



Global Watch Daily – October 12, 2026

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

Israel & Jerusalem

Israel's top diplomat praised Albania as a true friend of Israel, highlighting the Albanians' consistent support and their protection of Jews during the Holocaust. This diplomatic engagement follows a significant escalation in the region after an armed group launched attacks on Riyadh's international airport and another facility, resulting in 13 deaths ([JNS](#); [JNS](#); [BBC News](#)).

The Saudi capital experienced multiple attacks over the weekend by the Iran-backed Yemeni Houthi group, intensifying regional tensions. The "Jerusalem Minute," a weekly news briefing filmed in the JNS Media Hub in Jerusalem and hosted by JNS CEO Alex Traiman and correspondent Josh Hasten, continues to deliver sharp, real-time updates on Israel's major stories ([BBC News](#); [Al Jazeera](#); [JNS](#)).

The Israeli finance minister accused the judiciary of "endangering security" amid sharp criticism from coalition members regarding the judges' request for a timeline on the return of displaced Palestinians. This dispute reflects ongoing tensions within Israel's political landscape ([JNS](#); [Al Jazeera](#)).

Wars & Security (Israel and Region)

A review of 37 armed incidents since January 2026 highlights a renewed insurgency with increasing attacks targeting the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps. Somalia's National Intelligence and Security Agency announced the death of Bashir Ahmed Haji Nunow, former head of Shabaab's Amniyat wing and the mastermind behind Somalia's deadliest terrorist attack; however, Shabaab has neither confirmed nor denied this report. Meanwhile, Syria has intensified its criticism of Israeli military operations within its borders, gaining support from several regional countries. Damascus is also expanding diplomatic outreach, strengthening ties with Turkey, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and the United States as it seeks to consolidate its regional position following recent upheavals ([Long War Journal](#); [Long War Journal](#); [Long War Journal](#)).



Authorities across Europe, Turkey, Georgia, and Israel detained suspected Islamic State fighters, dismantled an alleged criminal network, and disrupted a poison-and-explosives plot between September 25 and October 8. Operation Economic Outcast has targeted Iranian aviation, prompting major regional hubs such as the United Arab Emirates and Oman to suspend flights by Iranian carriers for fear of U.S. sanctions. Despite these restrictions, Iranian airlines have expanded trips to Iraq. Concurrently, U.S. officials are pressing Lebanese Prime Minister Nawaf Salam to disrupt Hezbollah's finances and advance efforts toward disarming the group ([Long War Journal](#); [FDD](#); [FDD](#)).

Five years after the U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan, the Taliban has grown stronger, with Al Qaeda continuing to operate under its protection. Pakistan is facing increasing challenges as it confronts the consequences of supporting jihadist groups. Analysts Bill Roggio and Will Selber assess the Taliban's current state and its regional impact. Additionally, U.S. officials have paused planned strikes against Iran ahead of midterm elections, reflecting ongoing strategic calculations ([FDD](#); [FDD](#); [Long War Journal](#)).

Sheikhdoon Abdullahi Mohamud, an 18-year-old American citizen of Somali descent, was arrested for allegedly planning an attack on an arts festival at the Mall of America in Bloomington, Minnesota, scheduled for late October. This case marks the seventh Islamic State-linked terrorism incident in the United States this year. Meanwhile, the Israeli military is adopting a deeper "forward defense" posture in southern Lebanon, rotating units and preparing positions for winter while continuing efforts to dismantle Hezbollah infrastructure. Hezbollah maintains that the continued presence of Israeli forces in the area is provocative ([Long War Journal](#); [Long War Journal](#)).

Global Macro & Geopolitics

As the war in Ukraine persists, Western powers express growing concern over Moscow's alleged sabotage and interference campaigns targeting Kyiv's wartime supporters. NATO's top military commander, US General Alexis Grynkeiwich, addressed these issues during a press conference in Warsaw. The recent removal of Theint Win Htet from the U.S. Treasury Department's blacklist raises questions about a possible rapprochement between Washington and Naypyidaw. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy reported continued Russian air strikes on energy infrastructure, violating a ceasefire on energy targets announced by U.S. President Donald Trump ([France24](#); [The Diplomat](#); [Bloomberg](#)).

The International Monetary Fund is signaling rising debt-distress risks among developed economies, highlighting the fragility of global financial stability. Former U.S. Defense



Secretary Lloyd Austin stated at a security forum in Poland that there is no easy resolution to the ongoing conflict in Iran. Meanwhile, Chinese manufacturers are showcasing a record number of brands at the Paris Motor Show, reflecting China's expanding global economic influence ([Bloomberg](#); [Bloomberg](#); [Bloomberg](#)).

Reuters reports ongoing developments in global economic and geopolitical affairs, underscoring the complex interplay of great-power rivalry, sanctions, and shifting alliances ([Reuters](#)).

AI Dominion, Deception & the Antichrist System

TikTok deliberately withheld algorithmic safety protections from millions of users and assigned tens of thousands of others, including children and teenagers, nonfunctional versions of a tool intended to help them escape potentially harmful content, according to allegations in a newly unsealed New York lawsuit against the social media company. The experiments were conducted without users knowing they had been assigned to test groups, while TikTok. OpenAI and Anthropic are spending hundreds of billions to build artificial intelligence. Now an artificial intelligence-powered credit firm is using the technology to judge their finances ([biometricupdate.com](#); [forbes.com](#)).

The biometric technology needed for a new kind of border control is here. Travelers can already move through airports and some land-border checkpoints without breaking stride, while mobile pre-registration is pushing identity checks further upstream. The 11 members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations are among the world's most active adopters of digital identity. Even its newest member, Timor-Leste, has a national digital identity system, though its capabilities remain limited ([biometricupdate.com](#)).

Pestilence & Global Health

Researchers have found that Neanderthals may have used a sticky substance derived from birch bark to treat wounds thousands of years before antibiotics existed. By recreating ancient birch tar production methods, every sample demonstrated the ability to inhibit the growth of bacteria responsible for dangerous wound infections. Additionally, researchers uncovered a new mechanism by which bacteria detect viral attacks: a virus-produced enzyme cleaves a bacterial sensor protein, triggering a self-destruct immune response. This discovery could enhance phage therapies against antibiotic-resistant bacteria and improve understanding of bacterial immunity ([ScienceDaily](#); [ScienceDaily](#)).



A study linked increased sugar consumption during antibiotic treatment to greater disruption of the gut microbiome and proliferation of potentially harmful bacteria. Researchers suggest that temporarily reducing sugar intake during and after antibiotic therapy may mitigate this damage ([ScienceDaily](#)).

Scientists discovered that interfering with bacterial chemical communication can shift dental plaque toward a healthier microbial balance. This approach may lead to new treatments for gum disease that control harmful bacteria without destroying beneficial species ([ScienceDaily](#)).

Natural Disasters & Signs in the Heavens

The United States Geological Survey recorded a magnitude 2.6 earthquake near Central Alaska and a magnitude 5.7 earthquake near the Mid-Indian Ridge. Additionally, a magnitude 7.7 earthquake struck near Pitaloza Arriba, Panama. These seismic events highlight ongoing tectonic activity in diverse regions ([USGS](#); [USGS](#)).

The Mid-Indian Ridge earthquake, measuring 5.7 in magnitude at a depth of 10 km on October 12, 2026, was also reported by the Global Disaster Alert and Coordination System. These events continue to be monitored for potential impacts ([USGS](#); [GDACS](#)).

Middle Eastern Artifacts

By איר ובא עפאר and Rafeh Abu Raya, published on October 7, 2026, recent archaeological publications by the Israel Antiquities Authority provide new insights into ancient Middle Eastern cultures ([Israel Antiquities Authority](#); [Israel Antiquities Authority](#)).

A new study of the industrial compound at Tel Shiqmona reveals that the site's activities were structured by the seasonal cycle: olive pressing occurred in late autumn, livestock sheltering in winter, and textile production in spring. This research, by יאבג תימע and published on October 7, 2026, sheds light on the economic rhythms of ancient societies ([BiblePlaces](#); [Israel Antiquities Authority](#)).