

# TODAY'S MEDIA TRENDS

TELEARUBA

FEBRUARY 17, 2026

THE GDELT PROJECT



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THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION  
REDEFINES GLOBAL SECURITY  
ARCHITECTURES THROUGH  
GENEVA-CENTERED "PEACE"  
NEGOTIATIONS AND THE  
CULTIVATION OF AN IDEOLOGICAL  
"ILLIBERAL" AXIS IN EUROPE.

### DAY-AT-A-GLANCE

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The global geopolitical landscape on February 17, 2026, is defined by a aggressive shift in United States foreign policy, as the Trump administration moves to bypass traditional multilateral institutions in favor of bilateral ideological alliances and direct "Peace" negotiations. In Geneva, high-stakes trilateral talks between the U.S., Russia, and Ukraine aim to end the conflict in Eastern Europe, coinciding with the commencement of nuclear negotiations between Tehran and Washington. Despite the diplomatic overtures, the U.S. continues to exercise "maximum pressure" on Iran, deploying a second aircraft carrier strike group to the region as negotiations begin. This "carrot-and-stick" approach suggests an administration seeking rapid, decisive foreign policy closures to solidify its legacy before

midterm pressures or domestic distractions escalate.

In Europe, Secretary of State Marco Rubio's tour of Hungary and Slovakia signals a formal realignment toward "illiberal" democratic models. Rubio's declaration of a "Golden Age" in U.S.-Hungary relations, coupled with a re-defined NATO vision that prioritizes "civilizational" preservation and border security over collective defense norms, marks a departure from the post-WWII security order. Concurrently, in Latin America, democratic stability is under severe strain. Peru faces its eighth president in ten years as the "Chifagate" scandal threatens the interim presidency of José Jerí, while Guatemala's judicial system is embroiled in a power struggle as the sanctioned Fiscal General, Consuelo Porras, attempts to secure a seat on the Constitutional Court to maintain her immunity. The day's events underscore a global trend where judicial warfare and ideological realignments are superseding traditional diplomatic and institutional protocols.

### MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS

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- **U.S.-Iran Nuclear Negotiations and Military Escalation:** Washington and Tehran have initiated direct nuclear negotiations in Geneva, overseen by the UN nuclear watchdog. However, the U.S. administration has simultaneously deployed a second aircraft carrier group to the Middle East to maintain military pressure ([Source](#)).
- **Geneva Trilateral Summit on Ukraine:** Delegations from the U.S., Russia, and Ukraine are meeting for a third round of negotiations. President Trump has publicly signaled that Russia is ready for a deal and has warned President Zelensky that failure to agree now would result in a "lost opportunity" ([Source](#)).

- **Realignment of the Atlantic Alliance:** Secretary of State Marco Rubio has proposed a radical shift for NATO, stating that member nations must defend their own "civilization" and end their status as "vassals" of Washington. He explicitly linked European security to the control of immigration ([Source](#), [Source](#)).
- **Peru's "Chifagate" Constitutional Crisis:** The Peruvian legislature is moving toward a vote of censure to remove interim President José Jerí following allegations of clandestine meetings with Chinese businessmen and improper state contracts ([Source](#), [Source](#)).
- **Sinaloa Mining Massacre Impacts USMCA Relations:** The confirmed death of five miners (with five still missing) employed by a Canadian firm in Sinaloa has sparked a diplomatic crisis. Canada has proposed a "Security Alliance" with Mexico to protect investments as the 136-day countdown to the USMCA review begins ([Source](#), [Source](#)).
- **Navalny Poisoning Evidence:** European investigators have released a report alleging the late Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny was poisoned with a rare Amazonian frog toxin not found in Russia, escalating tensions between the Kremlin and the EU ([Source](#)).
- **Mexico's Strategic Economic Pivot:** The Sheinbaum administration has introduced a new 30% tax incentive for international and domestic cinematic productions to leverage North American talent and offset potential tariff pressures ([Source](#)).

## KEY GOVERNANCE TOPICS

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### Geopolitics and International Relations

- **The "Council of Peace":** The Trump administration is preparing to convene a "Council of Peace" in Washington to address the Gaza conflict and future international crises, effectively creating a parallel structure to the UN Security Council ([Source](#)).
- **U.S.-Hungary-Slovakia Axis:** Marco Rubio's praise for Viktor Orbán as a "vital leader" for U.S. interests confirms a strategic shift toward supporting right-wing, nationalist governments in Europe ahead of Hungarian elections ([Source](#), [Source](#)).
- **China Transshipment Concerns:** Canada and the U.S. are pressuring Mexico to crack down on "non-market economies" (China) using North American entry points to bypass trade rules ([Source](#), [Source](#)).

### Domestic Stability and Social Order

- **Guatemalan Judicial Conflict:** Fiscal General Consuelo Porras lost her bid for a Constitutional Court seat via the University of San Carlos, but continues to use the Ministry of Public Affairs to investigate judicial rivals and maintain her grip on power ([Source](#), [Source](#)).
- **Guatemala State of Siege:** President Bernardo Arévalo ended the state of siege, claiming a 50% reduction in homicides, but is transitioning to a "State of Prevention" to maintain control over prisons and streets ([Source](#)).

- **Aruba Public Health Surveillance:** Aruban authorities have flagged an "alarming" rise in mental health crises and are deploying life-long hearing protection initiatives during the Carnival 72 celebrations ([Source](#), [Source](#)).

### Economic Statecraft and Trade

- **USMCA Review Tensions:** Canada and Mexico are organizing massive trade missions (over 200 companies) to ensure integrated supply chains are "visible" to the Trump administration before the 136-day review deadline ([Source](#)).
- **Energy and Environment:** The "Year of the Fire Horse" (Lunar New Year) is being used as a lens by some analysts to predict high volatility in energy industries and intensified heat-related climate disasters ([Source](#), [Source](#)).
- **Aruba Infrastructure Crisis:** A critical shortage of vehicle license plates in Aruba has prompted a government announcement of emergency distribution for specific categories (A, MFA, DTO) to mitigate civil frustration ([Source](#), [Source](#)).

### LEGISLATION/POLICY

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Legislative activity is centered on trade protectionism in North America, judicial immunity in Central America, and emergency climate measures in South America. The U.S. Congress remains at an impasse over Department of Homeland Security (DHS) funding, leading to a partial shutdown that impacts thousands of federal employees ([Source](#)).

### BILLS DISCUSSED/DEBATED:

- **Mexican Cinematic Incentive Policy:** A new decree providing a 30% tax rebate against Income Tax (ISR) for projects filmed within Mexican territory ([Source](#)).
- **Guatemalan Amnesty Law:** The National Assembly is debating a second discussion of an amnesty law that would potentially exclude those involved in specific military operations like "Gedeón" ([Source](#)).
- **Colombia Emergency Economic Decree:** A 30-day emergency declaration to address winter-related flooding, aimed at raising 8 billion pesos through a new wealth tax on entities with assets exceeding 10 billion pesos ([Source](#)).
- **Safe Europe Program (SAFE):** Canada announced it is the first non-European nation to join this defense capability investment program ([Source](#)).
- **Israel West Bank Land Registration:** A new administrative policy to register large swaths of the West Bank as "State Land," characterized by critics as de facto annexation ([Source](#)).

### HEARINGS & PRESS EVENTS:

- **Rubio-Orbán Joint Press Conference:** Declaration of the "Golden Age" of bilateral relations and the necessity of "sovereign" defense in Europe ([Source](#)).
- **Sheinbaum Palace Press Event:** President Claudia Sheinbaum and actress Salma Hayek announced new fiscal supports for the film industry to promote "Mexican talent" ([Source](#)).
- **Dominique LeBlanc Trade Mission Briefing:** Canadian Minister for Trade addressed the Sinaloa tragedy and the necessity of a Canada-Mexico security alliance ([Source](#)).

## DEEP DIVE: TRENDS AND THEMES

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**The Erasure of the "Old World" Order:** The most significant thematic shift is the rhetorical and policy-based abandonment of the post-WWII geopolitical framework. Secretary Rubio's statement that the "Old World has disappeared" suggests that the U.S. no longer views the UN or traditional NATO as effective or necessary. By emphasizing "civilizational" ties (likely a euphemism for Western/European-heritage culture) and anti-immigration, the U.S. is signaling a preference for an ethno-cultural alliance over a purely democratic or military one. This trend is further evidenced by the planned "Council of Peace" in Washington, which aims to centralize global conflict resolution under U.S. executive control ([Source](#), [Source](#)).

**Judicial Weaponization as Governance:** In both Peru and Guatemala, the "rule of law" has become a battleground for political survival rather than a mechanism for justice. In Peru, the "censura" process is being used as a faster alternative to traditional "vacancia" (impeachment) to remove a president without needing a criminal conviction. In Guatemala, the Fiscal General is using her office to "criminalize" her opponents in the Constitutional Court elections. These reports indicate that in Latin America, political legitimacy is increasingly determined by who controls the prosecutorial and judicial machinery ([Source](#), [Source](#)).

**Supply Chain Paranoia and USMCA Reshoring:** The 136-day countdown to the USMCA review is driving a frenzy of bilateral diplomatic activity. Canada's trade mission to Mexico is an attempt to "un-filter" their relationship from U.S. mediators and prove to the Trump administration that North American

supply chains are free of Chinese "transshipment." However, the Sinaloa mining massacre highlights a major structural risk: the inability of the Mexican state to guarantee security in key resource areas, which could be used as a pretext by the U.S. to demand more intrusive security oversight in the upcoming review ([Source](#), [Source](#)).

## STRATEGIC FORESIGHT

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**Short Term (1-4 Weeks):** Expect a vote in the Peruvian Congress that could see the removal of President José Jerí and the appointment of a ninth president. In Geneva, a "framework" agreement for a Ukraine ceasefire is possible, given Trump's public pressure on Zelensky. The DHS partial shutdown in the U.S. will likely end by Feb 23, but will leave significant backlogs in immigration processing ([Source](#), [Source](#)).

**Medium Term (1-6 Months):** The 136-day USMCA review will dominate North American politics, likely leading to new sectoral tariffs on steel, aluminum, and automobiles if Mexico and Canada do not implement aggressive anti-China transshipment policies. Guatemala will see a period of intense judicial instability as Consuelo Porras's term nears its end in May, potentially leading to more high-profile arrests of activists and journalists ([Source](#), [Source](#)).

**Long Term (1-5 Years):** NATO may evolve into a tiered alliance where U.S. protection is contingent on high defense spending and alignment with U.S. immigration/border policies. The "Council of Peace" could marginalize the UN, leading to a fragmented global governance system based on bilateral "spheres of influence" managed by Washington and its ideological allies ([Source](#), [Source](#)).

## RECOMMENDATIONS & IMPLICATIONS

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### For International Policy:

- Security architectures should prepare for a U.S. that prioritizes bilateral "Peace Councils" over UN-led diplomatic efforts.
- European nations must accelerate independent defense capabilities, as the U.S. has signaled it will no longer act as a "vassal" protector.
- Regional stability in Latin America will depend on monitoring "judicial warfare" as a leading indicator of regime change.

### For Private Sector/Investors:

- **Supply Chain Risk:** Companies with operations in Mexico must audit for any Chinese components that could trigger USMCA penalties during the upcoming 136-day review window.
- **Operational Safety:** The Sinaloa mining massacre highlights critical risks for extractive industries; investors should demand "Security Alliances" or private security protocols that exceed local police capabilities.
- **Investment Opportunity:** Mexico's new 30% cinematic tax incentive presents a significant entry point for North American media and production firms looking to diversify from higher-tax jurisdictions.

## ABOUT THIS REPORT

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**Today's Media Trends** is a public interest experiment in applying deep thematic trend analysis to television news coverage from

around the world to explore how responsibly applied advanced AI can help journalists and scholars better understand the overarching trends, themes and patterns of our global world.

### **No data is used to train or tune any AI model.**

Each morning, in collaboration with the Internet Archive's TV News Archive, we apply Google's Gemini 3 to deeply examine yesterday's coverage from each television news channel to tease out the overarching themes and trends of its news coverage into a richly annotated thematic analysis. Each high-level insight is connected back to the original broadcast, allowing journalists and scholars to understand the dominate themes and trends and instantly click out to the underlying sources for details.

By helping journalists and scholars see the broader trends and patterns of global news coverage, this analysis helps them identify relevant stories and coverage they might not otherwise have encountered and uncover connections, emphases and narrative shifts that enable more comprehensive reporting and deeper, evidence-based research.

This report is entirely machine generated using Gemini 3 and may include errors and omissions. Please verify all findings. No data is used to train or tune any AI model.

For questions or suggestions, please contact [kalev.leetaru5@gmail.com](mailto:kalev.leetaru5@gmail.com). You can also learn more about the GDEL Project at <https://blog.gdelproject.org/> and the Internet Archive's TV News Archive at <https://archive.org/details/tv>.