



Global Watch Daily – May 15, 2026

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

Israel & Jerusalem

House Democrats failed for the third time to compel former President Trump to seek congressional approval before engaging in war against Iran, underscoring a commitment to constitutional principles over policy disagreements ([JNS](#)). Meanwhile, tens of thousands marched through Jerusalem’s Old City, celebrating areas captured in 1967, reflecting enduring national pride and the complexity of historical claims ([BBC News](#)).

Protests erupted outside the New York Times office in New York City against perceived anti-Zionist and antisemitic narratives, with participants traveling long distances to express concerns about media influence ([JNS](#)). Additionally, Iran reportedly seized a “floating armory” ship in the Gulf of Oman, heightening regional maritime tensions ([BBC News](#)).

Health officials have raised alarms over a new Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of Congo, warning of potential spread amid unstable security conditions ([Al Jazeera](#)).

Wars & Security (Israel and Region)

Israel is strengthening civilian security near the Gaza border by training volunteer squads in tactical and medical support, a direct response to the October 7 Hamas attack aimed at enhancing community defense capabilities ([Long War Journal](#)). At the same time, reports of a secret Israeli military base in Iraq’s Najaf desert have stirred controversy among Iraqi officials amid broader regional tensions involving Iran-backed militias ([Long War Journal](#)).

Former President Trump disclosed that Chinese President Xi Jinping offered to help broker a deal with Iran, reflecting ongoing diplomatic maneuvering in the region ([FDD](#)). However, the extent of China’s leverage over Iran remains debated, with analysts assessing the limits of Beijing’s influence ([FDD](#)).

Open-source facial recognition technology has identified three perpetrators involved in the October 7 Hamas-led massacre, demonstrating the growing role of technology in



counterterrorism efforts ([Long War Journal](#)). Meanwhile, Iran's nuclear program remains degraded but continues to pose a threat, with chemical contingencies possibly held in reserve ([Long War Journal](#)).

Global Macro & Geopolitics

A 15-year-old boy was fatally shot in Nantes, France, in an incident prosecutors link to the drug war, though family members dispute his involvement ([BBC News](#)). Meanwhile, former President Trump's visit to China concluded with claims of progress in US-China relations, despite no concrete trade deals being announced ([BBC News](#); [France24](#)).

Clashes erupted in Bolivia's capital as miners used dynamite and police responded with tear gas amid nationwide unrest challenging the new administration ([France24](#)). In the Indo-Pacific, Pyongyang views the AUKUS alliance as a threat, shaping North Korea's strategic posture five years after the alliance's formation ([The Diplomat](#)).

Myanmar's junta has dismissed pleas for proof of Aung San Suu Kyi's well-being, while rights groups urge ASEAN and the international community to gain direct access to her ([The Diplomat](#)).

Pestilence & Global Health

Researchers at the University of Maryland have uncovered how enteroviruses such as polio and the common cold replicate inside human cells, revealing a molecular "on-off switch" that controls viral reproduction ([ScienceDaily](#)). In parallel, scientists have discovered natural compounds from a Brazilian tree that attack COVID-19 on multiple fronts, potentially reducing the development of resistance ([ScienceDaily](#)).

A novel approach to preventing gum disease involves interrupting bacterial communication rather than killing bacteria, promoting healthier oral microbiomes ([ScienceDaily](#)). Meanwhile, dangerous free-living amoebae are spreading globally due to warming temperatures and outdated water systems, posing new health risks that require improved surveillance and treatment ([ScienceDaily](#)).

Natural Disasters & Signs in the Heavens

Several minor earthquakes recently struck Alaska, including a magnitude 1.4 event near Susitna North and a 1.5 near King Salmon, highlighting ongoing seismic activity in the region ([USGS](#); [USGS](#)). Additionally, NASA's Hubble Space Telescope captured an image of



a galaxy in transition, revealing complex dust structures and diffuse light from distant galaxies ([NASA](#)).

NASA also reported changes in artificial light intensity at night across the Earth, indicating shifts in human activity and environmental impact ([NASA](#)). Weather.gov highlighted areas of fire weather and severe thunderstorms forecasted for Friday, underscoring the need for vigilance in weather preparedness ([weather.gov](#)).

Another earthquake of magnitude 1.4 occurred west-northwest of Happy Valley, Alaska, at a depth of 138.5 km, further illustrating the region's seismic volatility ([USGS](#)).

Middle Eastern Artifacts

Recent publications by the Israel Antiquities Authority detail findings from Abu Ghosh (A-9347), including location maps and architectural plans of buildings and winepresses, shedding light on historical settlement patterns ([Israel Antiquities Authority](#); [Israel Antiquities Authority](#)).

BiblePlaces has provided a roundup of recent archaeological news, including studies on seal impressions from Jerusalem and new theories about the enigmatic Copper Scroll, which contribute to understanding of biblical administrative systems and historical donations ([BiblePlaces](#); [BiblePlaces](#)).

Additional figures and maps from Abu Ghosh excavations have been published, providing detailed visual documentation of the site and its features ([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.