



Global Watch Daily – February 16, 2026

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

Israel & Jerusalem

Recent violence in Umm al-Fahm resulted in the tragic deaths of a father and son, marking the 50th annual fatality within the Arab community. Police are investigating a burnt car that may be connected to the perpetrators ([Times of Israel](#)). Meanwhile, female Israeli soldiers faced harassment in Bnei Brak, where ultra-Orthodox men pursued them until police intervened ([BBC News](#)).

Archaeologists have uncovered a 2,000-year-old stone vessel factory near Mount Scopus, providing new insights into ritual purity practices during the Second Temple period ([Times of Israel](#)). Political tensions remain elevated as reports clarify that Netanyahu was not responsible for President Trump's harsh remarks toward President Herzog, countering widespread speculation ([JNS](#)).

In Gaza, displaced Palestinians endure harsh conditions living on infested landfill sites, battling rats, scabies, and unexploded ordnance, underscoring the ongoing humanitarian crisis ([Al Jazeera](#)). The IDF has also issued evacuation orders for Tehran in anticipation of strikes, signaling escalating regional security concerns ([Jerusalem Post](#)).

Wars & Security (Israel and Region)

Hamas has renewed threats against rival Palestinian militias in Gaza, warning that Israeli military protection will not shield them following recent successful operations against Hamas by these groups ([Long War Journal](#)). Concurrently, US Treasury sanctions targeted Jood SARL, a Lebanese gold exchange fronting for Hezbollah's financial network, aiming to disrupt terror financing ([Long War Journal](#)).

Israeli military operations in Lebanon have continued with a focus on southern regions, though activity has decreased compared to previous weeks ([Long War Journal](#)). In the UK, Chatham House experts provided evidence to parliamentary committees on the legality of US actions in Venezuela, emphasizing the importance of international law and collective



diplomacy ([Chatham House](#); [Chatham House](#)).

Global Macro & Geopolitics

On the second anniversary of Alexei Navalny's death, his mother confirmed findings that he was poisoned, asserting he was murdered in prison ([BBC News](#)). Meanwhile, Savannah Guthrie has renewed calls for her mother's release as the FBI analyzes DNA evidence from a glove found near her home ([BBC News](#)).

French police raided the Arab World Institute in Paris, investigating ties between its former head, ex-minister Jack Lang, and convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein ([France24](#)). East Asia celebrated the Year of the Horse with grand parades and family reunions across multiple countries, marking a significant cultural event ([France24](#)).

In Southeast Asia, Myanmar's junta expelled Timor-Leste's top diplomat over a war crimes case, citing ASEAN Charter violations ([The Diplomat](#)). Bangladesh's Jamaat party has transitioned from the margins to the opposition, gaining a mandate to influence policy debates ([The Diplomat](#)).

Pestilence & Global Health

A large study tracking over 400 toddlers found no association between mRNA COVID-19 vaccination during pregnancy and autism or developmental delays, providing reassurance on vaccine safety ([ScienceDaily](#)). Researchers at the Salk Institute mapped how life experiences and genetics epigenetically shape immune responses, explaining individual differences in viral illness severity ([ScienceDaily](#)).

Simulations reveal that both H1N1 and COVID-19 spread rapidly across US cities via major travel hubs, underscoring the need for early detection systems to mitigate future pandemics ([ScienceDaily](#)). Scientists in Australia discovered a unique bacterial sugar targeted by antibodies, offering a novel approach to combat drug-resistant superbugs ([ScienceDaily](#)).

A new nasal vaccine demonstrated strong protection against H5N1 bird flu in animal tests, potentially preventing early-stage infection ([ScienceDaily](#)). In Bangladesh, a bat-borne virus related to Nipah was identified in humans, raising concerns about undetected zoonotic threats ([ScienceDaily](#)).

Natural Disasters & Signs in the Heavens



Several minor earthquakes recently struck California, including a magnitude 2.7 near Tres Pinos and a 1.1 near Cobb, with depths ranging from 1.99 to 6.66 km, as monitored by the USGS ([USGS](#); [USGS](#); [USGS](#)).

NASA's SpaceX Crew-12 mission successfully launched from Cape Canaveral, carrying astronauts to the International Space Station for a scientific expedition ([NASA](#); [NASA](#)). Weather forecasts indicate fire-weather risks across the Central and Southern Plains, while Pacific storms are impacting the West ([weather.gov](#)).

Middle Eastern Artifacts

The Israel Antiquities Authority published studies on the southern housing complex and “Shikun Vav” in Beit She’an, revealing valuable insights into ancient urban development ([Israel Antiquities Authority](#); [Israel Antiquities Authority](#)). Additionally, research on Khirbat ‘Amra highlights its significance from the Hellenistic to Early Islamic periods in the Be’er Sheva Valley ([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.