



Global Watch Daily – October 28, 2026

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

Israel & Jerusalem

Germany's new antisemitism commissioner, Felix Klein's successor, has taken office amid record levels of antisemitic incidents and pledged to protect Jewish life and confront hatred. In Israel, opposition to a government that relies on Arab anti-Zionist parties is being framed by some critics as racism; its proponents argue that the objection concerns national security and the political consequences of depending on parties whose positions conflict with Zionism. Current polling suggests that neither of the two main blocs has enough seats to form a government without Arab-party support. ([JNS](#); [JNS](#); [BBC News](#))

Polling stations have closed in Israel, but the election has produced no clear winner. The Central Elections Committee is counting double-envelope ballots, including votes cast by Israel Defense Forces personnel, diplomats, hospital patients and other eligible voters. A committee spokesperson told JNS that the count was expected to be completed by Thursday evening. ([BBC News](#); [Al Jazeera](#); [JNS](#))

Two polls project a close contest between veteran Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and former military chief Gadi Eisenkot, with neither candidate's bloc securing a majority. The result leaves the formation of Israel's next government uncertain. ([JNS](#); [BBC News](#))

Wars & Security (Israel and Region)

Jordan's air force carried out multiple strikes against suspected Islamic State positions in southern Syria on October 26. Amman linked the targets to militants it blamed for an October 23 attack on a church in Karak that killed nine people and wounded dozens; Jordan said the strikes killed more than 20. Meanwhile, Baghdad faces continuing security threats, and Pakistan's reported outreach to anti-Taliban resistance groups reflects its worsening relationship with the Taliban government. Accepting Pakistani support could, however, deepen divisions within the resistance and damage its standing among Afghans who hold Islamabad responsible for decades of bloodshed. ([Long War Journal](#); [Long War Journal](#); [Long War Journal](#))



After five months of negotiations, Iraq's parliament approved nearly all remaining appointments to Prime Minister Ali al-Zaidi's cabinet on October 15. One of the three deputy prime ministers is Laith al-Khazali, whom the U.S. State Department designated a Specially Designated Global Terrorist. In remarks at a Michigan rally last Saturday for Senate candidate Abdul El-Sayed, former President Barack Obama described the conflict with Iran as "an unnecessary war," a characterization challenged by critics who trace the confrontation to the Islamic Republic's 1979 revolution and subsequent policies. ([Long War Journal](#); [FDD](#))

The Iran-backed Houthis are increasing pressure in Yemen, threatening the Red Sea's vital maritime routes and bringing the conflict closer to Saudi Arabia. Their activity highlights the strategic leverage that armed groups can exert over shipping chokepoints and regional security. ([Long War Journal](#))

Russia's new Filin missile adds to its growing supply of low-cost, long-range weapons and could further strain Ukraine's already overstretched air defenses. Ukraine is expected to expand production of faster interceptor drones, but those systems address only part of the challenge of countering Russia's increasingly varied arsenal. Separately, protests broke out in Damascus and southern Syria on October 23 against Israeli military operations in the Golan buffer zone. Demonstrators cited reports that an Israeli raid had killed a Syrian man with disabilities, amid wider Syrian condemnation of Israeli actions. ([Long War Journal](#) ; [Long War Journal](#))

Global Macro & Geopolitics

Bloomberg reported on Netanyahu's lead over Eisenkot and Iran's consideration of a draft deal, developments that underscore the regional stakes surrounding Israel's election and Iran's diplomatic choices. Aid to the Church in Need also reported on pressures affecting Christian communities, including the security and religious-freedom concerns facing believers in unstable regions. ([Bloomberg](#); [Aid to the Church in Need](#))

AI Dominion, Deception & the Antichrist System

Florida Attorney General James Uthmeier has proposed new legislation, called the Safe Screens Act, that would build on existing laws by requiring "age determination and parental consent" before minors download or buy apps and imposing protective design features on accounts belonging to users between 14 and 17 years old. One of England's top judges, Geoffrey Vos, believes artificial intelligence could adjudicate many civil cases.



The question, he says, is where the line should be drawn (biometricupdate.com; [OpenAI](#); [WIRED](#)).

More than one million South Africans have obtained biometric Smart ID cards through the country's banks in seven months, accelerating the replacement of fraud-prone Green ID Books. The Department of Home Affairs launched the decentralized issuance model in March to accelerate the replacement of Green ID Books, 14.7 million of which are still in circulation (biometricupdate.com).

The internet is now old enough to be subject to the curse of nostalgia: online, things just aren't like they used to be. A new report from Freedom House observes "seismic shifts on the global internet," including how online safety regulations have driven adoption of age assurance technologies like facial age estimation and biometric age verification. Socure has launched Agent Intelligence, a suite that detects artificial intelligence agents, scores whether they should be trusted, and ties each one to the verified person or business that authorized it. (biometricupdate.com).

Pestilence & Global Health

Research suggests that JAK inhibitors, used to treat rheumatoid arthritis and other inflammatory diseases, can weaken an important immune defense. Other studies point to risks and potential treatment insights in distinct areas: bacteria interacting with titanium dental implants may release particles that disrupt immune cells and fuel destructive inflammation, while specialized immune cells have been found to recognize and attack small-cell lung cancer even when tumors evade conventional immune detection. ([ScienceDaily](#); [ScienceDaily](#); [ScienceDaily](#))

Scientists observed virus-like particles assembling step by step through trial and error, identifying a molecular turning point that helps accelerate their formation. A separate study found that excess RNA, including messenger RNA, can directly disrupt mitochondria without relying on the immune system. ([ScienceDaily](#); [ScienceDaily](#))

Natural Disasters & Signs in the Heavens

The U.S. Geological Survey recorded a magnitude 1.0 earthquake near The Geysers in California and a magnitude 5.0 earthquake near the Reykjanes Ridge. ([USGS](#); [USGS](#))

The U.S. Geological Survey also recorded a magnitude 6.5 earthquake in the Bonin Islands region of Japan. The Reykjanes Ridge quake was classified as a green alert event; the



report recorded a magnitude of 5.0 at a depth of 10 kilometers and no people affected within 100 kilometers. ([USGS](#); [GDACS](#))

Middle Eastern Artifacts

The Israel Antiquities Authority published two new entries by Oren Shmueli and Yitzhak Vassal on October 26. ([Israel Antiquities Authority](#); [Israel Antiquities Authority](#))

The authority also published location maps and a plan for Area A in two related archaeological records. ([Israel Antiquities Authority](#); [Israel Antiquities Authority](#))