



Global Watch Daily – January 29, 2026

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

Israel & Jerusalem

Hamas maintains that it never agreed to disarm, with senior official Moussa Abu Marzouk emphasizing that no direct discussions about relinquishing weapons have taken place, underscoring the group's continued control over Gaza. Meanwhile, Israeli security forces arrested a Palestinian imam in Hebron on charges of incitement to violence, highlighting ongoing tensions and security concerns in the region ([Times of Israel](#); [JNS](#)).

Additionally, U.S. citizens residing in Israel are advised to consider voluntarily disclosing any past financial reporting gaps amid increasing transparency, which may help them avoid audits. This development reflects the complex interplay of international finance and residency regulations affecting expatriates ([Times of Israel](#)).

Wars & Security (Israel and Region)

Russian forces have begun evacuating northern Syria, particularly the city of Qamishli, ahead of diplomatic talks between Syrian and Russian leadership concerning access to military facilities. Concurrently, Russia is recruiting for drone units, signaling a strategic emphasis on unmanned systems in ongoing conflicts. These developments occur amid a U.S. military buildup in the Middle East, with President Trump's administration tightening pressure on Iran through strategic deployments and shifts in defense policy ([Long War Journal](#); [FDD](#)).

Experts warn that the evolving U.S. defense strategy marks a significant departure from traditional alliances and principles of international law, with Chatham House analysts interpreting these shifts as reshaping global power dynamics. The administration's approach to Iran and broader geopolitical maneuvers reflects a revolutionary stance in U.S. foreign policy ([Chatham House](#); [FDD](#)).

Global Macro & Geopolitics



Heavy gunfire near Niger's capital airport, which houses an air force base close to the presidential palace, signals escalating instability in the region. Meanwhile, cultural and political events in the U.S. include rapper Nicki Minaj publicly supporting President Trump amid protests, reflecting ongoing domestic tensions. In Southeast Asia, ASEAN foreign ministers convened in Cebu to discuss critical issues, including Myanmar and the South China Sea, underscoring regional diplomatic efforts ([BBC News](#); [The Diplomat](#)).

Vietnam advances its semiconductor industry ambitions with the groundbreaking of its first integrated chip plant, aiming to climb the global technology value chain. Additionally, unique animal behavior studies, such as a cow using a broom as a tool, challenge current understandings of animal intelligence and cognition ([France24](#); [The Diplomat](#)).

Pestilence & Global Health

Long COVID brain fog appears significantly more prevalent in the U.S. compared to countries like India and Nigeria, likely due to cultural factors, stigma, and differences in healthcare access rather than viral variations. Concurrently, research reveals that trusted bottled water sources in Guatemala may pose health risks due to bacterial contamination, highlighting global disparities in water safety ([ScienceDaily](#)).

Scientific advances include synthetic bacteriophage engineering to combat antibiotic-resistant bacteria and discoveries explaining why some wounds fail to heal, offering promising therapeutic avenues. Additionally, micro-doses of THC show potential to alleviate long-term HIV treatment side effects without causing intoxication, marking a significant step in chronic disease management ([ScienceDaily](#)).

Natural Disasters & Signs in the Heavens

Recent seismic activity includes minor earthquakes in California and Alaska, with magnitudes ranging from 1.1 to 1.8, as monitored by the USGS. Meanwhile, the western U.S. faces a snow drought due to warm, wet weather, reducing mountain snowpack levels critical for water resources. NASA continues to support communications for the Artemis II mission, advancing human space exploration goals ([USGS](#); [NASA](#)).

Prolonged extreme cold and winter storms across the eastern U.S. underscore the variability and severity of current weather patterns. These natural phenomena emphasize the importance of monitoring and preparedness in the face of climatic challenges ([weather.gov](#)).



Middle Eastern Artifacts

Archaeological excavations in Ashqelon's Afridar neighborhood, conducted in 1979, have yielded significant findings that contribute to understanding the region's historical layers. The Israel Antiquities Authority continues to publish detailed reports on these discoveries, shedding light on periods from the Chalcolithic to the Ottoman era ([Israel Antiquities Authority](#)).

Further extensive salvage excavations at Khirbat 'Amra in the Be'er Sheva Valley reveal architectural remains spanning from the Hellenistic to Early Islamic periods, offering insights into settlement patterns and material culture. Similarly, studies of subterranean complexes at Maresha provide a comprehensive typological analysis of ancient chamber installations, enriching knowledge of historical urban development ([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.