



Global Watch Daily – January 31, 2026

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

Israel & Jerusalem

The Israeli Defense Forces carried out strikes targeting Hamas and Islamic Jihad operatives, as well as weapons storage and manufacturing sites, in response to alleged violations of the Gaza ceasefire. These operations resulted in at least 28 Palestinian deaths and represent some of the deadliest incidents since the October ceasefire. Israel's military confirmed these actions amid mutual accusations of ceasefire breaches by both Israel and Hamas ([Times of Israel](#); [BBC News](#)).

Meanwhile, the IDF issued an evacuation order for Tehran in anticipation of potential strikes, signaling heightened regional tensions. Additionally, a scandal involving Prince Andrew resurfaced when leaked emails revealed attempts to set him up with a Russian woman connected to Epstein, highlighting ongoing controversies in the United Kingdom ([Jerusalem Post](#); [Times of Israel](#)).

Wars & Security (Israel and Region)

Conflict continues to escalate in Syria as battles between Damascus forces and the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces intensify despite a US-mediated ceasefire. The clashes have involved drone strikes, rocket fire, and suicide bombings, underscoring the fragile security environment in the region ([Long War Journal](#); [FDD](#)).

Reports also indicate that Hezbollah detained Lebanese security personnel who were attempting to inspect suspicious cargo believed to be weapons smuggled from Syria into Lebanon. This incident highlights ongoing tensions and security challenges along Lebanon's borders. Meanwhile, experts at Chatham House warn that shifting US foreign policy under President Trump is reshaping global alliances and international law, potentially signaling the end of the Western alliance as it has been known ([Long War Journal](#); [Chatham House](#)).

Global Macro & Geopolitics



Recent developments include Israeli air strikes that killed at least 28 Palestinians in Gaza amid contested ceasefire violations. In Iran, unexplained explosions in Bandar Abbas and a deadly gas blast in Ahvaz have raised regional security concerns. Additionally, militant attacks in Pakistan's Balochistan province by the Baloch Liberation Army resulted in numerous casualties, reflecting ongoing insurgencies ([BBC News](#); [France24](#)).

In East Asia, China's military leadership is undergoing upheaval following the downfall of General Zhang Youxia, signaling possible shifts in political and security dynamics under Xi Jinping. Meanwhile, North Korea appears to be preparing for leadership transition risks by focusing on legitimacy assets rather than clear successors, suggesting strategic internal planning ([The Diplomat](#)).

Pestilence & Global Health

A global study reveals that long COVID brain fog and related symptoms are reported far more frequently in the United States than in countries such as India and Nigeria, suggesting that cultural and healthcare access factors influence symptom reporting. Concurrently, research in Guatemala found that bottled water from refillable jugs, often trusted as safe, is frequently contaminated, whereas protected municipal wells provide cleaner water ([ScienceDaily](#)).

Scientific advances include the development of fully synthetic bacteriophage engineering systems aimed at combating antibiotic-resistant bacteria, as well as discoveries explaining why some wounds fail to heal due to bacterial molecules overwhelming skin cells. Additionally, micro-doses of THC show promise in mitigating long-term side effects of HIV treatment by reducing inflammation and improving gut health without causing intoxication ([ScienceDaily](#); [ScienceDaily](#)).

Natural Disasters & Signs in the Heavens

Seismic activity in Alaska has included multiple minor earthquakes near Denali National Park and Elmendorf Air Force Base, with magnitudes ranging from 1.4 to 1.9 and depths between 5 and 32 kilometers. These tremors reflect ongoing tectonic activity in the region, with no immediate reports of damage ([USGS](#)).

NASA continues to advance space exploration with the selection of Axiom Space for the fifth private mission to the International Space Station, planned for early 2027, alongside new awards aimed at hypersonic flight testing to push the boundaries of aviation



technology. Meanwhile, the eastern United States braces for another Arctic blast and winter storm, highlighting ongoing extreme weather patterns ([NASA](#); [weather.gov](#)).

Middle Eastern Artifacts

Recent archaeological work in Ashqelon's Afridar neighborhood uncovered significant findings from a 1979 excavation, shedding light on the area's historical layers. Similarly, extensive salvage excavations at Khirbat 'Amra in the Be'er Sheva Valley revealed architectural remains spanning from the Hellenistic to Early Islamic periods, offering valuable insights into settlement patterns and daily life across centuries ([Israel Antiquities Authority](#); [Israel Antiquities Authority](#)).

Further studies at Maresha IV document subterranean complexes of the Hellenistic city, contributing to the understanding of ancient urban infrastructure and cultural heritage in the region. These findings collectively enhance knowledge of the historical and archaeological richness of the Middle East ([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.