

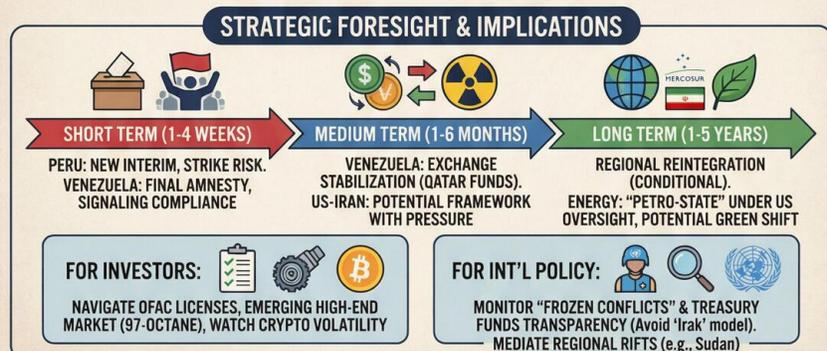
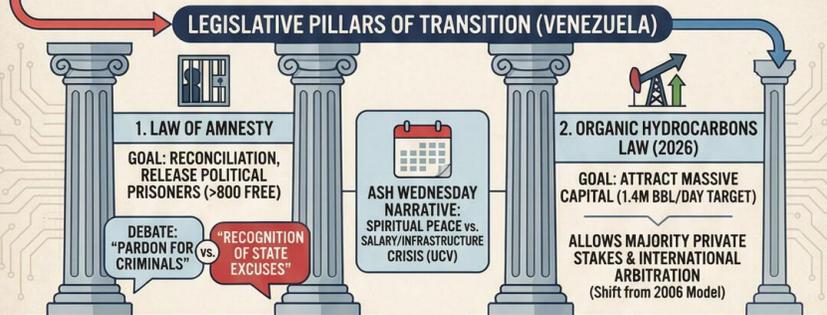
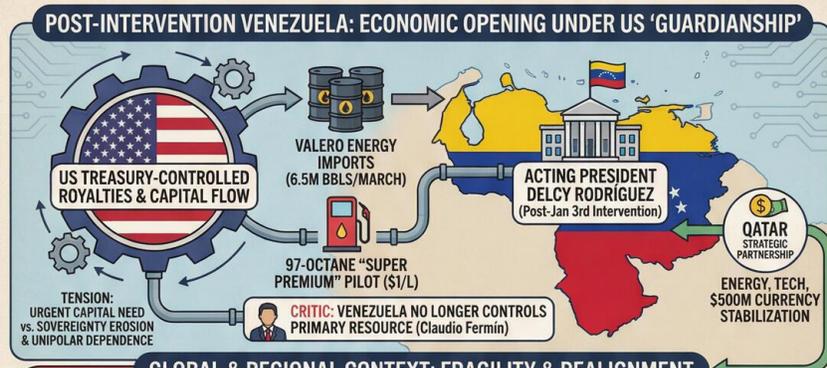
# TODAY'S MEDIA TRENDS

## GLOBOVISION

FEBRUARY 18, 2026

THE GDELT PROJECT

### VENEZUELA'S US-LED SHIFT & PERU'S LEADERSHIP CRISIS: A REGIONAL REALIGNMENT (FEB 18, 2026 REPORT)



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## GLOBOVISION

FEBRUARY 18, 2026

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VENEZUELA NAVIGATES  
COMPROMISED SOVEREIGNTY AND  
ECONOMIC OPENING FOLLOWING  
US INTERVENTION WHILE PERU  
FACES SYSTEMIC LEADERSHIP  
COLLAPSE

### DAY-AT-A-GLANCE

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February 18, 2026, marks a pivotal moment in the **post-January 3rd intervention** landscape of Venezuela. Under the acting presidency of **Delcy Rodríguez**, the nation is aggressively pursuing an economic "unblocking" dictated by necessity and the presence of US military and energy interests. The day's coverage highlights a profound tension between the urgent need for capital—symbolized by the return of US refiners like **Valero Energy** and the pilot program for 97-octane "Super Premium" gasoline—and the visible erosion of national sovereignty. Critics like **Claudio Fermín** note that while the flow of oil royalties through the **US Department of the Treasury** brings relief, it marks a transition into a unipolar dependence where Venezuela no longer controls its primary resource or its internal tax collection ([Source](#), [Source](#)).

Domestically, the **Law of Amnesty** is the central pillar of a fragile reconciliation effort. While over 800 political prisoners have been released, the legislation faces significant friction over whether it represents a "pardon" for criminals or a "recognition of state excesses." This legislative effort coincides with **Ash Wednesday**, which the state media is leveraging to promote a narrative of national "conversion" and spiritual peace, potentially to distract from the harsh realities of the public sector salary crisis and the collapse of infrastructure in institutions like the **Central University of Venezuela (UCV)** ([Source](#), [Source](#)).

Internationally, the Andean region is destabilized by the **destitution of Peruvian interim President José Jerí**, the eighth change in leadership in a decade, signaling a total breakdown of governance in Lima just two months before general elections. Simultaneously, global attention is fixed on **Geneva**, where tense negotiations regarding the **Russia-Ukraine conflict** and **US-Iran nuclear security** are proceeding under the shadow of the **Trump administration's** "lines red" policy. These events suggest a global realignment where the US is asserting direct influence over energy-rich or strategically located nations ([Source](#), [Source](#)).

## MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS

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- **Peru's Systemic Governance Failure:** The Peruvian Congress destituted interim President José Jerí with 75 votes in favor, citing "inconduct" and "lack of idoneity" following corruption scandals and allegations of sexual misconduct. This marks the seventh consecutive president unable to finish a term, leaving a power vacuum 24 hours before a new interim is to be selected ([Source](#), [Source](#)).
- **Venezuelan Oil Market Reactivation:** Valero Energy is projected to import 6.5 million barrels of Venezuelan crude in March, potentially surpassing Chevron as the top US buyer. Simultaneously, a pilot program in Caracas has introduced 97-octane gasoline at \$1 per liter, aimed at high-compression engines of recently imported vehicles ([Source](#), [Source](#)).
- **Geneva Diplomatic Front:** Two critical rounds of negotiations concluded in Geneva. Tense six-hour talks between Russia and Ukraine (mediated by the US) focused on a mechanized ceasefire, though territorial disputes remain unresolved. Separately, Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Arachi reported "constructive" progress on nuclear security, despite US Vice President J.D. Vance stating that "red lines" regarding Iran's nuclear capabilities remain non-negotiable ([Source](#)).
- **Amnesty Law Contention:** The Venezuelan National Assembly is processing the "Law of Amnesty," which has received over 2,700 proposals. Debate is intensifying over Article 7, with some political sectors demanding it exclude drug-related offenses, while others argue the law must be a recognition of victims rather than a state pardon ([Source](#), [Source](#)).

- **Qatar-Venezuela Strategic Partnership:** President-designate Delcy Rodríguez received the Prime Minister of Qatar, Mohamed bin Abdul Rahman Al Thani, to consolidate bilateral cooperation in energy, technology, and agriculture, following a \$500 million deposit in Qatar intended to stabilize the Venezuelan currency ([Source](#), [Source](#)).

## KEY GOVERNANCE TOPICS

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- **Geopolitics:** The US military intervention of January 3, 2026, has forced a "re-occidentalization" of Venezuela. Diplomatic discourse now emphasizes a pivot away from China, Russia, and Iran in favor of US-aligned trade, though the state officially maintains a "multipolar" rhetoric during meetings with Qatar ([Source](#), [Source](#)).
- **Economic Statecraft:** Venezuelan royalties and taxes are currently being collected by the **US Department of the Treasury**, which then allocates funds back to Venezuela. This unprecedented arrangement is described by local analysts as a "state of necessity" that sacrifices sovereignty for survival ([Source](#)).
- **Energy Security:** The new **Organic Hydrocarbons Law of 2026** allows private companies to hold more than 50% stakes in projects and permits international arbitration, a significant shift from the 2006 nationalist model. This is intended to attract the massive capital required to reach a goal of 1.4 million barrels per day by year-end ([Source](#), [Source](#)).

- **Legislation:**

- **Law of Amnesty (2026):** Proposed to de-escalate political conflict and release remaining detainees ([Source](#)).
- **Organic Hydrocarbons Law (2026):** Reform allowing majority private ownership and international legal jurisdiction ([Source](#)).
- **Labor Law Reform (Anticipated):** Discussions have begun on shifting to a high-salary model without traditional liquidations/benefits to mimic the US system ([Source](#)).
- **Anti-Hate Law:** Criticized for being used as a tool for political repression, similar to historical "vagrancy" laws ([Source](#)).

- **Domestic Stability:** The 2026 Carnival season saw 7 million people mobilize, with a 41% increase in electronic transactions compared to 2025. However, this "resilience" masks deep issues, such as the **UCV dining hall** only functioning two days a week and 1,100 million people globally (including parts of Venezuela) lacking basic electricity ([Source](#), [Source](#), [Source](#)).

- **Succession & Stability:** The destitution of Peru's José Jerí highlights the high risk of "presidential turnover" in the region. Analysts warn that without institutional re-institutionalization, even elected governments in the Andes face low probabilities of completing five-year terms ([Source](#)).

## LEGISLATION/POLICY

Governance is currently dominated by rapid legislative shifts designed to align Venezuela with international (specifically US) market standards and to resolve the human rights crisis left by the previous administration. Press events today focused on the **Amnesty Law**

and the **Hydrocarbons Law** as the twin pillars of the new transition.

## **BILLS DISCUSSED/DEBATED:**

- **Law of Amnesty:** Intended to release political prisoners and "pacify" the country. Critics argue it lacks a mechanism for victim reparation and risks being a "mocha" (incomplete) law if it doesn't reform the judicial system that caused the arrests ([Source](#)).
- **Reform of the Hydrocarbons Law:** Grants the Executive broad powers to negotiate majority-private contracts and lowers royalties from 30% to 15% to incentivize high-capital investment ([Source](#), [Source](#)).
- **Gasoline Pilot Plan:** Unofficial but active implementation of 97-octane fuel sales at \$1/L in luxury sectors of Caracas ([Source](#)).

## **HEARINGS & PRESS EVENTS:**

- **Delcy Rodríguez and Qatar Prime Minister Meeting:** A high-level diplomatic event in Miraflores to discuss energy and investment ([Source](#)).
- **UCV Secretary Briefing:** Corina Arístimuño detailed the "arduous" task of reconstructing 25 years of university data and the crisis of illegal enrollments and "disappeared" salaries ([Source](#)).
- **Fedecámaras Forum "Jóvenes Líderes":** Business leaders called for a "Plan Nacional de Inversión y Empleo" and emphasized that competitive wages are the only path to domestic prosperity ([Source](#)).

## **DEEP DIVE: TRENDS AND THEMES**

**The Unipolar Energy Shift:** A massive shift is underway where Venezuela's energy policy

is being outsourced. The news reveals that US refiners like Valero are moving faster than traditional partners to capture the market. The thematic undercurrent is that the **January 3rd intervention** has effectively turned the Venezuelan energy sector into a US-managed asset. This is evidenced by the "Super Premium" gasoline rollout, which services a new class of high-end vehicles, while the general populace remains dependent on a crumbling national grid ([Source](#), [Source](#)).

**Institutional Fragility in the Andes:** The collapse of the Jerí administration in Peru is treated as a "normalized" state of affairs. This reflects a broader regional trend where the executive branch is increasingly subordinate to legislative whims and judicial investigations. This "inconducta funcional" (functional misconduct) has become a catch-all for removing leaders, creating a perpetual state of "interim" governance that hinders long-term economic planning ([Source](#)).

**Technological Sovereignty vs. Tradition:** While China uses the **Year of the Fire Horse** to showcase humanoid robots and AI as a "powerhouse" of the future, Venezuela is struggling with the **digitalization** of basic student IDs. There is a glaring gap between the "multipolar" future promised by China and the "primary sector" reality of Venezuela, which is regressing toward a 1940s-style commodity-export model ([Source](#), [Source](#), [Source](#)).

**The "Vampire" Energy Crisis:** A niche but significant theme is the "World Energy Day" focus on "vampire" appliances and sustainable use. This narrative, pushed by **UNEP** and local experts, highlights that 1/3 of the world lacks advanced energy. In Venezuela, the irony is sharp: the state promotes energy saving while the **National Electric System** is the primary "straitjacket" preventing oil pro-

duction from exceeding 1 million barrels ([Source](#), [Source](#)).

## STRATEGIC FORESIGHT

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### • Short Term (1-4 Weeks):

- **Peru:** Election of a new interim President. Potential for massive transport strikes following the insecurity crisis ([Source](#)).
- **Venezuela:** Final approval of the Amnesty Law and the potential release of high-profile detainees to signal compliance with US "red lines" ([Source](#)).
- **Geneva:** Announcement of a formalized "Mechanized Ceasefire" protocol for Ukraine, which may lead to a temporary pause in energy infrastructure attacks ([Source](#)).

### • Medium Term (1-6 Months):

- **Venezuela Economy:** Stabilization of the Dollar/Bolivar exchange rate as Qatari-deposited funds are utilized via the SWIFT system ([Source](#)).
- **US-Iran Relations:** A formal "Nuclear Framework" may emerge, but domestic pressure in the US (Trump administration) will likely keep the portaviones presence in the Middle East as a "pressure measure" ([Source](#)).

- **Long Term (1-5 Years):**

- **Regional Alliances:** Venezuela's reintegration into **Mercosur** and the **Andean Community**, likely conditioned on the 2028 election cycle and continued US oversight of the energy sector ([Source](#)).
- **Energy Transition:** Venezuela may attempt to pivot toward **Green Hydrogen** and solar (supported by the UN), but will remain effectively a "petro-state" under US guardianship for the duration of the current debt-repayment cycle ([Source](#)).

## RECOMMENDATIONS & IMPLICATIONS

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### For International Policy:

- **Security:** The US-mediated talks in Geneva indicate a move toward "frozen conflicts" rather than resolution. Diplomats should prepare for long-term monitoring missions in Ukraine and potential "red line" enforcement in the Strait of Hormuz ([Source](#)).
- **Economic:** The Venezuelan model of "Treasury-controlled royalties" may become a blueprint for future interventions in failed petro-states. Monitoring the transparency of these funds is critical to prevent the "Iraq/Afghanistan" style corruption noted by experts ([Source](#)).
- **Diplomatic:** The isolation of the **RSF** in Sudan and the finger-pointing toward the **UAE** by the Sudanese Ambassador suggests a widening rift in the Arab-African bloc that requires UN mediation ([Source](#)).

### For Private Sector/Investors:

- **Regulatory Compliance:** Investors in the Venezuelan oil sector must navigate the **OFAC** licenses (46a through 50) and ensure all royalty payments are directed to the US-managed investment fund ([Source](#)).
- **Supply Chain:** The rollout of **97-octane fuel** suggests an emerging market for high-end automotive parts and maintenance in Venezuela, which was previously suppressed by low-quality fuel ([Source](#)).
- **Financial Risk:** The **Year of the Fire Horse** warning regarding Bitcoin and digital platforms should be taken seriously; volatility in the crypto-market may be exacerbated by geopolitical tensions in April ([Source](#)).

## 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 T Project at <https://blog.gdel tproject.org/> and the Internet Archive's TV News Archive at <https://archive.org/details/tv>.