



Global Watch Daily – January 17, 2026

Global Watch Daily – January 17, 2026

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

Israel & Jerusalem

Iran's Supreme Leader Khamenei has denounced former President Trump as a 'criminal' responsible for casualties and destruction amid ongoing protests, insisting that the Iranian people must firmly suppress sedition ([Times of Israel](#)). Meanwhile, some voices advocate cautious trust in Trump's policies toward Gaza and Iran, emphasizing that harsh rhetoric alone is insufficient without decisive measures to dismantle hostile regimes ([JNS](#)). Additionally, the IDF has reportedly issued evacuation orders for Tehran in anticipation of possible strikes, signaling rising tensions ([Jerusalem Post](#)).

In a related regional development, the Syrian army has advanced east of Aleppo following the withdrawal of Kurdish forces, marking a significant shift in control and representing Syria's first formal recognition of Kurdish national rights since 1946 ([BBC News](#)). This movement highlights the complex dynamics between Kurdish groups and the Syrian government, with important implications for regional stability ([BBC News](#)).

A disturbing discovery in Hadera revealed an apparent 5- to 6-week-old human fetus found in a residential building's drain, raising questions about the circumstances surrounding its presence ([Times of Israel](#)). This incident adds a somber note to the ongoing social challenges within Israel ([Times of Israel](#)).

Wars & Security (Israel and Region)

The Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) have withdrawn from contested areas in Aleppo province after intense clashes with Syrian government forces, a strategic retreat ordered by SDF commander Mazloum Abdi to avoid further conflict ([Long War Journal](#); [FDD](#)). Concurrently, Kurdish opposition groups in Iran have actively supported protests against the Tehran regime, calling for unity and striking against the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps ([Long War Journal](#)). These developments underscore the persistent Kurdish resistance across borders and the volatile security environment in the region ([Long War Journal](#)).



Chatham House Director Bronwen Maddox warns that the Western alliance is fracturing under the strain of superpower competition, describing US policy under President Trump as revolutionary and a rejection of foundational principles, including international law ([Chatham House](#)). The US's aggressive posture, including threats over Greenland and actions in Venezuela and Iran, is reshaping the global order and challenging NATO's cohesion ([Chatham House](#)).

Global Macro & Geopolitics

Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni secured a seventh term with over 71% of the vote amid accusations of electoral fraud from opposition leader Bobi Wine, extending his 40-year rule and raising concerns about democratic processes ([BBC News](#); [Al Jazeera](#)). In Iran, Supreme Leader Khamenei acknowledged that thousands have died during recent protests, blaming the US for instigating unrest that began in late December ([BBC News](#)). Meanwhile, Trump's pursuit of Greenland is exacerbating tensions within NATO, fracturing the alliance and benefiting Russian strategic interests ([France24](#)).

Syrian government forces have entered northern towns following the withdrawal of Kurdish fighters, with clashes resulting in casualties as the government consolidates control ([France24](#)). On the economic front, Western companies have inadvertently contributed to the rise of Chinese competitors like Labubu by transferring branding and advertising expertise, while South Korea's welfare state struggles to adequately support its elderly population due to systemic pension and safety net shortcomings ([The Diplomat](#); [The Diplomat](#)).

Pestilence & Global Health

Recent scientific advances reveal that a vitamin A byproduct suppresses immune responses, enabling tumors to evade detection; however, new drugs targeting this pathway show promise in enhancing cancer treatment efficacy ([ScienceDaily](#)). Additionally, a novel test developed at the University of Basel distinguishes antibiotics that truly kill bacteria from those that merely inhibit growth, potentially improving treatment outcomes for infections such as tuberculosis ([ScienceDaily](#)).

In a surprising real-world experiment, flu patients exposed healthy volunteers to the virus without transmission, highlighting the importance of ventilation and limited coughing in infection control ([ScienceDaily](#)). Meanwhile, research into Long COVID links persistent symptoms to inflammation, micro-clots, and metabolic disruption, with emerging



treatments showing early promise despite limited large-scale trials ([ScienceDaily](#)).

Scientists have discovered “migrions,” viral structures that enable collective infection by bundling viral material for direct cell-to-cell transfer, intensifying disease severity and challenging traditional infection models ([ScienceDaily](#)). Furthermore, a reevaluation of Tamiflu’s safety in children shows the drug may reduce neuropsychiatric events linked to influenza, overturning previous concerns ([ScienceDaily](#)).

Natural Disasters & Signs in the Heavens

Recent seismic activity includes a magnitude 2.4 earthquake north-northwest of Yakutat, Alaska, and a magnitude 3.8 quake west-northwest of Tatitlek, Alaska, both recorded by the USGS with shallow depths indicating potential local impact ([USGS](#); [USGS](#)). Additionally, a minor magnitude 0.3 earthquake occurred near Cobb, California ([USGS](#)).

NASA’s SpaceX Crew-11 mission crew will discuss their 167-day science expedition aboard the International Space Station in a scheduled news conference, underscoring ongoing human spaceflight achievements ([NASA](#)). The agency also received its 15th consecutive clean financial audit opinion, reflecting strong fiscal management ([NASA](#)).

Middle Eastern Artifacts

Recent archaeological excavations in Jerusalem’s Beit Hanina neighborhood and Jebel Mukkabbir have been conducted under Israel Antiquities Authority permits, revealing significant findings that enhance understanding of the region’s historical settlement patterns ([Israel Antiquities Authority](#); [Israel Antiquities Authority](#)). Additionally, extensive salvage excavations at Khirbat ‘Amra in the Be’er Sheva Valley have uncovered architectural remains spanning from the Hellenistic to Early Islamic periods, offering valuable insights into rural life and material culture ([Israel Antiquities Authority](#)).

Reflection

We should interpret these developments soberly, resisting both panic and apathy while attending to what is true. Our aim is prayerful discernment—grounding convictions in Scripture and keeping watch with steadiness and hope.