



Global Watch Daily – December 25, 2025

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

Israel & Jerusalem

Tensions continue in Israel and Jerusalem as a German painting depicting Anne Frank wearing a keffiyeh has sparked widespread outrage, highlighting sensitivities around cultural symbols and historical memory ([Times of Israel](#)). An Israeli citizen has been charged with filming former Prime Minister Bennett's home on behalf of Iran, underscoring ongoing espionage concerns ([Times of Israel](#)). In a discreet move, Israel reportedly returned the body of a Jordanian truck driver who killed two IDF soldiers, reflecting the complex human dimensions of the conflict ([Times of Israel](#)).

The Knesset's initial vote on a contentious bill to probe the October 7 events has sparked anger among various factions, revealing deep political divisions within Israel ([Times of Israel](#)). Meanwhile, US Jewish groups have defended European media monitors who were barred from entering the United States, emphasizing concerns over media freedom and oversight ([Times of Israel](#)).

Christian, Jewish, and other religious holidays are increasingly targeted by Islamist terror groups, threatening the peace and sanctity of these sacred times ([JNS](#)). Prime Minister Netanyahu has affirmed Israel's commitment to maintaining aerial superiority and denying adversaries similar capabilities, a strategic stance amid ongoing regional threats ([JNS](#)). The IDF recently conducted strikes against terrorist targets in southern Lebanon, underscoring the persistent security challenges along Israel's northern border ([JNS](#)).

In Melbourne, a rabbi's car was torched, reflecting the troubling rise of anti-Semitic incidents even far from the Middle East ([JNS](#)). The IDF has issued evacuation orders for Tehran ahead of planned strikes, signaling escalating military preparations ([Jerusalem Post](#)). Additionally, Israel is conducting defense exercises on key highways to prepare for potential threats ([Jerusalem Post](#)).



On the humanitarian front, Pope Leo has lamented the dire conditions of Palestinians living in tents in Gaza, calling attention to the suffering of civilians caught in conflict ([BBC](#)). UN experts have urged Iran to halt the execution of a woman activist, highlighting ongoing human rights concerns in the region ([BBC](#)). Israel has extended its order allowing the closure of foreign broadcasters, a move that raises questions about media access and freedom ([BBC](#)).

A baby who the BBC followed has returned to a Gaza hospital after receiving treatment abroad, a poignant reminder of the human stories amid conflict ([BBC](#)). However, NGOs warn that new Israeli registration rules risk the collapse of aid operations in Gaza, threatening the delivery of critical humanitarian assistance ([BBC](#)).

Wars & Security (Israel and Region)

Iraqi militias remain divided over disarming and accepting government control, reflecting the fragile security situation in Iraq and the challenges of state authority consolidation ([Long War Journal](#)). In Libya, the parliament speaker has declared the maritime deal with Turkey invalid but remains open to renegotiation, indicating ongoing disputes over territorial and economic rights ([Long War Journal](#)).

Israeli operations against Hezbollah in Lebanon have continued through mid-December, targeting terrorist infrastructure and attempting to curb cross-border threats ([Long War Journal](#)). The United States has launched widespread airstrikes against Islamic State positions in Syria following a deadly attack in Palmyra, demonstrating ongoing counterterrorism efforts in the region ([Long War Journal](#)).

US military officials have highlighted anti-Islamic State operations after soldiers were killed in Syria, underscoring the persistent dangers faced by coalition forces ([Long War Journal](#)). Meanwhile, analysis reveals the precarious situation of Christians in China, who face increasing restrictions and challenges to their faith ([FDD](#)).

Former President Trump's revised National Security Strategy has been detailed, signaling shifts in US defense and foreign policy priorities ([FDD](#)). In Syria, the integration deal is nearing collapse, threatening the fragile political arrangements in the war-torn country ([FDD](#)). Concerns are growing over Iran's expanding ballistic missile arsenal, raising fears of a potential new Middle East war ([FDD](#)).

Global Macro & Geopolitics



In his first Christmas address, Pope Leo called for courage to end the war in Ukraine, appealing for peace and reconciliation amid ongoing conflict ([BBC](#)). Turkey has arrested 115 Islamic State suspects allegedly planning New Year's attacks, highlighting continued vigilance against terrorism ([BBC](#)).

The front-runner for Bangladesh's prime ministership has returned after 17 years in exile, marking a significant political development in South Asia ([BBC](#)). Christmas celebrations around the world have included unique traditions such as waterskiing Santas and giant cuts of meat, reflecting the diversity of cultural expressions during the holiday ([BBC](#)).

In Honduras, a Trump-backed candidate has narrowly won the election, signaling shifts in Central American politics ([BBC](#)). France24 has documented Christmas festivities worldwide, capturing the joy and relief returning to Jerusalem amid the season's celebrations ([France24](#)).

Russia has made a proposal regarding the imprisoned French researcher Laurent Vinatier, charged with espionage, indicating that ongoing diplomatic negotiations are underway ([France24](#)). French farmers continue protests over cattle culls, marking a tense agricultural dispute during the holiday season ([France24](#)).

The US-Malaysia trade agreement has implications for forced labor and Taiwan, raising concerns about supply chain ethics and geopolitical tensions ([The Diplomat](#)). A humanitarian rescue story from the war era challenges North Korean propaganda, offering a rare glimpse of hope amid conflict ([The Diplomat](#)).

India's vulnerability in global tech supply chains has been highlighted by the concept of "Pax Silica," which emphasizes the strategic importance of semiconductor production ([The Diplomat](#)). In Nepal, the second-largest political party appears to have committed political harakiri, signaling internal turmoil ([The Diplomat](#)). South Korea is experiencing a return of factional conflict in its foreign policy, complicating diplomatic efforts ([The Diplomat](#)).

Pestilence & Global Health

Scientists have developed a new method to prevent gum disease that preserves beneficial bacteria, offering a promising advance in oral health care ([ScienceDaily](#)). Researchers have identified viral suspects that may be fueling long COVID symptoms, potentially guiding future treatments ([ScienceDaily](#)).



Following the reopening of schools after COVID-19 closures, children's anxiety and depression rates have dropped rapidly, highlighting the importance of social environments for mental health ([ScienceDaily](#)). Artificial intelligence has uncovered a surprising weak spot in monkeypox, which could lead to improved vaccines ([ScienceDaily](#)).

A supplement boosting NAD+ shows early promise in alleviating long COVID fatigue and brain fog, offering hope for sufferers of persistent symptoms ([ScienceDaily](#)).

Natural Disasters & Signs in the Heavens

Recent minor earthquakes have been recorded near Johannesburg, California, and Alaska, reminding us of the earth's continual activity ([USGS](#))([USGS](#))([USGS](#)).

NASA has shared festive images of Santa visiting the Artemis II rocket, symbolizing hope and progress in space exploration ([NASA](#)). The OPERA satellite program continues to address societal needs with advanced data, enhancing our understanding of Earth ([NASA](#)).

The Artemis II crew has conducted launch day rehearsals and demonstrations, preparing for the upcoming lunar mission that represents a new era of human spaceflight ([NASA](#))([NASA](#))([NASA](#)).

Middle Eastern Artifacts

The City of David has released a new reference list of antiquities, providing valuable insights into the rich archaeological heritage of Jerusalem and its surroundings ([City of David](#)).

Reflection

As we reflect on the events shaping Israel, the Middle East, and the broader world this Christmas season, we are reminded of the fragile nature of peace and the persistent challenges faced by believers and nations alike. The ongoing conflicts, political tensions, and humanitarian crises call us to pray for wisdom and courage for leaders, protection for the innocent, and healing for those suffering. The hope embodied in the birth of Christ encourages us to seek reconciliation and justice amid turmoil.

May we also remember the power of faith to sustain communities under pressure and the importance of standing firm in truth and compassion. As global tensions rise, the Christian call to be peacemakers and bearers of light remains vital. Let us commit to interceding for



peace in Jerusalem and throughout the world, trusting in God's sovereign plan.

- Pray for peace and protection over Jerusalem and Israel during this challenging season.
- Ask God to grant political and military leaders navigating complex conflicts wisdom and integrity.
- Intercede for the healing and provision for those affected by war, displacement, and disease worldwide.