Global Watch Daily – November 18, 2026

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

Israel & Jerusalem

The Center for Israel and Jewish Affairs is urging Canadian authorities to block a Nov. 28–29 Toronto conference organized by Masar Badil, an organization sanctioned by the United States and identified by the U.S. Treasury Department as a front for terrorist groups. Separately, Palestinians reported a settler attack in al-Duyuk al-Tahta, while the Israeli military said the settlers fired after being attacked. (JNS; BBC News; BBC News)

Israeli Foreign Minister Gideon Sa'ar said the "50 States One Israel" project reflects the Foreign Ministry's commitment to strengthening ties between Israel and the United States. The initiative was also marked by 250 young American leaders planting trees in Ofakim as a show of solidarity. (JNS)

Wars & Security (Israel and Region)

Syria stepped up diplomatic and military engagement with Western countries in mid-November, hosting a European Union coordination forum, a French naval delegation, and a senior U.S. commander from the coalition against the Islamic State. The outreach is unfolding as Damascus confronts continuing Islamic State threats and tensions involving Kurdish forces. (Long War Journal)

Iran retains military capabilities and remains determined to fight despite significant damage inflicted by the United States, according to an assessment of the conflict. Iran's strategy includes threats to regional energy infrastructure and maritime commerce, while its network of proxies continues to shape the security environment. (Long War Journal; FDD)

Yemeni government-aligned forces have redeployed from the west coast to defend Aden, the interim capital, as the Houthis push closer. The group has seized territory near the Bab al-Mandeb Strait and in mountainous areas along the Taiz–Lahj border, bringing its forces within about 40 miles of Aden. The advance comes amid continued fighting, Saudi-led airstrikes on Houthi targets, and Houthi missile and drone attacks across Saudi Arabia. (

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Long War Journal; Long War Journal)

Iraq's prime minister has moved against oil smuggling, raising tensions with Kataib Hezbollah. In Iran, the Sunni Baluch insurgent group Ansar al-Furqan announced on Nov. 11 that it had joined a coalition of armed Baluch factions fighting the Islamic Republic, reflecting the insurgency's expansion beyond its earlier patterns of sectarian violence and attacks. (Long War Journal; Long War Journal)

Clashes between Taliban and Pakistani forces have continued along their border since Oct. 29. A Movement of the Taliban in Pakistan ambush killed 10 Pakistani police officers on Nov. 11, as Washington signaled willingness to help address Islamabad's concerns about militant groups. (Long War Journal)

Israel faces a complex strategic environment amid regional conflict and shifting U.S. priorities. A recent assessment draws on visits to Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, the Gaza envelope, the Galilee, and the Golan Heights to examine the country's security challenges and political constraints. (FDD)

Global Macro & Geopolitics

European Central Bank Vice President Boris Vujčić said a December rate increase appears highly likely, with further hikes possible in 2027 as inflation broadens. The prospect of tighter monetary policy adds pressure to governments and businesses already facing high borrowing costs and fiscal constraints. (Bloomberg)

Chinese President Xi Jinping and Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi shook hands during their first official interaction since bilateral ties deteriorated late last year. Relations remain strained following Takaichi's comments on Taiwan, underscoring the sensitivity of regional diplomacy amid continuing tensions over the island. (Bloomberg; AP News)

AI Dominion, Deception & the Antichrist System

Authorities in Fargo, North Dakota, say they never broke the law in the case of a Tennessee woman who was arrested at their recommendation based on a false facial recognition match. In 2025, Angela Lipps was arrested at a neighbor's home in Tennessee, taken to North Dakota and imprisoned for six months on a bank theft charge (biometricupdate.com).

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Supported by the MIT Human Insight Collaborative, scholars are exploring how artificial intelligence is impacting the human experience and reshaping higher education (MIT News).

Amazon Web Services' (AWS) ability to enforce its own restrictions on biometric surveillance is facing new scrutiny following revelations that the Israeli military uploaded millions of Palestinian photographs to the company's cloud for facial recognition analysis. The reporting raises questions about how Amazon monitors the military's use of its technology, what it knew about the intended application, and whether its contract with Israel limits its. Payments platform Naver Pay, part of South Korean tech giant Naver, is exploring palm vein recognition as an additional biometric authentication option alongside its existing facial recognition technology. Naver Pay plans to showcase its palm vein authentication technology next week at Korea Fintech Week 2026 and has been running internal proof-of-concept trials with employee access controls since September. Airlines operating domestic flights in Nigeria have been given December 31 as the deadline to onboard onto the Airports Passenger Verification System (V-Pass), a face biometric platform that is linked to the National Identification Number (NIN) database to streamline identity verification for domestic flight travelers. The Minister of Aviation and Aerospace Development, Festus Keyamo, unveiled the system on November 16 at the domestic terminal of Murtala (biometricupdate.com).

Pestilence & Global Health

Research from Rockefeller University suggests that arginine, a common amino acid, may help the immune system identify cancerous and virus-infected cells. The findings indicate that low arginine levels can interfere with immune recognition, while higher levels may strengthen this response. (ScienceDaily)

A study in mice found that an acute viral infection can leave lasting changes in the spleen and weaken immune responses even after symptoms have resolved. The findings raise questions about how some infections may affect immune function beyond the period of active illness, though further research is needed to establish the implications for people. (ScienceDaily)

Natural Disasters & Signs in the Heavens

The U.S. Geological Survey recorded a magnitude 1.5 earthquake near Ridgemark, California, and a magnitude 5.3 earthquake near Comandău, Romania. (USGS; USGS)

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A magnitude 6.6 earthquake was recorded near Tual, Indonesia. A green-level forest-fire alert was also issued in Australia. (USGS; GDACS)

Middle Eastern Artifacts

Images from the excavation at Niẓẓana show a map of the excavated areas and the Western Building's courtyard installation, viewed from the south. (Israel Antiquities Authority; Israel Antiquities Authority)

The reigns of Hezekiah and Manasseh are especially well documented through archaeological discoveries and extrabiblical records that illuminate Israel's history alongside the biblical account. Separately, researchers in Denmark have developed an inexpensive LED multispectral imaging system that may help archaeologists study sites before excavation begins. (BiblePlaces; BiblePlaces)

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