



Global Watch Daily – January 15, 2026

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

Israel & Jerusalem

Recent revelations highlight a daring 1979 Israeli operation that successfully evacuated the last 33 Israeli officials from Iran, a mission long untold but now brought to light by podcaster Mitch Ginsburg. Meanwhile, political maneuvers continue as Prime Minister Netanyahu plans to appoint UTJ's Eichler as deputy minister to advance legislation on the conscription of ultra-Orthodox men, signaling a potential reshuffle in the Knesset. These developments occur amid ongoing tensions in Tehran, where the IDF has issued evacuation orders ahead of anticipated strikes, underscoring the fragile security situation in the region ([Times of Israel](#); [JNS](#)).

In Iran, conflicting reports emerge about the fate of detained protester Erfan Soltani, with the judiciary denying plans for his execution while human rights groups claim postponement. The unrest reveals deep divisions among exiled opposition factions, notably between the son of the former shah and the Mujahedin-e Khalq, neither of which commands broad support. These internal fractures complicate the already volatile situation amid widespread protests and an internet blackout, with death toll figures varying across sources ([BBC News](#); [Times of Israel](#)).

Wars & Security (Israel and Region)

Military operations continue to shape the security landscape, with Israeli forces conducting strikes against Hezbollah in Lebanon, targeting the group's efforts to regenerate south of the Litani River. The Islamic Republic of Iran faces unprecedented internal challenges, as nationwide uprisings demand the end of the regime amid economic collapse and brutal crackdowns. This volatile environment is further complicated by Russian Orthodox propaganda targeting Patriarch Bartholomew, reflecting broader geopolitical and ideological conflicts in the region ([Long War Journal](#); [FDD](#)).

Amid these tensions, international observers note shifts in global alliances, with Chatham House highlighting the erosion of the Western alliance under US policy changes. The



Trump administration's revolutionary approach to foreign policy, including controversial moves regarding Greenland and Venezuela, signals a reshaping of the world order that could have lasting implications for regional stability and international law. These analyses underscore the complex interplay between local conflicts and global power dynamics ([Chatham House](#); [Chatham House](#)).

Global Macro & Geopolitics

The European military presence in Greenland is strengthening as France deploys troops, responding to US interest in the island amid strategic competition. Concurrently, US domestic security incidents, such as a federal agent shooting a Minneapolis man in self-defense, reflect ongoing internal challenges. On the diplomatic front, the Trump administration's hardening stance on trade is evident with the recall of the US ambassador to Vietnam and the suspension of immigrant visa processing for numerous countries, particularly in the Asia-Pacific region, signaling a more restrictive and assertive US foreign policy ([BBC News](#); [The Diplomat](#)).

The EU-Mercosur trade agreement gains qualified majority approval after decades of negotiation, despite fierce opposition from European agricultural sectors. Experts argue that the pact's benefits outweigh drawbacks, potentially reshaping economic relations between the blocs. These developments occur amid broader geopolitical shifts, highlighting the interconnectedness of trade, diplomacy, and security in the evolving global landscape ([France24](#); [The Diplomat](#)).

Pestilence & Global Health

Innovative research from the University of Basel introduces a new test that distinguishes antibiotics that truly kill bacteria from those that merely inhibit growth, promising more precise treatments for infections like tuberculosis. Meanwhile, a striking real-world experiment found that flu patients did not transmit the virus to healthy volunteers despite close contact, emphasizing the importance of ventilation and masks in infection control. These findings contribute to a deeper understanding of infectious disease dynamics and prevention strategies ([ScienceDaily](#); [ScienceDaily](#)).

Long COVID continues to affect millions globally, with emerging evidence linking symptoms to inflammation, micro-clots, and disrupted metabolism. Experimental treatments show promise, though definitive answers await larger trials. Additionally, scientists have discovered "migrions," viral structures that enhance infection spread by



collective delivery, challenging traditional infection models. These advances underscore the evolving complexity of viral diseases and the ongoing quest for effective therapies ([ScienceDaily](#); [ScienceDaily](#)).

Natural Disasters & Signs in the Heavens

Recent seismic activity includes a magnitude 2.0 earthquake near Loyal, Oklahoma, and a 1.3 magnitude tremor near Pacifica, California, both recorded by the USGS. Additionally, a 2.5 magnitude quake occurred east of Denali National Park, Alaska, indicating ongoing tectonic movements across diverse US regions. These events, while moderate, remind us of the persistent natural forces shaping the landscape ([USGS](#); [USGS](#)).

In space exploration, NASA's Hubble Space Telescope has released new images of protoplanetary disks, enhancing understanding of star and planet formation. NASA's SpaceX Crew-11 mission safely returned astronauts to Earth, marking a successful conclusion to a five-month International Space Station mission. These milestones highlight ongoing advancements in astronomy and human spaceflight ([NASA](#); [NASA](#)).

Middle Eastern Artifacts

Recent archaeological excavations in Israel reveal significant findings, including a salvage dig on the eastern bank of Nahal Tamar ahead of water pipeline installation, and a trial excavation in the Shehoret Industrial Zone near Elat prior to reservoir construction. These projects, conducted by the Israel Antiquities Authority and funded by Mekorot, contribute valuable insights into the region's historical landscape and infrastructure development. The meticulous documentation and scientific supervision ensure the preservation of cultural heritage amid modern advancements ([Israel Antiquities Authority](#); [Israel Antiquities Authority](#)).

Reflection

We should interpret these developments soberly, resisting both panic and apathy while attending to what is true. Our aim is prayerful discernment—grounding convictions in Scripture and keeping watch with steadiness and hope.