



# Midday Assessment – 2025-12-26

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## Categories in this Brief

- regional conflicts
- national security threats
- Counter-Terrorism

## regional conflicts

- **Insight [G, Confidence: Moderate ]:** The ongoing religious persecution and violence in Nigeria, highlighted by international condemnation, may exacerbate regional instability and influence foreign policy alignments, particularly with Israel's vocal stance against such acts.  
**Credibility:** The insight draws on statements from high-profile leaders like Netanyahu, which are reliable but may reflect political agendas.  
**Coherence:** This aligns with broader patterns of religious conflict influencing geopolitical alliances, particularly in regions with significant religious tensions.  
**Confidence:** Moderate confidence due to the potential bias in political statements and lack of corroborative data on immediate impacts.
- **Insight [S, Confidence: High ]:** The internal dynamics within Yemen's anti-Houthi coalition are strained, as evidenced by Saudi Arabia's public pressure on UAE-backed separatists, indicating potential fractures that could weaken the coalition's effectiveness.  
**Credibility:** The insight is based on official statements from Saudi Arabia, a primary actor in the conflict, providing a reliable source.  
**Coherence:** This fits the historical pattern of complex alliances in Yemen, where internal divisions have previously undermined coalition efforts.  
**Confidence:** High confidence due to direct statements from involved parties and historical consistency with past coalition challenges.
- **Insight [R, Confidence: Moderate ]:** Israel's continued military operations across multiple fronts, including Gaza and Syria, suggest a strategic posture aimed at maintaining regional dominance, potentially escalating tensions with neighboring states.  
**Credibility:** Statements from Israeli officials are reliable but may reflect strategic posturing rather than immediate operational changes.  
**Coherence:** This is consistent with Israel's historical security policy of preemptive strikes and deterrence, though it risks provoking broader conflicts.  
**Confidence:** Moderate confidence due to the potential for rapid changes in military strategy and regional responses.

## Sentiment Overview

Escalatory rhetoric and heightened tensions characterize the regional conflicts, with significant focus on religious and political divides.

## Policy Relevance

Policymakers should monitor the evolving alliances and internal divisions within the Yemen coalition, as these could significantly impact the conflict's trajectory. The international community's response to religious persecution in Nigeria may also influence diplomatic relations. Additionally, Israel's military actions require close observation for potential triggers of broader regional conflicts.

### national security threats

- **Insight [S, Confidence: High ]:** Turkiye's proactive operations against ISIL cells planning holiday attacks underscore a persistent and transnational terrorism threat, highlighting the country's strategic importance in counter-terrorism efforts.  
**Credibility:** The operations are confirmed by official Turkish sources, providing a high level of reliability.  
**Coherence:** This aligns with Turkiye's ongoing counter-terrorism initiatives and its geographical significance as a gateway between Europe and the Middle East.  
**Confidence:** High confidence due to the detailed operational data and consistency with Turkiye's security priorities.

### Sentiment Overview

Anxious but stable, with proactive security measures mitigating immediate threats.

## Policy Relevance

Intelligence and law enforcement agencies should focus on the transnational nature of ISIL threats, particularly in regions with strategic geopolitical significance like Turkiye. Continued cooperation and intelligence sharing are vital to preempt potential attacks and dismantle terrorist networks.

### Counter-Terrorism

- **Insight [S, Confidence: Moderate ]:** The arson attack on a church in the West Bank, while isolated, highlights underlying sectarian tensions that could be exploited by extremist groups to incite further violence.  
**Credibility:** The incident is confirmed by local authorities and church officials, providing credible details.  
**Coherence:** This fits a broader pattern of sporadic sectarian violence in the region, though it remains an isolated incident for now.  
**Confidence:** Moderate confidence due to the potential for rapid escalation if not addressed, balanced by the current isolated nature of the incident.

### Sentiment Overview

Fragmented and low-salience, with isolated incidents that carry potential for escalation if not managed.

## Policy Relevance

Authorities should prioritize community engagement and interfaith dialogue to prevent the exploitation of sectarian tensions by extremist elements. Monitoring and rapid response to similar incidents are crucial to

maintaining stability and preventing broader conflict.

## Legend – Analytic Tags & Confidence Levels

- **[G]** **Geopolitical Risk:** Power shifts, diplomatic friction, alliance impact.
- **[S]** **Security/Intelligence Signal:** Operational/tactical insight for defense, police, intel.
- **[R]** **Strategic Disruption:** Systemic instability in digital, economic, or governance layers.

### Confidence Levels

- **High:** Strong corroboration and high reliability.
- **Moderate:** Some verification; potential ambiguity.
- **Low:** Limited sources, weak signals, early indications.