beyond precision strikes could lead to regional war. TRIGGERS: Iranian attacks on U.S. naval assets, further U.S. strikes on Iranian soil. LIKELIHOOD: Moderate. IMPACT: Catastrophic. MITIGATIONS: Direct diplomatic backchannels, cessation of hostilities in Gaza.
- **Collapse of Two-State Diplomacy:** Irreversible "facts on the ground" render contiguous Palestinian statehood impossible. TRIGGERS: Completion of the 450-unit East Jerusalem project, further West Bank infrastructure integration. LIKELIHOOD: High. IMPACT: Long-term regional instability. MITIGATIONS: Global recognition of Palestinian statehood, aggressive settlement freezes.

GAPS & BLIND SPOTS

- The transcripts do not verify the claims of torture against Dr. Hussam Abu Safiya with independent medical or legal evidence prisoner claims.
- There is a lack of perspective from the Israeli government or public regarding the settlement approvals, framing them entirely through the PA lens settlement news.
- The exact nature of the "U.S. targets" inside Iran remains unverified by non-U.S. sources, leaving the scale of the escalation uncertain unverified strikes.
- The internal PA succession battle and leadership dynamics are entirely absent, despite the government's fragile state PA silence.

CONTRARIAN NARRATIVE SCENARIOS

The Puppet Theater as a Strategic Cover: Rather than a sign of resilience, the heavy focus on puppet theaters and cultural projects could be a desperate attempt by the PA to project a sense of normalcy and control while its actual governing institutions are hollowed out by fiscal collapse cultural framing.

Black Swan Event: Maritime Terror Campaign: If the closure of the Strait of Hormuz fails to achieve Iran's goals, non-state actors could launch a coordinated campaign of asymmetric attacks against global ports, leading to a total freezing of international maritime trade Hormuz risk.

RECOMMENDATIONS & IMPLICATIONS

For Statecraft/Public Sector:

- Prioritize the creation of a "maritime corridor" for energy supplies to mitigate the closure of the Strait of Hormuz.

- Increase diplomatic pressure for the release of PA tax revenues to prevent a security vacuum in the West Bank.
- Monitor the EU's "secret paper" on settlement products as a bellwether for shifts in Transatlantic policy toward Israel.

For Private Sector/Investors:

- Hedge against volatility in energy markets due to regional escalation between the US and Iran.
- Review supply chains for any exposure to products from the Levant, particularly regarding the risk of secondary sanctions or product bans.
- Evaluate safety and security standards for personnel and assets in maritime logistics hubs around the Middle East.

LEGISLATIVE ROUNDUP

Legislation and policy shifts were focused on international sanctions and bilateral PA-Morocco urban development initiatives.

- **Donor Policy (Brussels):** Debates centered on the reallocation of funds toward Gaza's recovery and PA budget stabilization donor policy.
- **EU Sanctions Proposal:** A proposed regulation to impose import licenses or tariffs on Israeli settlement products, currently being debated within the European Commission product sanctions proposal.
- **Al-Bireh-Tangier Treaty:** A bilateral municipal policy to enhance urban planning and twinning between Palestinian and Moroccan cities municipal treaty.

HEARINGS & PRESS EVENTS:

- PA Prime Minister Mohammad Mustafa's press briefing in Brussels emphasized PA sovereignty and the tax revenue crisis Mustafa briefing.
- Egypt-Palestine seminar in Cairo discussed high-level diplomatic intervention for Gaza Cairo seminar.

KEY STORIES

- **Approval of 450 Units in East Jerusalem:** Israeli authorities approved the deposit of a plan for 450 new units in Umm Laysun,East Jerusalem 450 units.
- **U.S. Strikes in Iran and Hormuz Closure:** U.S. Central Command confirmed strikes on military targets in Iran, following which Tehran closed the Strait of Hormuz US-Iran war.
- **Donor Meeting in Brussels:** PA Prime Minister Mustafa met with EU and international donors to secure PA budget support Brussels meeting.
- **Al-Bireh-Tangier Twinning Agreement:** Al-Bireh municipality signed a cooperation and twinning agreement with Tangier, Morocco twinning story.
- **Death of Senator Lindsey Graham:** Reporting on the death of a prominent pro-Israel U.S. Senator Graham's death.
- **Detainment of Ro Khanna:** A U.S. Representative was reportedly detained by settlers while visiting the West Bank Khanna incident.
- **Self-Demolition in Umm Tuba:** A Palestinian resident was forced to demolish his own home under threat of a heavy fine from the Jerusalem municipality self-demolition.

- **Puppet Theater in Beit Awwa:** A puppet theater project (Thalajeh) provides cultural respite for children in isolated Hebron villages puppet theater.
- **Torture Allegations of Dr. Hussam Abu Safiya:** Reports of systematic abuse and torture of a Palestinian doctor in an Israeli jail torture reports.
- **Gaza Targeted Strikes:** Israeli strikes on a motorcycle in Tal al-Hawa and residential targets across Gaza Gaza strikes.
- **Hebron Governor Infrastructure Projects:** Road leveling to expand the Tarousa settlement in the Hebron governorate Hebron construction.
- **Ballet Education in Al-Bireh:** A report on the "Steps Center" providing ballet education for girls as a form of cultural expression ballet school.

ABOUT THIS REPORT

Today's Media Trends is a public interest experiment in applying deep thematic trend analysis to television news coverage from around the world to explore how responsibly applied advanced AI can help journalists and scholars better understand the overarching trends, themes and patterns of our global world.

No data is used to train or tune any AI model.

Each morning, in collaboration with the Internet Archive's TV News Archive, we apply Google's Gemini 3 to deeply examine yesterday's coverage from each television news channel to tease out the overarching themes and trends of its news coverage into a richly annotated thematic analysis. Each high-level insight is connected back to the original broadcast, allowing journalists and scholars to understand the dominate themes and trends and instantly click out to the underlying sources for details.

By helping journalists and scholars see the broader trends and patterns of global news coverage, this analysis helps them identify relevant stories and coverage they might not otherwise have encountered and uncover connections, emphases and narrative shifts that enable more comprehensive reporting and deeper, evidence-based research.

This report is entirely machine generated using Gemini 3 and may include errors and omissions. Please verify all findings. No data is used to train or tune any AI model.

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