



Global Watch Daily – February 1, 2026

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

Israel & Jerusalem

Recent Israeli air strikes in Gaza have resulted in at least 32 Palestinian deaths amid mutual accusations of ceasefire violations by both Israel and Hamas, underscoring persistent tensions despite ongoing diplomatic efforts ([BBC News](#); [Times of Israel](#)).

Meanwhile, the IDF has issued evacuation orders for Tehran in anticipation of planned strikes, signaling escalating regional security concerns. Investigations have also revealed that Mormon charities transferred millions to Hamas-linked NGOs, raising serious questions about funding channels ([JNS](#); [Jerusalem Post](#)).

Violence continues domestically as a man was shot dead following a car chase in Lod, marking the 27th Arab citizen killed this year amid ongoing blood feuds, highlighting persistent internal security challenges ([Times of Israel](#)).

Wars & Security (Israel and Region)

Fighting between Damascus government forces and the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces has intensified despite a US-mediated ceasefire, involving drone strikes and suicide bombings. This escalation reflects the fragile state of regional peace efforts ([Long War Journal](#)).

The Islamic State has claimed responsibility for a recent assault on Niger's capital airport, although Niger and Russia's Africa Corps maintain the attack was repelled, highlighting ongoing instability in the Sahel region ([Long War Journal](#)).

On the geopolitical front, Chatham House warns that the Western alliance is fracturing amid US policy shifts under President Trump, which reject foundational principles and international law, signaling a potential realignment of global power structures ([Chatham House](#)).

Global Macro & Geopolitics



Documents have surfaced suggesting that Jeffrey Epstein sent \$75,000 to accounts linked to Lord Mandelson, who denies any knowledge of these transactions, raising questions about financial transparency among elites ([BBC News](#)).

French tech giant Capgemini plans to sell its US subsidiary that provides services for ICE amid growing scrutiny of US immigration enforcement practices, reflecting increasing corporate sensitivity to human rights concerns ([BBC News](#); [France24](#)).

In Venezuela, human rights activist Javier Tarazona was released after more than four years in jail, part of a series of political prisoner releases following the ouster of Nicolas Maduro, signaling shifts in the country's political landscape ([France24](#)).

Pestilence & Global Health

Researchers in Bangladesh have identified a bat-borne virus, Pteropine orthoreovirus, infecting humans who consumed raw date-palm sap, raising alarms about undetected zoonotic threats alongside known viruses such as Nipah ([ScienceDaily](#)).

A global study reveals that long COVID brain fog and related symptoms are reported far more frequently in the US than in countries like India and Nigeria, suggesting that cultural factors, stigma, and healthcare access influence symptom reporting ([ScienceDaily](#)).

In Guatemala, trusted bottled water from refillable jugs was frequently contaminated, while protected municipal wells were cleaner, challenging assumptions about water safety in vulnerable regions ([ScienceDaily](#)).

Scientists have developed a fully synthetic bacteriophage engineering system to combat antibiotic-resistant *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, marking a promising advance in fighting superbugs through synthetic biology ([ScienceDaily](#)).

Natural Disasters & Signs in the Heavens

Recent seismic activity includes a magnitude 2.8 earthquake near Gilroy, California, and a 3.5-magnitude quake near Yakutat, Alaska, as recorded by the USGS, reminding us of ongoing tectonic activity in the western United States ([USGS](#); [USGS](#)).

NASA has selected Axiom Space for the fifth private mission to the International Space Station, signaling continued growth in commercial spaceflight, alongside new awards aimed at advancing hypersonic flight testing ([NASA](#)).



Middle Eastern Artifacts

Excavations in Ashqelon's Afridar neighborhood, conducted in 1979 under permit A-889/1979, have revealed significant archaeological finds that shed light on the region's historical layers, as documented by the Israel Antiquities Authority ([Israel Antiquities Authority](#)).

The Khirbat 'Amra site in the Be'er Sheva Valley offers extensive multiperiod remains from the Hellenistic to Early Islamic periods, providing valuable insights into settlement patterns, economy, and cultural life over centuries ([Israel Antiquities Authority](#)).

At Maresha IV, 152 subterranean complexes were studied, revealing religious diversity and cultural syncretism during the Hellenistic period, with inscriptions adding personal dimensions to the archaeological record ([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.