



Global Watch Daily – January 5, 2026

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

Israel & Jerusalem

Despite a ban, toxic hair treatments containing glyoxylic acid continue to cause kidney failure in dozens across Israel, highlighting ongoing public health challenges ([Times of Israel](#)). In a political shift, Abbas announced that the Ra'am party will open its candidate list to Jewish members, aiming to separate from the Islamic Movement and gain legitimacy ahead of upcoming elections ([Times of Israel](#)). Meanwhile, major anti-Israel influencers have been exposed for aligning with extremist rhetoric, intensifying concerns over misinformation and radical narratives ([JNS](#)).

In Germany, an arson attack targeting Brandenburg's antisemitism commissioner, accompanied by Hamas iconography, underscores rising tensions and threats faced by officials combating hate ([JNS](#)). Additionally, the IDF has issued an evacuation order for Tehran ahead of potential strikes, signaling heightened regional security concerns ([Jerusalem Post](#)).

Wars & Security (Israel and Region)

Somali intelligence reports the death of Abdullahi Osman, a senior Shabaab leader responsible for explosives and media operations, though the group has yet to confirm ([Long War Journal](#)). The US military launched airstrikes on Venezuela's capital, capturing President Maduro in a significant operation that marks a dual victory in the war on drugs and geopolitical competition ([Long War Journal](#); [FDD](#)).

Jordan conducted airstrikes in southern Syria targeting drug smuggling networks near the Druze-controlled Suwayda Governorate, coordinating with regional partners ([Long War Journal](#)). Iran condemned the US strikes on Venezuela, reflecting broader regional tensions ([FDD](#)).

Global Macro & Geopolitics



US President Trump reiterated his controversial proposal to annex Greenland, emphasizing its strategic importance to the US ([BBC News](#)). In France, a court convicted ten individuals for cyberbullying against Brigitte Macron, highlighting rising concerns over online harassment ([BBC News](#)).

Deposed Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro made his first US court appearance on drug trafficking charges, with legal debates over his immunity as a former head of state ([France24](#)). French President Macron stated France disapproves of the US method used to overthrow Maduro, though he acknowledged Maduro's dictatorship and the positive impact of his removal ([France24](#)).

In East Asia, China's military drills around Taiwan are increasingly aggressive, eroding buffer zones and signaling strategic intent, while Beijing pursues a plan to win Taiwan without direct conflict ([The Diplomat](#); [The Diplomat](#)).

Pestilence & Global Health

Stanford researchers uncovered mechanisms behind rare heart inflammation triggered by mRNA COVID vaccines, involving a two-step immune response that recruits aggressive immune cells to the heart ([ScienceDaily](#)). Meanwhile, new approaches to prevent gum disease focus on altering bacterial communication rather than eradicating bacteria, promoting healthier oral microbiomes ([ScienceDaily](#)).

Emerging evidence suggests that hidden viral infections such as Epstein-Barr may contribute to long COVID symptoms like fatigue and brain fog by reactivating alongside SARS-CoV-2 ([ScienceDaily](#)). Clinical trials of NAD+ supplements show promise in alleviating long COVID fatigue and cognitive issues for some patients ([ScienceDaily](#)).

Children's anxiety and depression rates dropped significantly after schools reopened during the pandemic, underscoring the importance of in-person education and support structures ([ScienceDaily](#)). Additionally, AI-driven research identified a monkeypox protein that elicits strong immune responses, paving the way for improved vaccines ([ScienceDaily](#)).

Natural Disasters & Signs in the Heavens

A minor magnitude 0.5 earthquake struck near Cloverdale, California, at a shallow depth, recorded by the USGS ([USGS](#)). Meanwhile, NASA highlighted the colorful rock formations of Cedar Breaks National Monument, a geological amphitheater in southwestern Utah ([NASA](#)).



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The Hubble Space Telescope captured images of galactic gas escaping from a spiral galaxy in the Virgo cluster, offering insights into cosmic phenomena ([NASA](#)). NASA also announced schedules for the 247th American Astronomical Society meetings and Hyperwall storytelling events showcasing cutting-edge space research ([NASA](#); [NASA](#)).

NASA's Curiosity rover sent a holiday postcard from Mars, combining images taken at different times of day to create a panoramic view of the Martian landscape ([NASA](#)).

Middle Eastern Artifacts

The City of David continues to unveil new archaeological findings and experiences in ancient Jerusalem, enriching understanding of the region's biblical history and heritage ([City of David](#)).

Reflection

The ongoing health crises in Israel, combined with shifting political landscapes and regional security challenges, underscore the complexity of maintaining stability in a volatile environment. The exposure of extremist narratives and attacks on officials highlights the persistent threats facing democratic and pluralistic societies.

Globally, the capture of Maduro and the geopolitical tensions surrounding Taiwan reveal the intricate interplay of power, ideology, and strategic interests shaping the international order. Advances in health science and space exploration offer hope and progress amid these challenges, reminding us of humanity's capacity for innovation and resilience.

- Pray for wisdom and protection for leaders navigating political and security crises.
- Support efforts to combat misinformation and promote truth in media and public discourse.
- Encourage scientific research and public health initiatives that improve lives worldwide.