



## Global Watch Daily – February 13, 2026

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

### **Israel & Jerusalem**

French President Macron commemorated the 20th anniversary of Ilan Halimi's murder by condemning the rising tide of antisemitism, which he described as a growing "antisemitic hydra" encompassing Islamist, far-left, and far-right factions, some masked as anti-Zionism. Meanwhile, the IDF successfully targeted and eliminated a Hezbollah operative involved in reconstructing military infrastructure in Lebanon, highlighting persistent tensions along Israel's northern border. Additionally, the Israeli elections committee ordered the Likud party to remove a doctored image depicting Bennett alongside Arab party leaders, underscoring the contentious political atmosphere ([Times of Israel](#); [JNS](#)).

Satellite imagery reveals Iran is fortifying an underground complex near its nuclear site amid ongoing negotiations with the U.S., escalating regional security concerns. The IDF has issued evacuation orders for Tehran in anticipation of potential strikes, signaling heightened military alertness. These developments coincide with African nations confronting looming "water wars" driven by climate change and resource disputes, with the African Union prioritizing water security on its agenda ([BBC News](#); [Al Jazeera](#)).

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

Israeli military operations in Lebanon continue to focus on southern regions, though activity has diminished compared to previous weeks, reflecting a strategic recalibration against Hezbollah forces. Concurrently, approximately 5,000 Islamic State detainees have been transferred from Syria to Iraq for investigation and prosecution, as part of a broader effort to manage foreign fighters and regional security threats. The fragile ceasefire in Gaza remains at risk due to the incomplete disarmament of Hamas, raising concerns about future stability in the area ([Long War Journal](#); [FDD](#)).

In a significant geopolitical shift, the U.S. has withdrawn from a strategic base in Syria, transferring control to Damascus, signaling a recalibration of American military presence in the region. On the diplomatic front, Chatham House experts testified before the UK



Parliament on Venezuela, emphasizing the need for proactive multilateral diplomacy to uphold international norms amid ongoing repression and instability. These developments highlight the complex interplay of military and diplomatic efforts shaping Middle Eastern security ([FDD](#); [Chatham House](#)).

## **Global Macro & Geopolitics**

U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio is scheduled to address the Munich Security Conference, signaling a warmer tone in transatlantic relations after recent tensions over Greenland and Ukraine. Meanwhile, Bangladesh's Nationalist Party has secured a decisive election victory, raising hopes for democratic restoration after years of authoritarian rule. India's Defense Ministry has approved the purchase of 114 Rafale fighter jets in a \$280 billion deal, reflecting increased defense spending and strategic modernization ([BBC News](#); [The Diplomat](#)).

The Munich summit underscores renewed cooperation between the EU and the U.S. on defense and global security challenges, with Rubio leading the delegation and emphasizing NATO unity. In space exploration, French astronaut Sophie Adenot's mission to the International Space Station marks progress for gender equality in a traditionally male-dominated field, reflecting broader societal shifts. These geopolitical and scientific milestones illustrate evolving global dynamics and cooperation ([France24](#); [France24](#)).

## **Pestilence & Global Health**

New research reveals that immune responses are shaped by both genetics and life experiences, explaining why viruses affect individuals differently. Scientists have also identified a sugar unique to bacterial cells that can be targeted by antibodies to combat drug-resistant superbugs, offering promising new treatment avenues. Additionally, a nasal vaccine shows strong protection against H5N1 bird flu in animal models, potentially preventing early-stage infection ([ScienceDaily](#); [ScienceDaily](#)).

Studies of past pandemics show that rapid spread across U.S. cities was driven by major travel hubs, complicating real-time forecasting and emphasizing the need for early detection systems. Meanwhile, a bat-borne virus has been found infecting humans in Bangladesh, raising concerns about undetected zoonotic threats. Long COVID brain fog appears more prevalent in the U.S. than in other countries, likely influenced by cultural and healthcare factors rather than the virus itself ([ScienceDaily](#); [ScienceDaily](#)).



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

Recent seismic activity includes a magnitude 1.1 earthquake near Palomar Observatory, California, and a magnitude 2.6 earthquake southeast of Ugashik, Alaska, reflecting ongoing tectonic activity. NASA's SpaceX Crew-12 mission successfully launched four astronauts to the International Space Station, advancing scientific research in orbit. Additionally, NASA's Carbothermal Reduction Demonstration project achieved a milestone by extracting oxygen from simulated lunar soil using solar energy, a critical step for sustainable lunar exploration ([USGS](#); [NASA](#)).

Heavy rain continues to impact the southern U.S., while Alaska experiences active weather patterns, including a magnitude 3.2 earthquake near Meadow Lakes. These natural events underscore the importance of preparedness and monitoring in diverse geographic regions. The combination of natural phenomena and space exploration achievements highlights humanity's ongoing interaction with Earth and beyond ([weather.gov](#); [USGS](#)).

## **Middle Eastern Artifacts**

Recent archaeological work in Yafo on Ha-Te'uda Ha-Aduma Street uncovered fourteen military items, including two cannonballs and twelve small-caliber bullets, shedding light on historical conflicts. The same excavation site yielded about fifty glass artifacts dating from the late nineteenth to mid-twentieth centuries CE, comprising both imported and local pieces. Additionally, the final report on the large-scale salvage excavations at Khirbat 'Amra in the Be'er Sheva' Valley details findings from the Hellenistic to Early Islamic periods, enriching our understanding of rural life in the region ([Israel Antiquities Authority](#); [Israel Antiquities Authority](#); [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.