



## Global Watch Daily – December 29, 2025

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

### **Israel & Jerusalem**

In 2025, there has been a notable rise in anti-Israel and antisemitic rhetoric among right-wing podcasters, raising concerns about growing hostility in media discourse ([Times of Israel](#)). The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) has informed lawmakers that the current Haredi draft exemption bill does not adequately address the ongoing troop shortage, signaling challenges in military manpower planning ([Times of Israel](#)). Political tensions continue as the coalition calls for consequences amid the Qatargate scandal, with half of the population viewing the allegations as tantamount to treason ([Times of Israel](#)).

Immigration patterns have shifted sharply, with an overall drop in arrivals to Israel in 2025, despite a surge in immigrants from Western nations ([Times of Israel](#)). In political developments, Prime Minister Netanyahu is scheduled to meet former President Trump to discuss key Middle East issues, highlighting ongoing diplomatic efforts ([Times of Israel](#)). The Israeli cabinet has approved 19 new Jewish communities in Judea and Samaria, reflecting continued population growth in these contested areas ([JNS](#)).

Families from the Gvura Forum have urged caution against initiating a second phase of Gaza operations, appealing to Trump for restraint ([JNS](#)). In London, activists replaced the UAE embassy sign with a placard reading “Zionists,” signaling ongoing tensions and protest actions abroad ([JNS](#)). Meanwhile, Labour leader Keir Starmer faced criticism for welcoming an individual who praised violence against Zionists, stirring political controversy in the UK ([JNS](#)).

Security alerts have intensified with the IDF issuing evacuation orders for Tehran ahead of planned strikes, underscoring escalating regional tensions ([Jerusalem Post](#)). The Defense Ministry is conducting military exercises on Highway 35 to prepare for potential contingencies ([Jerusalem Post](#)). Additionally, a Ukrainian drone attack forced the closure of Moscow’s airport, highlighting the ongoing conflict in Eastern Europe ([Jerusalem Post](#)).

In other security news, an Israeli man was arrested in Albania for attempting to leave the country with undeclared funds totaling €194,000, raising concerns about illicit financial



activities ([Jerusalem Post](#)).

## **Wars & Security (Israel and Region)**

Israel has rotated military units in Gaza as a new phase of the ceasefire agreement approaches, indicating ongoing strategic adjustments in the region ([Long War Journal](#)). The United States has conducted airstrikes against Islamic State targets in Nigeria, demonstrating continued efforts to combat terrorism in Africa ([Long War Journal](#)).

Iraqi militias remain divided over disarmament and integration under government control, reflecting the fragile security situation in Iraq ([Long War Journal](#)). In Libya, the parliament speaker has declared the maritime deal with Turkey invalid but remains open to renegotiation, highlighting ongoing disputes over territorial waters ([Long War Journal](#)).

Israeli operations against Hezbollah in Lebanon have continued through mid-December, underscoring persistent threats along the northern border ([Long War Journal](#)). Globally, Christians face increasing persecution, notably in China, where the government exerts significant control over religious expression ([FDD](#)).

U.S. policy toward Iran remains complex and unresolved, with analysts noting a lack of viable pathways to de-escalation ([FDD](#)). Airstrikes in Africa are viewed as only the initial step in halting the advance of Islamic terrorist groups across the continent ([FDD](#)). Advocacy continues for the protection of persecuted Christians and activists in Burma, emphasizing the global nature of religious oppression ([FDD](#)).

## **Global Macro & Geopolitics**

Former President Donald Trump is meeting with Prime Minister Netanyahu in Florida to focus on pressing Middle East issues, reflecting ongoing U.S.-Israel diplomatic engagement ([BBC](#)). Meanwhile, China has conducted extensive military drills around Taiwan as a warning to separatist forces, escalating regional tensions ([BBC](#)).

In Ukraine, talks have made progress, but significant challenges remain, underscoring the complexity of resolving the conflict ([BBC](#)). Thailand has accused Cambodia of violating a recently signed ceasefire agreement, highlighting ongoing instability in Southeast Asia ([BBC](#)). Veteran journalist John Simpson reflected on 2025 as an unprecedented year of conflict, having reported on 40 wars throughout his career ([BBC](#)).



Taiwan warns that over 100,000 air passengers will face delays due to Chinese military drills simulating a blockade of Taiwan's ports, further heightening regional concerns (France24). Iran faces economic turmoil as shopkeepers protest and shut stores amid the currency hitting record lows ([France24](#)).

Japan is advancing its defense capabilities with a record budget and expanded unmanned systems, while also making strides in artificial intelligence development, signaling a strategic pivot in the Asia-Pacific region ([The Diplomat](#)). The emerging minimalist world order is marked by both convergence and divergence between America and China, shaping global geopolitics ([The Diplomat](#)).

In South Asia, India's government has effectively ended the legal right to employment, raising concerns about economic and social stability. At the same time, Bangladesh's BNP leader Tarique Rahman has returned after 17 years in exile, signaling political shifts in the region ([The Diplomat](#)) ([The Diplomat](#)).

## **Pestilence & Global Health**

Stanford scientists have identified mechanisms explaining why mRNA COVID-19 vaccines can trigger heart inflammation in rare cases, advancing understanding of vaccine safety ([ScienceDaily](#)). Researchers have also developed a novel approach to prevent gum disease that preserves beneficial oral bacteria, representing progress in dental health ([ScienceDaily](#)).

Studies have pinpointed viral agents that may be fueling long COVID symptoms, offering new avenues for treatment ([ScienceDaily](#)). Following school reopenings after the pandemic, children's anxiety and depression rates have declined rapidly, indicating positive mental health trends ([ScienceDaily](#)). Additionally, artificial intelligence has uncovered a surprising vulnerability in monkeypox, which could lead to improved vaccine designs ([ScienceDaily](#)).

## **Natural Disasters & Signs in the Heavens**

A minor earthquake measuring 1.8 on the Richter scale occurred 140 kilometers west-northwest of Yakutat, Alaska, reminding us of the earth's ongoing seismic activity (USGS). NASA continues to advance scientific knowledge through studies in microgravity, contributing to physics research with broad applications ([NASA](#)).



The Artemis II rocket recently received a festive visit from Santa, symbolizing hope and progress in humanity's return to the moon ([NASA](#)). NASA's OPERA project is addressing societal needs by leveraging satellite data to enhance our ability to monitor and respond to environmental changes ([NASA](#)). The Artemis II crew has completed their launch day rehearsal, moving closer to the historic lunar mission ([NASA](#)).

## **Middle Eastern Artifacts**

The City of David continues to reveal new antiquities, enriching our understanding of Jerusalem's ancient history and biblical heritage ([City of David](#)). These discoveries serve as tangible links to the biblical narrative and the enduring legacy of God's chosen city.

## **Reflection**

As we observe the unfolding events in Israel and across the globe, we are reminded of the persistent challenges facing God's people and the nations. The rise in hostility toward Israel and the ongoing conflicts in the Middle East call us to steadfast prayer and vigilance. At the same time, scientific advancements and space exploration reflect humanity's God-given creativity and the potential for progress when guided by wisdom.

In a world marked by division and uncertainty, Christians are called to be peacemakers and bearers of hope. Let us pray for protection over Israel and Jerusalem, for wisdom among leaders navigating complex geopolitical landscapes, and for the persecuted church worldwide to remain faithful and courageous.

- Pray for peace and security over Jerusalem and the entire nation of Israel.
- Ask God to grant wisdom and discernment to global leaders handling delicate diplomatic and military matters.
- Lift up persecuted Christians around the world, especially in regions of intense conflict and oppression.