



## Global Watch Daily – March 31, 2026

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

### **Israel & Jerusalem**

Recent escalations in the Middle East reveal a complex and volatile conflict landscape, as the US and Israel have launched extensive strikes on over 170 Iranian regime-linked targets. These operations respond to Iran's encouragement of proxy groups such as Hezbollah and the Houthis to intensify attacks, particularly in the Red Sea and southern Lebanon, where Israeli strikes have tragically resulted in the deaths of three Indonesian UN peacekeepers. Civilians in central Israel have also been harmed, with cluster bomb attacks causing injuries amid ongoing regional violence. Meanwhile, the Trump administration's focus on countering domestic leftist movements has drawn criticism for potentially diverting attention from these urgent international threats ([Times of Israel](#); [BBC News](#)).

Amid these tensions, US forces have carried out significant strikes on Iranian ammunition bunkers near Isfahan, while a crude oil tanker was set ablaze by a drone off Dubai, briefly affecting global oil prices. The widespread use of munitions and drone warfare highlights the intensifying nature of the conflict, raising fears of further regional destabilization. These developments underscore the multifaceted challenges Israel faces in balancing military responses with the broader geopolitical implications of Iran's regional ambitions ([Times of Israel](#); [JNS](#)).

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

Attacks across Iraq have escalated, with drone strikes targeting prominent political figures such as Kurdistan Region president Nechirvan Barzani and threats issued against American universities. Iranian-backed militias have conducted over 500 drone and missile strikes since late February, reflecting Tehran's strategy to pressure US and allied interests throughout the region. These hostilities coincide with coordinated military actions by the IDF and US forces against Iran, signaling a concerted effort to counter Tehran's influence. Meanwhile, Sudan's volunteer-led Emergency Response Rooms have gained international recognition for their humanitarian work amid ongoing conflict, demonstrating the



resilience of grassroots aid networks in war-torn areas ([Long War Journal](#); [FDD](#)).

Strategic discussions continue over key regional assets such as Kharg Island, where control could provoke a wider conflict, favoring Tehran's terms. Concurrently, young leaders are exploring innovative policy approaches to emerging technologies like AI through initiatives such as Chatham House's policy hackathon, aiming to improve governance and security frameworks. These developments highlight the intersection of military, political, and technological factors shaping the security landscape in the Middle East and beyond ([Long War Journal](#); [Chatham House](#)).

## **Global Macro & Geopolitics**

New Israeli legislation now mandates the death penalty for Palestinians convicted of lethal attacks, a law driven by far-right political forces and the Security Minister, reflecting heightened security measures amid ongoing violence. Meanwhile, China has banned the storage of cremated remains in so-called "bone ash apartments," addressing cultural and regulatory concerns. Climate change poses increasing risks worldwide, with France facing structural damage to millions of homes from extreme weather events. Additionally, the economic repercussions of the war in the Middle East dominate French President Macron's visit to Japan, underscoring the interconnectedness of geopolitical conflicts and global markets ([BBC News](#); [France24](#)).

Social issues also emerge prominently, with technology-facilitated violence depriving girls in the Philippines of education, highlighting the urgent need for protective measures against online exploitation. Laos faces economic instability, worsened by the fallout from the war in Iran, compounding post-COVID challenges such as inflation and currency collapse. These diverse global developments illustrate the far-reaching impacts of regional conflicts on human rights, economic stability, and social welfare ([The Diplomat](#); [The Diplomat](#)).

## **Pestilence & Global Health**

Scientific advances continue to illuminate persistent health challenges, with researchers identifying a specific immune cell state associated with long COVID fatigue and symptoms, particularly among patients with mild to moderate initial infections. At the same time, concerns have grown over antibiotic contamination in Brazilian river fish, including the detection of banned substances in food sources, raising alarms about food safety. Encouragingly, a common shingles vaccine has demonstrated significant reductions in the



risks of heart attack and stroke, offering dual protective benefits. Additionally, the discovery of microscopic rocket-like engines inside malaria parasites opens promising new avenues for drug development and bioengineering innovations ([ScienceDaily](#); [ScienceDaily](#)).

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

Seismic activity persists, with multiple minor earthquakes recorded in Alaska and California, including a 2.2-magnitude event near Ivanof Bay and smaller tremors near The Geysers and Lytle Creek. Meanwhile, extreme weather patterns have triggered severe thunderstorms and heavy rainfall across the Ohio Valley and Great Lakes, alongside winter conditions in northern regions. In the U.S. Great Plains, dry, warm, and windy weather has fueled intense grassland fires in Nebraska, highlighting the increasing frequency of natural disasters linked to climatic shifts. NASA's Artemis II crew recently received a sendoff, marking a significant milestone in space exploration amid these terrestrial challenges ([USGS](#); [NASA](#)).

## **Middle Eastern Artifacts**

Archaeological discoveries continue to enrich our understanding of ancient cultures, with recent findings including evidence of an Indian visitor in Egypt's Valley of the Kings and reassessments of Queen Hatshepsut's legacy that challenge previous narratives. Excavations have uncovered a Byzantine church adorned with vibrant mosaics in the Negev and a lead sling bullet inscribed with a Greek word at Hippos, reflecting local humor and defensive tactics. Additionally, rare coins dating back approximately 2,000 years were seized from a Palestinian doctor, shedding light on historical trade and cultural exchanges in the region. Collectively, these artifacts deepen insight into the complex history of the Middle East ([BiblePlaces](#); [BiblePlaces](#)).

## **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.