Global Watch Daily – November 25, 2026

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

Israel & Jerusalem

Judges in Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's Case 4000 trial have questioned whether the evidence supports the remaining charges and suggested that a conviction appears unlikely. Their comments mark a significant development in a case that has shaped Israel's political life, but they are not a final ruling: the proceedings and the court's eventual judgment remain consequential for public confidence in the justice system. The proposal to drop charges in Case 4000 has also renewed scrutiny of how courts assess evidence in politically charged cases, where judicial independence and equal treatment under the law matter beyond any one defendant. (JNS)

Protesters are calling on Israel to release Mahdi Tunsi, a 26-year-old Palestinian student who was taken from his university dormitory earlier this month and has since been held without charge. The case highlights the human and legal questions raised by administrative detention, particularly when a person remains in custody without a publicly stated charge. Israel's security responsibilities do not remove the need for transparent procedures and meaningful review. At the same time, the available details do not establish why the authorities are holding Tunsi or what evidence may be considered in his case. (BBC News)

An Israeli air strike in Gaza killed Naeem Abu Nahel, identified as Hamas's internal security chief, according to the BBC. Abu Nahel had held the post for two months, and he was among seven Palestinians reported killed in Israeli strikes on Tuesday. His death comes as the ceasefire remains fragile and allegations of violations continue. The reported toll underscores the civilian cost and uncertainty of a conflict in which military objectives, the protection of noncombatants and prospects for a durable halt to fighting remain intertwined. (BBC News; Long War Journal)

Israel Antiquities Authority experts surveyed eight archaeological and historical sites in Azerbaijan, including Jewish cemeteries, during a visit from November 1 to 5. The delegation assessed the sites and discussed conservation and public access with

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Azerbaijani officials, following an invitation from the country's State Tourism Agency and with support from Israel's Foreign Ministry. Cooperation on preservation can strengthen cultural ties while helping safeguard heritage shared by multiple communities and generations. The effort also draws attention to Azerbaijan's enduring Jewish presence and the need to care for historic sites while interpreting them responsibly. (JNS)

An anti-Israel protest briefly interrupted a Brussels concert featuring Israeli conductor Lahav Shani and the Munich Philharmonic. Activists shouted and threw leaflets as the performance began, while the venue resisted calls to cancel it; Shani and the orchestra received applause and a standing ovation at the end. The incident reflects the pressure cultural institutions face when artists are treated as proxies for their governments' actions. Shani has voiced serious ethical concerns about Israel's conduct in Gaza and criticized settler violence, yet protest organizers still accused him of helping to whitewash Israel's actions. The dispute underscores the need to make room for peaceful protest and artistic work without intimidation. (JNS)

The region's security risks extend beyond Gaza: a Saudi-led coalition intercepted Houthi attacks after a strike on Hodeidah, according to Al Jazeera. The source provides limited detail about the scale of the attacks and the interception, but the sequence illustrates how strikes and retaliation can quickly heighten risks for neighboring states and maritime security. The Red Sea and adjacent waters remain strategically sensitive routes, and continued exchanges can endanger civilians and commercial movement even when defensive systems intercept incoming weapons. (Al Jazeera)

Wars & Security (Israel and Region)

Iran is moving to restructure its Intelligence Ministry, eight months after Israel assassinated the country's intelligence minister. Two proposed bills would expand Supreme Leader Mojtaba Khamenei's direct authority over the ministry and strengthen intelligence oversight of Iranians' foreign contacts. Five contenders have emerged to lead the institution, each with different ties to the security establishment. The proposals could shift further influence toward the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, while tighter monitoring of foreign contacts would extend the state's reach into civic life. The succession and restructuring therefore matter both to Iran's internal balance of power and to its capacity to direct intelligence operations abroad. (Long War Journal)

In Gaza, the United States-backed ceasefire remains stalled amid repeated alleged violations by Hamas and other armed groups, while Israeli forces have intensified strikes

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against senior Hamas military and security officials. The Board of Peace has acknowledged persistent obstacles to implementation, and the Israeli government formation process is unfolding against this uncertain security backdrop. Prime Minister-designate Gadi Eisenkot reportedly intends to announce a government next week despite unresolved negotiations. A ceasefire's durability depends not only on declarations but also on compliance, credible monitoring and arrangements that address both sides' security concerns while protecting civilians from renewed violence. (Long War Journal; BBC News)

Israeli strikes in Gaza killed Hamas internal security chief Naeem Abu Nahel and six other Palestinians, according to the BBC. Abu Nahel had held the post for only two months, and his death comes amid efforts to target senior figures in Hamas's security and military structures. Such strikes may affect the group's ability to operate, but they also carry grave risks for civilians and can provoke further retaliation. The reported deaths underscore how difficult it is to sustain a ceasefire when the parties dispute compliance and the terms for what follows the fighting remain unsettled. (BBC News; Long War Journal)

Iraqi security forces entered Jurf al-Sakhar, a stronghold of the Iran-backed Kataib Hezbollah militia, on November 20 as Prime Minister Mohammed Shia al-Sudani sought to consolidate government authority. The operation followed an investigation into oil smuggling, but militia fighters remain in the area, and units of the Popular Mobilization Forces have also deployed there. The contest over control illustrates Baghdad's continuing challenge in asserting state authority where armed groups retain local power and influence. Whether the government can investigate illicit activity and enforce its decisions without provoking a broader confrontation will be an important test of Iraq's stability. (Long War Journal)

Iran is expanding the Basij network's neighborhood intelligence capacity through a nationwide platform intended to map local communities and identify influential residents. The initiative comes amid economic pressure and renewed anti-government demonstrations, forming part of a broader effort to mobilize regime loyalists for surveillance. Local knowledge and digital tools could make it easier for authorities to monitor civic networks and respond to dissent, raising concerns about privacy and the space for peaceful protest. The platform's reported purpose makes it both a domestic security measure and an extension of the state's enforcement capabilities. (Long War Journal)

Domestic consolidation and regional military pressure remain closely linked in the security picture. Iran's proposed intelligence changes could strengthen the leadership's control

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over information and foreign contacts, while Baghdad's operation in Jurf al-Sakhar tests whether a national government can limit the independent power of an Iran-aligned militia. These developments do not establish a single coordinated outcome, but they show how state authority, armed groups and intelligence institutions shape the region's ability to contain conflict. For civilians, the practical test is whether security measures reduce violence and coercion rather than deepen them. (Long War Journal; Long War Journal)

Global Macro & Geopolitics

Poland has asked NATO allies to examine whether the alliance could shoot down Russian missiles over Ukraine if they are heading toward NATO territory. The request follows the crash of three projectiles in Poland last week and sharpens the question of how members should respond when attacks near their borders threaten to spill across them. Any change in posture would carry significant escalation risks, as well as questions about alliance coordination and the distinction between defending NATO territory and intervening directly in the war. The discussion reflects growing pressure on European governments to protect their populations while limiting the risk of a direct NATO-Russia confrontation. (Bloomberg)

Germany's Chancellor Friedrich Merz defended continued support for Kyiv, warning that Russia wants more than Ukraine, according to Reuters. His statement places the war within a wider debate about European security, the costs of military and financial assistance, and the consequences of allowing Moscow to gain territory by force. As Poland seeks discussion of missile interceptions near NATO territory, Berlin's position signals that allied governments continue to view the conflict as a challenge to the broader security order. Europe faces difficult choices: sustained support carries economic and political costs, while weakening deterrence could invite future threats. (Reuters; Bloomberg)

Russia's oil exports this year have exceeded every annual average recorded since its full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022, adding to already ample global supply, Bloomberg reports. The elevated exports show that Moscow continues to move substantial volumes into world markets despite the war and Western sanctions. The resulting surplus can weigh on prices and complicate efforts to limit Russian revenue, exposing the gap between sanctions policy and the practical realities of global energy trade. Abundant supply may ease some price pressure for governments and consumers, but it does not remove the strategic consequences of financing a state at war. (Bloomberg)

In Britain, the energy price cap is due to rise to £2,166 in January, 53 percent above its level when the Labour government took office, according to Bloomberg. A planned £100

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payment will provide limited relief from household costs that have climbed sharply. The increase illustrates how energy affordability remains politically consequential as governments navigate long-term transition and supply decisions. Relying on the prospect that the war will end soon leaves consumers exposed if geopolitical instability or market changes keep bills high. Energy policy is therefore tied not only to household budgets but also to resilience, public trust and the ability to secure reliable supplies. (Bloomberg)

Nearly 2,000 migrants reached Spain's Canary Islands in a single day, breaking the previous one-day record, according to the Associated Press. The arrivals add pressure to a sensitive European debate over border management, asylum procedures and island communities' capacity to provide reception and support. A record day does not by itself establish a lasting trend, but it highlights how migration routes can quickly strain local authorities and national governments. Humane treatment and orderly procedures remain essential, alongside efforts to manage dangerous crossings and address the conditions that drive people to leave their homes. (AP News)

Alliance decisions, energy markets and domestic economic strain are increasingly intertwined. NATO governments are weighing how far they can go in countering Russian attacks without widening the conflict; Russia continues to export oil at a scale that sustains its place in world markets; and European households face high energy costs as governments debate policy and support for Ukraine. These pressures do not determine a single outcome, but they show how security choices reverberate through public budgets, political trust and alliance credibility. Prudent leadership requires attention to immediate threats and the human costs borne by civilians. (Bloomberg; Bloomberg; Reuters)

AI Dominion, Deception & the Antichrist System

Kazakhstan has entered the United Nations' highest category for digital government, rising from 24th to 16th in the global index. The government says more than 90 percent of public services are available online and that its e-government portal has more than 16.4 million registered users. The United Nations' 2026 survey also examines the opportunities and governance challenges of introducing artificial intelligence into public administration as digital identity, data sharing and interoperable services expand. More accessible services can bring practical benefits, but they also make clear limits on data use, accountable decisions and effective ways to challenge errors increasingly important. (Biometric Update)

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United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement is considering a five-year contract that could involve as many as 1,500 contractor analysts supporting biometric intelligence and artificial-intelligence-assisted workflows. Draft procurement documents describe work across roughly 29 locations, including reconciling identities across government and commercial databases, assessing watchlist matches, and preparing intelligence for investigations. Contractors would provide analysis and recommendations, while authorized government personnel would retain final decisions on watchlisting, targeting, eligibility, and enforcement. The proposal remains at the market-research stage, but placing private analysts within processes that can affect people's movement and legal status makes oversight, error review and accountability critical. (Biometric Update)

A commercial border-screening platform combines facial, fingerprint and iris identification with passenger-manifest analysis and risk alerts. The provider says the system can check traveler information against government watchlists and international police databases, while alerting officials to possible security concerns. The company reports deployments in multiple regions but does not identify the governments using the system. Biometrics may help border agencies identify travelers, but matching errors and opaque risk profiles can have serious consequences for people who are delayed, questioned, or wrongly flagged. Effective safeguards require human review, correction procedures and clarity about who controls and retains sensitive passenger data. (Biometric Update)

Italy has begun opening its public IT-Wallet to citizens and residents through the IO services app, enabling eligible users to store legally recognized digital documents, including a mobile driving license and health and education records. The rollout is voluntary, and the country's data-protection regulator approved the wallet's technical architecture in October. Italy is also considering a proposal that would require social-media platforms to use age-verification tools interoperable with European digital identity wallets. Linking official credentials to everyday services offers convenience but raises questions about access for people without smartphones, data minimization, privacy, and whether identity checks could become a condition of ordinary online participation. (Biometric Update)

Britain's Prime Minister Andy Burnham has ruled out joining the European Union's digital identity wallet framework, following parliamentary questions about a planned digital partnership with Brussels. The cooperation, expected to begin in 2027, is described as covering digital credentials, artificial intelligence and other technologies, but Burnham said it does not commit the United Kingdom to the European wallet system. Britain is continuing with a voluntary digital identity approach after reversing parts of earlier

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mandatory plans. The exchange illustrates the ongoing debate over digital identity, as governments balance cross-border cooperation and service access against public consent and limits on state-linked identification systems. (Biometric Update)

Two legal developments underscore the need for human responsibility when artificial intelligence is used in court work. An Ohio attorney was suspended after submitting fabricated case citations generated by an artificial-intelligence tool, while the United States Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit adopted a rule requiring certification for artificial-intelligence-assisted filings. The Ohio case shows how invented legal authorities can undermine proceedings when lawyers fail to verify them. Certification makes professional accountability more explicit, but verification remains essential: software may assist with research and drafting, yet lawyers and judges remain responsible for the accuracy of arguments and the evidence before the court. (Court News Ohio; Law.com)

India has called for human oversight of artificial intelligence used in armed conflict, warning the United Nations about the risks of misuse. The position highlights a central challenge for states considering automated analysis or decision support in military settings: systems can process information quickly, but responsibility for the use of force cannot be transferred to a tool. Human review must be meaningful enough to assess the information behind recommendations and halt action when circumstances are unclear. International discussion of oversight matters because military applications can affect life and death across borders and under intense time pressure. (The Economic Times; Siliconindia)

Pestilence & Global Health

The United States has lost its measles elimination status after more than 25 years as cases rise and misconceptions about the disease and its vaccine persist. A survey cited by ScienceDaily found that more than one-third of Americans either believe or are unsure about the debunked claim that the measles vaccine causes autism. Many respondents also lacked knowledge of the disease’s risks and how many vaccine doses children need. The loss of elimination status signals renewed transmission and underscores how misinformation can weaken public-health protections, especially for children and people who cannot safely be vaccinated. (ScienceDaily)

Researchers in Japan have developed an experimental approach to gum disease that uses antibodies from egg yolks and near-infrared light to target harmful bacteria while sparing beneficial microbes. In mice, the treatment reduced bone loss associated with

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periodontitis and protected healthy gum cells, according to ScienceDaily. The findings suggest a possible alternative to treatments that disrupt a broader range of oral bacteria, but results in animals do not establish safety or effectiveness in people. Further research is needed before the method could be used clinically. (ScienceDaily)

A study of more than 2,500 people found that some common medications may leave changes in the gut microbiome that persist after patients stop taking them. The drugs examined included antidepressants, blood-pressure medications, and anxiety treatments; some anxiety medications were associated with effects comparable to those linked to broad-spectrum antibiotics. The findings raise questions about how long medication effects on gut microbes may last, but they do not establish that patients should stop prescribed treatment. Patients should discuss any medication changes with a qualified clinician, who can weigh the benefits and risks for their individual circumstances. (ScienceDaily)

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