



Global Watch Daily – December 30, 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 to escalate in the Middle East as Iran has designated the Royal Canadian Navy as a terrorist organization in a retaliatory move, highlighting the ongoing regional hostilities ([Times of Israel](#)). Meanwhile, the UK government is reviewing “information failures” in the case of a British-Egyptian activist, signaling ongoing concerns about justice and human rights ([BBC](#)).

Former U.S. President Donald Trump, during his stay in Florida, has taken a hawkish stance on Gaza and Iran, reflecting ongoing international concerns about the conflict and regional security ([Times of Israel](#)). Meanwhile, Iran’s president has urged his government to listen to economic protests, signaling internal unrest amid external pressures ([Times of Israel](#)). In diplomatic developments, Trump and his top aides expressed concern over Israel’s West Bank policies during a meeting with Prime Minister Netanyahu, underscoring the delicate balance in U.S.-Israel relations ([Times of Israel](#)). Qatar’s involvement in Gaza talks coincides with political friction in Israel over an inquiry bill as Netanyahu travels to Florida, reflecting the complex interplay of regional diplomacy and internal politics ([JNS](#)).

Israeli Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich has doubled down on his controversial vow to “trample” the Supreme Court president, intensifying the domestic political conflict over judicial reforms ([Times of Israel](#)). Smotrich has also publicly criticized the Supreme Court, accusing it of stifling democracy, which adds to the ongoing political polarization within Israel ([JNS](#)). The political battle over Israel’s October 7 probe continues, highlighting deep divisions over accountability mechanisms ([JNS](#)). In legislative moves, Israeli lawmakers have passed a law to cut utilities to UNRWA, the United Nations agency supporting Palestinian refugees, signaling a hardening stance on Palestinian institutions ([JNS](#)).

The Palestinian Authority’s strategy in Judea and Samaria has been described as malevolent, reflecting ongoing tensions and security concerns in the region ([JNS](#)). The Israel Defense Forces have issued an evacuation order for Tehran ahead of planned strikes, indicating the severity of military preparations ([Jerusalem Post](#)). Additionally, the



Defense Ministry is set to conduct a military exercise on Highway 35, emphasizing ongoing readiness ([Jerusalem Post](#)). Israel's recent recognition of Somaliland as an independent state has sparked controversy, reflecting the complexities of international diplomacy and regional alliances ([BBC](#)).

Internationally, a Ukrainian drone attack on Moscow has forced the closure of an airport, escalating tensions between Russia and Ukraine ([Jerusalem Post](#)). The United States condemned the shooting of Colombian presidential candidate Miguel Uribe, reflecting concerns over political violence in Latin America ([Jerusalem Post](#)). In a separate incident, an Israeli man was arrested in Albania for attempting to leave the country with undeclared cash amounting to €194,000, highlighting issues of financial security and law enforcement cooperation ([Jerusalem Post](#)).

Trump has expressed hope to reach the second phase of a Gaza ceasefire "very quickly," indicating potential progress in efforts to reduce violence ([BBC](#)). The long-term effects of growing up in war on children's brains continue to be studied, revealing lasting psychological impacts ([BBC](#)). Finally, Trump met with Netanyahu in Florida, with their discussions focusing on pressing Middle East issues, underscoring the importance of U.S.-Israeli cooperation in the region ([BBC](#)).

Wars & Security (Israel and Region)

Iraqi militias remain divided over disarming and accepting government control, illustrating the challenges of stabilizing Iraq's security landscape ([Long War Journal](#)). Israel has rotated military units in Gaza as a new phase of the ceasefire deal approaches, signaling ongoing military vigilance amid fragile peace efforts ([Long War Journal](#)). In Libya, the parliament speaker has declared the maritime deal with Turkey invalid but remains open to renegotiation, highlighting ongoing disputes over territorial and resource claims ([Long War Journal](#)). Turkey's role as a driver of antisemitism in the Middle East has been questioned, with some analysts suggesting it has become the new Iran in this regard, raising alarms about regional dynamics ([FDD](#)). Israeli operations against Hezbollah in Lebanon have continued through mid-December, reflecting persistent security concerns along Israel's northern border ([Long War Journal](#)).

The United States has conducted strikes against Islamic State targets in Nigeria, reflecting the global reach of counterterrorism operations ([Long War Journal](#)). Former President Trump has warned of further strikes on Iran if its nuclear program continues to rebuild, signaling potential escalation in U.S.-Iran tensions ([FDD](#)). An Iranian influence operation



targeting Israeli Arabs has been exposed, revealing ongoing efforts to destabilize Israel internally ([FDD](#)). Trump has also threatened new military action alongside Israel concerning Iran's missile and nuclear programs, underscoring the high stakes of regional security ([FDD](#)).

In East Asia, China has launched new military drills around Taiwan, increasing regional tensions and drawing international attention to the strategic balance in the Pacific ([FDD](#)).

Global Macro & Geopolitics

Ukraine has denied responsibility for a drone attack on Russian President Vladimir Putin's residence, amidst ongoing conflict and information warfare between the two nations ([BBC](#)).

In France, the political right is pushing for a national tribute to film star Brigitte Bardot, reflecting the country's cultural and political currents ([BBC](#)).

The K-pop band NewJeans has broken up following a bitter feud with their record label, illustrating the challenges of the global entertainment industry ([BBC](#)). Eurostar has suspended all trains and urged passengers to postpone journeys due to major disruptions, affecting European travel during the holiday season ([France24](#)).

Turkey has detained 357 suspected Islamic State members in nationwide raids, signaling ongoing counterterrorism efforts within its borders ([BBC](#)). Israel's recognition of Somaliland as an independent state remains controversial, reflecting the complexities of international recognition and regional politics ([BBC](#)). In Syria, President Bashar al-Assad's image has been removed from banknotes as the country introduces a new currency, signaling economic shifts amid ongoing conflict ([France24](#)). Saudi Arabia has labeled the UAE-backed separatist advance in Yemen as a threat to national security, highlighting the fragile alliances and conflicts in the Arabian Peninsula ([France24](#)).

The search for Malaysia Airlines Flight MH370 has restarted more than ten years after the plane's disappearance, renewing hope for answers in one of aviation's greatest mysteries ([France24](#)). In Bangladesh, the passing of Khaleda Zia marks the end of an important political era, with implications for the country's future governance ([The Diplomat](#)). The Japan-China Joint Communiqué has raised questions regarding Taiwan's status, underscoring the ongoing geopolitical sensitivities in East Asia ([The Diplomat](#)). Looking ahead, Mongolian politics and economy are expected to be driven by significant factors in 2026, reflecting the country's evolving regional role ([The Diplomat](#)). North Korea's leader



has inspected the building of a nuclear submarine, signaling continued military advancements and regional security concerns ([The Diplomat](#)).

India's relationship with Bangladesh remains complex, balancing strategic partnership with political liabilities, which will influence South Asian dynamics ([The Diplomat](#)).

Pestilence & Global Health

Stanford scientists have uncovered reasons why mRNA COVID vaccines can trigger heart inflammation, advancing understanding of vaccine side effects and informing safer medical practices ([ScienceDaily](#)). Researchers have identified viral suspects that may be fueling long COVID, offering new avenues for treating and managing this persistent condition ([ScienceDaily](#)). Studies show that children's anxiety and depression levels dropped rapidly after COVID-related school reopenings, highlighting the importance of social environments for mental health ([ScienceDaily](#)).

A novel approach to preventing gum disease has been developed that preserves beneficial bacteria, marking progress in oral health care ([ScienceDaily](#)).

Artificial intelligence has identified a surprising weak spot in monkeypox that could lead to improved vaccines, demonstrating the growing role of technology in combating infectious diseases ([ScienceDaily](#)).

Natural Disasters & Signs in the Heavens

Several minor earthquakes have been recorded in California, with magnitudes ranging from 0.4 to 1.4 near San Lucas, New Idria, The Geysers, Lake Henshaw, and Wrightwood, indicating ongoing seismic activity in the region ([USGS](#), [USGS](#), [USGS](#), [USGS](#), [USGS](#)).

NASA's Earth Observer program continues to provide valuable perspectives from space, offering insights into Earth's changing environment through time ([NASA](#)). The Terra satellite mission has come to an end, marking the close of an era in Earth observation and scientific data collection ([NASA](#)). NASA's 2025 Space Station Science Snapshots showcase a variety of scientific experiments conducted aboard the International Space Station, advancing knowledge across multiple disciplines ([NASA](#)).

The final Earth Observer Editor's Corner for October to December 2025 reflects on the mission's achievements and future directions in Earth science ([NASA](#)).



Updates and highlights from the CERES (Clouds and the Earth's Radiant Energy System) mission continue to inform climate science and environmental monitoring ([NASA](#)).

Middle Eastern Artifacts

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

Reflection

As we observe the unfolding events in Israel and across the globe, the persistent tensions and conflicts remind us of the fragility of peace and the urgent need for wisdom in leadership. The political struggles within Israel, coupled with the regional threats from Iran and other actors, underscore the complex challenges facing the Holy Land. Yet, amidst these trials, scientific and humanitarian advances offer hope for healing and progress.

From the shifting geopolitical alliances to the quiet discoveries beneath the earth's surface, God's providence is evident in both the turmoil and the breakthroughs. As believers, we are called to pray for peace in Jerusalem, for the protection of innocent lives, and for the courage of leaders to pursue justice tempered with mercy.

- Pray for peace and stability in Israel and Jerusalem amid ongoing political and military tensions.
- Ask God to guide world leaders with wisdom and humility as they navigate complex international relations.
- Intercede for healing and protection for those affected by conflict and for breakthroughs in global health challenges.