Global Watch Daily – November 20, 2026

Global Watch Daily – November 20, 2026

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

Israel & Jerusalem

Critics of British policy argue that the government is applying political pressure to Israel while giving insufficient attention to Palestinian wrongdoing. Requiring a poet, city employee, or psychologist to answer for Israel before being permitted to perform or work risks imposing a political test on one group's access to public life. Separately, Orla Guerin spoke with seven people trapped in Taiz, Yemen, after weeks of isolation from the outside world (JNS; JNS; BBC News).

Hamas condemned an Israeli military incursion as a "flagrant" breach of the ceasefire; Israel said the operation targeted a "terror tunnel." Haifa held its first international marathon, with a South Sudanese runner and a Kenyan athlete winning the men's and women's races. In Charleston, nearly 150 officials from more than 20 states gathered as the Combat Antisemitism Movement introduced a tool for tracking state-level policies addressing antisemitism (BBC News; JNS; JNS).

Residents of al-Duyuk al-Tahta reported a settler attack, while the Israeli military said settlers opened fire after being attacked. The competing accounts underscore the need to establish what happened on the ground (BBC News).

Wars & Security (Israel and Region)

The FBI arrested a Georgia resident accused of transferring approximately $26,000 between 2021 and 2026 to individuals and groups affiliated with the Islamic State. The case followed a multiyear investigation into cryptocurrency transactions and alleged support for extremist recipients (Long War Journal).

Ukrainian strikes damaged the Crimean Bridge, a major symbol of Russia's occupation and an important military supply route, increasing Moscow's reliance on alternative logistics routes through southern Ukraine. Restrictions on Ukraine's access to Starshield, however, have limited its ability to disrupt those routes further (Long War Journal).

© 2025 SpearNet | www.spearnet.org | All Rights Reserved

Syria hosted a European Union coordination forum, a French naval delegation, and a senior U.S. commander from the anti-Islamic State coalition in mid-November, signaling broader diplomatic and military engagement with Western countries. Damascus is pursuing these ties while confronting continued Islamic State threats and unresolved tensions involving Kurdish forces (Long War Journal).

Despite damage to Iran's military capabilities from U.S. strikes, Tehran remains determined to continue the conflict. Analysts have assessed Iran's strategy of threatening regional energy infrastructure and maritime commerce, as well as the risks facing neighboring states as the regional security landscape shifts (Long War Journal; FDD; FDD).

Turkey signed a mutual defense agreement with Qatar on November 13 as Ankara seeks security partnerships beyond NATO. Israel's defense budget is also under pressure: a Knesset debate highlighted the widening gap between growing military requirements and available funding, including the role of U.S. aid. In Yemen, government-aligned forces redeployed to defend Aden as the Houthis retook territory near the Bab al-Mandeb Strait and advanced to within 40 miles of the interim capital (FDD; FDD; Long War Journal).

Iraqi Prime Minister Mohammed Shia al-Sudani's crackdown on oil smuggling has raised tensions with Kataib Hezbollah. Meanwhile, Houthi missile and drone attacks across Saudi Arabia have continued amid renewed fighting in Yemen and Saudi-led airstrikes against Houthi targets (Long War Journal; Long War Journal).

Global Macro & Geopolitics

Russia carried out one of its largest air attacks on Ukraine while rejecting the prospect of security guarantees for Kyiv. The combination of sustained strikes and resistance to outside assurances keeps the war's escalation risks high and complicates efforts to establish a durable security framework (BBC News).

El Salvador's President Nayib Bukele is seeking a third term after building substantial public support through his campaign against gangs. His approach has also drawn serious human-rights concerns, highlighting the tension between public-security gains and the constraints on state power (France24; AP News).

The Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation issued a statement (Ministero degli Affari Esteri e della Cooperazione Internazionale).

AI Dominion, Deception & the Antichrist System

© 2025 SpearNet | www.spearnet.org | All Rights Reserved

An Arizona commissioner released a DUI suspect after an artificial intelligence police report disclosure, saying the trooper's original account was not included (Forbes.com).

As foundational identity systems become linked to government portals, banks, telecoms and other services, the potential attack surface grows. Experts warn that investment in cybersecurity infrastructure and expertise must keep pace with the expansion of systems increasingly considered critical information infrastructure (CII). U.S. A newly published sole-source justification indicates that the successor contract will not be ready to assume those responsibilities when the existing agreement expires December 15. New Zealand is interested in upgrading the biometric comparison capability of its immigration system, and has published a request for information to explore available technologies and suppliers before deciding whether to proceed with a new procurement. The NZ Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) operates the identity management system Immigration New Zealand uses (biometricupdate.com).

Pestilence & Global Health

Two studies examine different aspects of immune function. Rockefeller University researchers reported that low levels of arginine, a common amino acid, may hinder the immune system's ability to recognize dangerous cells, suggesting a potential role for the nutrient in protection against cancer and viral infections. Another study found that mice recovering from an acute viral infection had lasting changes to their spleens and weakened immune responses, raising questions about immune effects that may persist after symptoms resolve (ScienceDaily; ScienceDaily).

Natural Disasters & Signs in the Heavens

The U.S. Geological Survey recorded a magnitude 4.4 earthquake near Commerce, California, and a magnitude 5.0 earthquake near Pinnacles, California (USGS; USGS).

The U.S. Geological Survey also recorded a magnitude 5.3 earthquake near Comandău, Romania. A green-level forest-fire notification was issued for Australia (USGS; GDACS).

Middle Eastern Artifacts

Two studies by Matan Toledano, Eitan Klein, Amir Ganor, and colleagues were published by the Israel Antiquities Authority on November 19, 2026 (Israel Antiquities Authority; Israel Antiquities Authority).

© 2025 SpearNet | www.spearnet.org | All Rights Reserved

Archaeological discoveries and extrabiblical records can contribute substantially to understanding the biblical period of Hezekiah and Manasseh. A separate discussion reflects on the challenges of naming a history series after it has already begun (BiblePlaces; BiblePlaces).

© 2025 SpearNet | www.spearnet.org | All Rights Reserved