



## Global Watch Daily – February 2, 2026

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

### **Israel & Jerusalem**

Witkoff is scheduled to arrive in Israel for talks with Prime Minister Netanyahu and IDF Chief Zamir, underscoring ongoing strategic discussions amid regional tensions. At the same time, Israel has reopened the Rafah border crossing with Egypt, permitting limited Palestinian movement while restricting goods, indicating cautious progress toward easing Gaza's blockade ([Times of Israel](#); [BBC News](#)).

Concerns are rising over Iran's internal situation as the IDF reportedly issued evacuation orders for Tehran in anticipation of possible strikes, while Iran's economy struggles under a government-imposed internet blackout that disrupts daily life and commerce.

Meanwhile, Israeli scientists at the Weizmann Institute have refined measurements of Jupiter, discovering it to be smaller and flatter than previously believed, highlighting Israel's scientific contributions amid geopolitical challenges ([Jerusalem Post](#); [Al Jazeera](#); [Times of Israel](#)).

Former US officials have warned of "extreme" anti-Zionist influence on Wikipedia, reflecting ongoing battles over information in the digital sphere. These developments emphasize Israel's complex security and diplomatic environment, balancing internal innovation with external threats and narratives ([JNS](#); [Times of Israel](#)).

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

The Popular Forces militia in Gaza has captured senior Hamas commander Adham al Akar, delivering a significant blow to the Islamist group and highlighting the growing role of local anti-Hamas factions. However, the proposed ceasefire framework may challenge these militias' strategic positions as Israeli forces plan further withdrawals ([Long War Journal](#); [FDD](#)).

In Niger, the Islamic State claimed responsibility for an assault on Niamey's airport, though the attack was reportedly repelled with assistance from Russia's Africa Corps mercenaries. This incident highlights the ongoing instability in the Sahel region and the persistent global



jihadist threat ([Long War Journal](#); [FDD](#)).

Chatham House Director Bronwen Maddox warns that the Western alliance is fracturing amid superpower competition, describing US policy under President Trump as revolutionary and dismissive of international law. This geopolitical shift complicates the regional security landscape, especially regarding Iran and its nuclear ambitions ([Chatham House](#); [FDD](#)).

## **Global Macro & Geopolitics**

Rome has introduced a €2 fee to access the Trevi Fountain viewing area, reflecting a broader trend of monetizing iconic tourist sites. Meanwhile, a 13-year-old Australian boy was celebrated worldwide for swimming 4km to rescue his stranded family, inspiring admiration for youthful courage ([BBC News](#); [BBC News](#)).

A French-American chemist has achieved a breakthrough in recycling rare-earth elements from neon bulbs, a critical advancement given China's dominance in global supply chains. This innovation could reshape geopolitical dependencies in defense and technology sectors ([France24](#); [France24](#)).

Environmental concerns are mounting as the Congo River Basin approaches a tipping point, threatening the ecosystem that supports millions across nine countries. Political changes continue in Southeast Asia, with Thailand's People's Party extending its lead ahead of general elections, signaling potential shifts in regional governance ([France24](#); [The Diplomat](#)).

## **Pestilence & Global Health**

Researchers in Bangladesh have identified a bat-borne virus infecting humans, raising concerns about undetected zoonotic diseases alongside known threats such as the Nipah virus. Concurrently, a global study reveals that long COVID brain fog is reported far more frequently in the U.S. than in countries like India or Nigeria, likely due to cultural and healthcare access differences ([ScienceDaily](#); [ScienceDaily](#)).

In Guatemala, bottled water from refillable jugs, often trusted by locals, was frequently found to be contaminated, while protected municipal wells proved cleaner, highlighting public health risks. Advances in synthetic bacteriophage engineering offer promising new tools to combat antibiotic-resistant bacteria, a critical global health challenge ([ScienceDaily](#); [ScienceDaily](#)).



New findings emphasize the importance of the body's antiviral response in preventing severe colds, while micro-doses of THC show potential benefits in mitigating long-term HIV treatment side effects without causing intoxication. These scientific advances underscore ongoing efforts to improve global health outcomes through innovative research ( [ScienceDaily](#); [ScienceDaily](#)).

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

Several earthquakes struck Northern California near Redwood Valley and San Ramon, with magnitudes ranging from 2.3 to 3.7, causing local seismic activity but no major damage reported. The USGS continues to monitor these events closely as part of ongoing earthquake preparedness efforts ([USGS](#); [USGS](#)).

NASA has selected Axiom Space for its fifth private mission to the International Space Station, marking progress in commercial spaceflight and hypersonic flight testing. These developments reflect expanding frontiers in aerospace technology and exploration ([NASA](#); [NASA](#)).

Dangerous cold weather persists across the Northern Plains to the Great Lakes, with wintry conditions expected to continue through Monday, posing risks to vulnerable populations. Weather.gov advises caution and preparedness for ongoing severe winter weather ( [weather.gov](#)).

### **Middle Eastern Artifacts**

Excavations on Ha-Te'uda Ha-Aduma Street in Yafo uncovered a diverse collection of Late Ottoman ceramics and porcelain, including imports from Europe and Turkey, alongside locally made Black Gaza Ware. These findings reveal a rich material culture reflecting trade and local production in the region during the late Ottoman period ([Israel Antiquities Authority](#)).

Further excavations at the corner of Yehuda Ha-Yamit and Ha-Te'uda Ha-Aduma Streets revealed remains of the al-Hureish neighborhood, dating from the late 19th to mid-20th centuries. The site shows phases of agricultural and residential development, including drainage channels and a significant wall structure, shedding light on the historical urban fabric of Yafo during the Ottoman and British Mandate eras ([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.