



Global Watch Daily – January 26, 2026

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

Israel & Jerusalem

Israel has successfully recovered the remains of Ran Gvili, the last hostage held in Gaza, fulfilling a crucial condition of the initial phase of the US-brokered ceasefire plan. His mother expressed confidence in Israel's commitment to bringing her son home, while search operations continue in northern Gaza cemeteries ([Times of Israel](#); [BBC News](#)).

Political tensions remain high as Prime Minister Netanyahu conducts urgent talks amid calls for elections by Smotrich, prompted by delays in the budget vote caused by objections from ultra-Orthodox factions. The government is engaged in complex negotiations to resolve these disputes and preserve stability ([Times of Israel](#)).

Educational efforts continue with Facing History incorporating a young-adult Holocaust literature book into its guide, aiming to empower students with diverse ways to express themselves and deepen their understanding of history ([JNS](#)).

Wars & Security (Israel and Region)

The IDF has outlined the role of Hezbollah's local liaison operatives, detailing their methods of building relationships with Lebanese civilians as part of the group's regeneration efforts. This follows the recent assassination of a Hezbollah liaison officer in southern Lebanon, highlighting ongoing regional tensions ([Long War Journal](#)).

Although the US-brokered Gaza ceasefire has entered its second phase, Palestinian terrorists violated the first phase eleven times between January 9 and 22, challenging the fragile truce. The newly formed National Committee for the Administration of Gaza and the Board of Peace are expected to play key roles in sustaining the ceasefire, amid mixed international support for the initiative ([Long War Journal](#)).

Saudi Arabia is undergoing a significant regional realignment, abandoning previous peace efforts and reviving old rhetoric against Zionism, signaling shifting alliances and increased regional instability. Meanwhile, Iran continues to flood social media with anti-protest



messaging to suppress domestic dissent, reflecting broader Middle Eastern tensions ([FDD](#); [FDD](#)).

Global Macro & Geopolitics

International concerns are rising as the European Union investigates Elon Musk's X platform over manipulated sexually explicit deepfakes, highlighting increasing scrutiny of AI's societal impact. Meanwhile, Kenya's former deputy president alleges an assassination attempt following a church attack, with investigations ongoing ([BBC News](#)).

The Syria peace deal remains fragile as government forces and Kurdish fighters accuse each other of ceasefire violations, despite humanitarian efforts such as prisoner releases and corridor openings. Sunni families in Raqqa continue to await news about relatives detained in government prisons, underscoring ongoing humanitarian challenges ([France24](#)).

Israel's retrieval of the last Gaza hostage's remains is hailed by Prime Minister Netanyahu as an extraordinary achievement, marking a significant milestone in de-escalating the Gaza conflict. Meanwhile, in Kashmir, civilian militias are emerging as India places counterinsurgency responsibilities on untrained locals, reflecting complex security dynamics ([France24](#); [The Diplomat](#)).

China faces a military leadership crisis unseen since the Cultural Revolution, with purges of top generals signaling instability within the People's Liberation Army. This turmoil adds to global geopolitical uncertainties amid shifting power balances ([The Diplomat](#)).

Pestilence & Global Health

Research in Guatemala reveals that bottled water from refillable jugs, often assumed safe, may be more contaminated than water from protected municipal wells, raising significant public health concerns. This finding highlights the urgent need for improved water safety standards in vulnerable regions ([ScienceDaily](#)).

Scientists have identified nasal cells as a critical first line of defense against the common cold, demonstrating a rapid antiviral response that prevents symptom onset. Delays in this response allow the virus to spread and cause inflammation, emphasizing the importance of the body's immune reaction over the virus itself ([ScienceDaily](#)).



Innovative synthetic biology techniques have enabled the engineering of bacteriophages to combat antibiotic-resistant bacteria such as *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, offering promising new treatments against superbugs. This breakthrough utilizes sequence data rather than traditional isolates for phage construction ([ScienceDaily](#)).

Micro-doses of THC show potential benefits in managing long-term side effects of HIV treatment by reducing inflammation, improving gut microbiota, and protecting the liver without causing intoxication. These findings suggest a novel therapeutic avenue for addressing chronic HIV complications ([ScienceDaily](#)).

Natural Disasters & Signs in the Heavens

Recent seismic activity includes a magnitude 1.4 earthquake near Valdez, Alaska, and a magnitude 1.3 quake north-northeast of Chase, Alaska, both occurring at significant depths, indicating ongoing tectonic movements in the region ([USGS](#)).

A magnitude 4.1 earthquake struck south of Dalbandin, Pakistan, at a depth exceeding 68 kilometers, highlighting seismic risks in South Asia. Meanwhile, NASA is preparing for the SpaceX Crew-12 mission to the International Space Station, with upcoming briefings outlining launch and mission plans ([USGS](#); [NASA](#)).

Middle Eastern Artifacts

Excavations in Be'er Sheva's Neve Noy neighborhood have uncovered Chalcolithic subterranean units featuring complex tunnel systems and refuse pits containing pottery and flint, shedding light on ancient habitation patterns. These discoveries offer valuable insights into early human settlement structures ([Israel Antiquities Authority](#)).

Further excavations in Be'er Sheva revealed Byzantine period graves constructed with ashlar stones and adorned with symbolic engravings, alongside plastered pits containing architectural fragments. These findings contribute to understanding the region's historical continuity and cultural practices ([Israel Antiquities Authority](#)).

Research at Khirbat 'Amra in the Be'er Sheva Valley traces rural occupation from the Hellenistic through Early Islamic periods, providing a comprehensive view of settlement evolution in the area. Such studies enrich our knowledge of historical transitions in the southern Levant ([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.