



Global Watch Daily – January 16, 2026

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

Israel & Jerusalem

Israel carried out targeted strikes that eliminated senior Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad commanders in response to violations of the truce, highlighting the persistent tensions in Gaza ([Times of Israel](#)). At the same time, Jewish communities worldwide are experiencing a spiritual revival, seeking a deeper connection to their heritage amid ongoing turmoil ([JNS](#)). The Israel Defense Forces also issued evacuation orders for Tehran in anticipation of possible strikes, underscoring regional security concerns ([Jerusalem Post](#)).

Residents near the Iranian border report violent clashes and continuing protests despite internet blackouts, reflecting widespread unrest within the country ([BBC News](#)). Appeals for solidarity with the Iranian people emphasize the historic ties and shared suffering between Jewish and Iranian communities ([Times of Israel](#)).

Wars & Security (Israel and Region)

Kurdish opposition groups in Iran have actively supported nationwide protests and strikes against the regime, claiming responsibility for attacks on Tehran's forces amid a harsh crackdown ([Long War Journal](#); [FDD](#)). The Islamic Republic faces unprecedented internal challenges as protests call for its end, while U.S. warnings of possible military action further heighten regional tensions ([Long War Journal](#)).

International analysts note a shifting global order as the United States, under President Trump, pursues revolutionary policies that strain Western alliances and challenge international law, affecting relations with Venezuela, Greenland, and Iran ([Chatham House](#); [Chatham House](#)).

Global Macro & Geopolitics

Reza Pahlavi, son of Iran's last shah, remains a prominent advocate of ongoing protests against Iran's authoritarian regime, embodying the hopes of the opposition (BBC News).



Meanwhile, the CIA director's recent meeting with Venezuela's new leader focused on economic cooperation and efforts to counter adversarial influence, signaling the U.S.'s strategic interests in the region ([BBC News](#)).

India and the European Union are advancing toward a free trade agreement amid global uncertainties driven by U.S. policies under President Trump ([France24](#)). Media coverage of Iran's crackdown reveals competing narratives, with journalists highlighting the scale of repression and the difficulties of reporting under censorship ([France24](#)).

Pestilence & Global Health

Recent scientific breakthroughs reveal that a vitamin A byproduct can suppress immune responses, enabling cancers to evade detection; however, new drugs targeting this pathway show promise in enhancing immunity ([ScienceDaily](#)). Additionally, a novel diagnostic test can distinguish antibiotics that kill bacteria from those that only inhibit growth, potentially improving treatment for infections such as tuberculosis ([ScienceDaily](#)).

A real-world study found that flu patients did not transmit the virus to healthy volunteers in a shared indoor environment, underscoring the importance of ventilation and air circulation in infection control ([ScienceDaily](#)). Meanwhile, research links long COVID symptoms to inflammation and micro-clots, with emerging treatments offering hope despite limited large-scale clinical trials ([ScienceDaily](#)).

Scientists have identified "migrions," viral structures that enable collective infection of cells, enhancing viral spread and disease severity beyond traditional models ([ScienceDaily](#)). Furthermore, new evidence suggests that the flu drug Tamiflu protects against neuropsychiatric events in children, reversing earlier safety concerns ([ScienceDaily](#)).

Natural Disasters & Signs in the Heavens

Recent seismic activity includes a magnitude 1.1 earthquake near The Geysers, California, and a 0.9 magnitude quake near Cobb, California, both shallow events recorded by the USGS ([USGS](#)). Additionally, a 1.5 magnitude earthquake occurred north-northwest of Mentone, Texas ([USGS](#)).

NASA is preparing for the Artemis II rollout as its Crawler-transporter 2 moves the Space Launch System rocket and Orion spacecraft to Launch Complex 39B, marking a significant milestone in lunar exploration ([NASA](#)). The Hubble Space Telescope has captured images of the Lupus 3 star-forming cloud, revealing active stellar birth within this ghostly cosmic



region ([NASA](#)).

Winter weather forecasts predict frigid temperatures to continue through the weekend, underscoring the need for preparedness ([weather.gov](#)).

Middle Eastern Artifacts

Recent salvage excavations conducted by the Israel Antiquities Authority at Nahal Tamar and Elat's Shehoret Industrial Zone have uncovered significant archaeological findings ahead of infrastructure projects, illuminating historical land use and settlement patterns ([Israel Antiquities Authority](#); [Israel Antiquities Authority](#)). Additionally, comprehensive reports on rural sites from the Hellenistic to Early Islamic periods contribute valuable insights into regional history ([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.