



Global Watch Daily – December 28, 2025

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

Israel & Jerusalem

Tensions remain high in East Jerusalem, where a man was arrested following a hit-and-run incident that left a police officer lightly injured, underscoring ongoing security challenges in the city ([Times of Israel](#)). The Israeli High Court has dismissed petitions opposing the appointment of the new Shin Bet chief, affirming the government's security leadership decisions ([Times of Israel](#)). Prime Minister Netanyahu has departed for the United States to meet with former President Trump to discuss plans concerning Gaza and rising Hezbollah tensions, reflecting ongoing diplomatic efforts amid regional instability ([Times of Israel](#)). Meanwhile, Hezbollah's influence continues to impact northern Israel economically, as a sponsored report highlights the destruction of a city's economy attributed to the group's activities ([YaDezra](#)).

Security concerns are further emphasized by the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) completing a three-month rotation in Syria, maintaining vigilance on multiple fronts ([JNS](#)). In Israel, a suspected Palestinian ramming and knife attack resulted in two deaths, highlighting the persistent threat of violence ([BBC News](#)). Additionally, Israel has officially recognized Somaliland as an independent state, a significant diplomatic development in the Horn of Africa region ([BBC News](#)).

The arrest of an Israeli man in Albania for attempting to leave the country with undeclared funds totaling €194,000 points to ongoing vigilance against financial crimes linked to the region ([Jerusalem Post](#)). Meanwhile, cultural losses are felt with the passing of Iranian cinema giant Bahram Beyzai at age 87, marking the end of an era in Middle Eastern arts ([BBC News](#)). Reports also indicate that executions in Iran are expected to double in 2025, a grim indicator of the regime's harsh internal policies ([BBC News](#)).

Wars & Security (Israel and Region)

Israel continues to manage its military posture carefully, rotating units in Gaza as a new phase of a ceasefire deal approaches, signaling cautious optimism amid ongoing conflict (



[Long War Journal](#)). The United States has conducted airstrikes against Islamic State targets in Nigeria, reflecting the global scope of counterterrorism efforts ([Long War Journal](#)).

In Iraq, divisions persist among militias regarding disarmament and integration under government control, complicating efforts to stabilize the country ([Long War Journal](#)). Libya's parliamentary leadership has declared a maritime deal with Turkey invalid but remains open to renegotiations, highlighting ongoing regional disputes over territorial waters ([Long War Journal](#)).

Israeli operations against Hezbollah in Lebanon continue, with recent activities reported between December 15 and 21, underscoring the persistent threat from the group ([Long War Journal](#)). Meanwhile, the persecution of Christians remains a critical concern, particularly in China and Burma, where activists and believers face increasing oppression ([FDD](#)) ([FDD](#)).

U.S. policy toward Iran remains fraught, with analysts noting a lack of viable diplomatic paths amid ongoing tensions ([FDD](#)). Efforts to combat Islamic terrorism in Africa continue, with airstrikes seen as only the initial step in a broader campaign to halt militant advances ([FDD](#)).

Global Macro & Geopolitics

A powerful storm sweeping across Nordic countries has resulted in three fatalities in Sweden, illustrating the increasing impact of severe weather events in the region ([BBC News](#)). The death of French cinema icon Brigitte Bardot at age 91 has been widely reported, marking the passing of a figure who transitioned from 1960s sex symbol to a controversial animal rights activist with a complex legacy ([France24](#)) ([BBC News](#)).

In international diplomacy, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky is scheduled to meet with former U.S. President Donald Trump in Florida, reflecting ongoing efforts to secure support amid the conflict with Russia ([France24](#)). Japan is advancing its defense capabilities with a record budget and expanded unmanned systems, signaling a strategic shift in response to regional security challenges ([The Diplomat](#)).

Geopolitical analysis highlights a minimalist emerging world order characterized by both convergence and divergence between the United States and China, pointing to complex global power dynamics ([The Diplomat](#)). In South Asia, India's government under Prime Minister Modi has moved to end the country's legal right to employment, a controversial policy shift with significant social implications ([The Diplomat](#)).



Bangladesh's political landscape is set to see the return of BNP leader Tarique Rahman after 17 years in exile, an event that may reshape the nation's political future ([The Diplomat](#)).

Pestilence & Global Health

Recent scientific studies have shed light on the causes of heart inflammation triggered by mRNA COVID vaccines, providing essential insights for vaccine safety and public health ([ScienceDaily](#)). Researchers have also identified viral agents that may contribute to long COVID symptoms, advancing understanding of this complex condition ([ScienceDaily](#)).

In dental health, a novel approach has been developed to prevent gum disease without harming beneficial bacteria, representing progress in oral care ([ScienceDaily](#)). Notably, children's anxiety and depression levels have declined rapidly following the reopening of schools after COVID closures, highlighting the importance of in-person education for mental health ([ScienceDaily](#)).

Artificial intelligence has discovered a vulnerable spot in the monkeypox virus that could lead to improved vaccines, offering hope for better disease control ([ScienceDaily](#)).

Natural Disasters & Signs in the Heavens

Seismic activity continues with recent earthquakes recorded near San Ramon and La Quinta, California, reminding us of the earth's ongoing geological shifts ([USGS](#)) ([USGS](#)).

NASA continues to advance space exploration and scientific research with ongoing projects such as studying physics in microgravity and preparations for the Artemis II lunar mission, including crew rehearsals and public engagement events ([NASA](#)) ([NASA](#)) ([NASA](#)) ([NASA](#)).

Satellite data initiatives like OPERA aim to address societal needs by improving earth science research, demonstrating the growing role of technology in understanding and responding to natural phenomena ([NASA](#)).

Middle Eastern Artifacts

The City of David continues to reveal new antiquities, enriching our understanding of Jerusalem's ancient history and biblical heritage through ongoing archaeological discoveries ([City of David](#)).



Reflection

As we observe the unfolding events in Israel and the broader world, the persistent challenges of conflict, political upheaval, and cultural loss remind us of the fragility of peace and the preciousness of human life. The ongoing security concerns in Jerusalem and the region call for wisdom and courage among leaders to pursue justice and reconciliation. Meanwhile, scientific advancements and space exploration inspire hope for progress and understanding in God's creation.

In these times, Christians are called to intercede for peace, the protection of the persecuted, and the guidance of those in authority. May we also find encouragement in the resilience of communities and the unfolding of God's providence amid uncertainty.

- Pray for peace and security in Jerusalem and throughout Israel, that violence may cease and reconciliation prevail.
- Lift up persecuted Christians worldwide, especially in regions of conflict and oppression, for strength and protection.
- Ask God to guide global leaders with wisdom and integrity as they navigate complex geopolitical challenges.