



## Global Watch Daily – May 29, 2026

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

### **Israel & Jerusalem**

Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu has confirmed that Israel currently controls 60% of Gaza and has instructed the IDF to extend this control to 70%, despite this contradicting the ceasefire terms agreed with Hamas in October 2025. Military operations have also expanded beyond Gaza into southern Lebanon, targeting positions held by Hamas and Hezbollah ([JNS](#); [BBC News](#)).

In the West Bank, Israel's introduction of a digital land register has drawn criticism as an escalation of its occupation, raising concerns about colonial practices. Meanwhile, Jerusalem's Waldorf Astoria has reopened its rooftop summer bar, offering panoramic city views alongside Mediterranean cuisine and Mexican-inspired cocktails, signaling a return to cultural normalcy amid ongoing tensions ([Al Jazeera](#); [JNS](#)).

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

The IDF recently eliminated Mohammed Odeh, the newly appointed Hamas military leader, amid ongoing ceasefire violations reported between May 21 and May 28. The conflict is further complicated by Iran's continued attacks on Kurdish opposition groups in northern Iraq, while Shabaab's spokesman publicly praised Al Qaeda affiliates and condemned Western powers in his Eid message, underscoring persistent regional instability ([Long War Journal](#); [Long War Journal](#)).

In response to vulnerabilities exposed by the conflict with Iran, the U.S. Marine Corps is advancing Israeli interceptor technology to strengthen air and missile defenses, particularly against drone threats. Additionally, discussions are underway regarding a new deal to end the Iran conflict, reflecting ongoing diplomatic efforts to stabilize the region ([FDD](#); [FDD](#)).

Hezbollah's evolving use of inexpensive FPV drones is reshaping battlefield tactics by enabling attacks that bypass traditional defenses and inflict psychological impact. This



development signals a potential return to past security-zone challenges for Israel, underscoring the need for adaptive countermeasures ([Long War Journal](#)).

## **Global Macro & Geopolitics**

A tragic school fire in Kenya has resulted in sixteen deaths, with eight students arrested in connection with the suspected arson attack. This incident highlights ongoing security and safety challenges in the region. Meanwhile, a Russian drone involved in an attack on Ukraine crashed in Romania, injuring two people and prompting NATO to accelerate anti-drone capabilities for member states ([BBC News](#); [France24](#)).

On the geopolitical front, the recent China-Russia summit produced a war-era manifesto with significant implications for Ukraine, while the U.S. faces challenges in sustaining its rare earth strategy amid political cycles. In sports, Willian Pacho's rise from Ecuador's rough neighborhoods to PSG defender highlights an inspiring personal achievement against a backdrop of global tensions ([The Diplomat](#); [France24](#)).

## **Pestilence & Global Health**

New brain imaging research has challenged previous assumptions about long COVID, revealing no widespread brain inflammation in affected patients. Instead, severe symptoms correlate with increased activity in brain regions associated with mood and emotion, offering fresh insights into the condition's neurological impact ([ScienceDaily](#)).

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

Recent seismic activity includes a magnitude 1.8 earthquake near The Geysers, California, and a magnitude 1.5 quake northwest of Toyah, Texas, both recorded by the USGS. Meanwhile, NASA's Hubble Space Telescope captured stunning images of the spiral galaxy Messier 88 as it journeys toward the Virgo Cluster's center, while radar data from South Africa reveal changes in crop types during the Southern Hemisphere's growing season ([USGS](#); [NASA](#)).

Severe thunderstorms have impacted West Texas, accompanied by heavy rainfall in the U.S. Southeast, according to the National Weather Service. Additionally, an Australian court has set an August date for the appeal hearing of Erin Patterson, convicted of poisoning three family members with mushrooms, highlighting ongoing legal proceedings linked to unusual criminal cases ([weather.gov](#); [Al Jazeera](#)).



## **Middle Eastern Artifacts**

Recent archaeological efforts include a 1996 salvage excavation at the Jelil (Gelilot) site, directed by the Israel Antiquities Authority, which uncovered significant finds in physical anthropology, glass, and numismatics. Radiocarbon dating at the Ein Hatzeva granary has revised historical timelines, attributing the fortress to Jeroboam II of Israel rather than Assyria, reshaping our understanding of regional power dynamics in the early 8th century BC ([Israel Antiquities Authority](#); [BiblePlaces](#)).

Additional publications by the Israel Antiquities Authority provide insights into sites such as El'ad and Lagiyu, with recent scholarly articles contributing to a broader understanding of the region's archaeological heritage. These findings continue to enrich the historical narrative of the Middle East ([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.