

# TODAY'S MEDIA TRENDS

## GLOBOVISION

FEBRUARY 19, 2026

THE GDELT PROJECT

### VENEZUELA NAVIGATES FRAGILE SOVEREIGNTY & ECONOMIC RE-OCCIDENTALIZATION POST-US INTERVENTION (REPORT: FEB 19, 2026)

#### THE PIVOT: FROM ISOLATION TO RE-OCCIDENTALIZATION



#### DAY-AT-A-GLANCE & MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS

<b>FORMAL US OVERSIGHT</b> US SOUTHCOM (GEN. DONOVAN) & DEPT. OF ENERGY (SEC. WRIGHT) IN CARACAS. FOCUS ON DRUG TRAFFICKING, TERRORISM, MIGRATION, ENERGY SUPPLY (TARGET 40% GLOBAL INCREASE). CHEVRON & PHILLIPS 66 DIRECT DEALINGS.	<b>LEGISLATIVE PACIFICATION</b> LEY DE AMNISTÍA PARA LA CONVIVENCIA DEMOCRÁTICA (AMNESTY LAW) NEAR FINALIZATION. COVERS EVENTS SINCE 1999, EXCLUDES HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS & FOREIGN FORCE. AIMED AT 'HEALING WOUNDS'.	<b>ECONOMIC SHIFTS &amp; RESOURCE CONTROL</b> QATAR-BASED FUND FOR OIL REVENUES UNDER US OVERSIGHT ('TRANSPARENCY'). \$1/LITER 'SUPER-PREMIUM' GASOLINE PILOT LAUNCHED. TRADE EXPECTATIONS >\$5 BILLION.
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#### KEY GOVERNANCE TOPICS & LEGISLATION/POLICY

<b>AMERICA FIRST</b> GEOPOLITICS: 'DOCTRINA DONRO' (AMERICA FIRST) ENFORCES UNIPOLAR REALITY, ISOLATING VENEZUELA FROM RUSSIA/CHINA. 'RE-OCCIDENTALIZATION' AS US VICTORY. LEGISLATION: AMNESTY LAW (PEACE), HYDROCARBONS REFORM (INVESTOR SECURITY), HATE LAW REFORM (PREVENT MISUSE), SOCIOECONOMIC RIGHTS LAW (DECriminalize ACTIVITIES).	<b>DOMESTIC STABILITY &amp; AI/BIOSURVEILLANCE</b> DOMESTIC STABILITY: PUBLIC MINISTRY CLAIMS INCREASED CREDIBILITY. CARNIVAL MOBILIZATION USED AS 'SOCIAL PEACE' EVIDENCE. PERSISTENT INFRASTRUCTURE FAILURES (WATER). AI/BIOSURVEILLANCE: CONCERNS OVER 'MOLDBOOK' (AI-ONLY NETWORK) & SMART GLASSES (FACIAL RECOGNITION) SURVEILLANCE.
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#### DEEP DIVE: TRENDS & THEMES

<b>THE END OF THE MULTILATERAL ILLUSION</b> MULTILATERALISM FAILED TO PROTECT. SOVEREIGNTY COMPROMISED IN UNIPOLAR WORLD. 'RE-OCCIDENTALIZATION' IS A STATE OF NECESSITY.	<b>THE 'DEGLOBALIZATION' PARADOX</b> WORLD MOVES TO PROTECTIONISM, VENEZUELA OPENS ECONOMY. US NEOPROTECTIONISM DRIVES NEED FOR VZ RESOURCES (AI, ENERGY).
<b>INSTITUTIONAL FRAGILITY VS. REVOLUTIONARY PERSISTENCE</b> PSUV STRUCTURES REMAIN UNDER DELSI RODRÍGUEZ. DISCONNECT BETWEEN 'ACTING PRESIDENCY' RHETORIC AND COOPERATION WITH US MILITARY.	<b>THE RISE OF DIGITAL ANOMIE</b> CONCERN OVER LOSS OF HUMAN IDENTITY IN DIGITAL AGE MIRRORS VENEZUELA'S POLITICAL 'DYSPHORIA'.

#### STRATEGIC FORESIGHT

**SHORT TERM (1-4 WEEKS):** AMNESTY LAW SANCTIONED, PRISONER RELEASES. EXPECT PROVOCATIONS & \$1 FUEL EXPANSION. **MEDIUM TERM (1-6 MONTHS):** US TECHNICAL EXPERTS REHABILITATE ELECTRICAL GRID. DOLLARIZATION/CURRENCY BOARD DISCUSSIONS. **LONG TERM (1-5 YEARS):** TOTAL STRUCTURAL REALIGNMENT, POTENTIAL OEA RE-ENTRY. QATAR FUND BECOMES PERMANENT FIXTURE.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS & IMPLICATIONS

**FOR INTERNATIONAL POLICY:** DIPLOMATIC NORMALIZATION (REOPEN EMBASSIES). RESOURCE COMPETITION AWARENESS (DONRO DOCTRINE). HUMAN RIGHTS MONITORING OF AMNESTY COMMISSION. **FOR PRIVATE SECTOR/INVESTORS:** SUPPLY CHAIN OPPORTUNITY IN ANCILLARY SERVICES. REGULATORY RISK IN HYBRID LEGAL ENVIRONMENT. MARKET DIVERGENCE (LUXURY VS. MASS MARKET).

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VENEZUELA NAVIGATES FRAGILE  
SOVEREIGNTY AND ECONOMIC RE-  
OCCIDENTALIZATION FOLLOWING  
US MILITARY INTERVENTION

### DAY-AT-A-GLANCE

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The reporting of February 19, 2026, depicts a Venezuela in the throes of a radical geopolitical and economic pivot following the "surgical" US military intervention of January 3, 2026. The day is dominated by the second discussion and near-finalization of the **Ley de Amnistía para la Convivencia Democrática** (Amnesty Law for Democratic Coexistence) in the National Assembly, a legislative centerpiece intended to "heal the wounds" of 27 years of conflict while navigating the unprecedented reality of an "acting presidency" under Delsi Rodríguez. The presence of US Southern Command (SOUTHCOM) General Francis Donovan and Secretary of Energy Chris Wright in Caracas signals a formal, albeit tense, recognition of the new interim administration by the Trump administration. This realignment represents a forced "re-occidentalization," where Venezuela is being pulled back into the US sphere of influence at the expense

of its previous ties with Russia, China, and Iran.

Economically, the administration is leveraging high expectations of an oil-led recovery to maintain domestic order. The transcripts reveal a move toward extreme economic pragmatism, including the implementation of a "Qatar-based fund" to manage oil revenues under US oversight, ensuring "transparency" and preventing the "corruption" associated with previous regimes. However, the domestic mood is a mix of relief over the end of absolute isolation and deep anxiety regarding the loss of sovereignty. Acting President Delsi Rodríguez's public complaints about a "lack of cash" (caja chica) suggest that despite the influx of US energy giants like Chevron and Phillips 66, the immediate financial relief for the average citizen remains elusive. Meanwhile, the National Assembly's debates underscore a persistent fear of "provocations" from radical factions who view the current arrangement as a "tutelage" or a "betrayal."

## MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS

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### • **Formalization of US Military and Energy Oversight in Caracas**

- General Francis Donovan (SOUTHCOM) met with Acting President Delsi Rodríguez and Minister of Defense Vladimir Padrino López to design a bilateral agenda focused on drug trafficking, terrorism, and migration ([Source](#), [Source](#)).
- Secretary of Energy Chris Wright reported "constant progress" in Venezuela's institutional stability and projected that the country could represent 40% of the global increase in crude supply by the end of 2026 ([Source](#), [Source](#)).
- US energy giants, including Chevron and Phillips 66, are moving to reduce reliance on intermediaries and deal directly with the Venezuelan state under expanded OFAC licenses ([Source](#)).

([Source](#), [Source](#), [Source](#), [Source](#))

### • **Legislative Path to Pacification: The Amnesty Law**

- The National Assembly debated the 16 articles of the Amnesty Law, which covers political events from 1999 to the present, including the April 2002 coup and the post-July 2024 unrest ([Source](#), [Source](#)).
- Article 7 was modified to allow Venezuelans abroad to be represented by counsel without returning, a significant concession to the diaspora ([Source](#)).
- Violations of human rights, crimes of humanity, and "invoking foreign force against the people" are explicitly excluded from amnesty ([Source](#), [Source](#)).

([Source](#), [Source](#), [Source](#))

### • **The "Qatar Fund" and Revenue Control**

- New oil revenues are being funneled into a trust in Qatar to protect assets from international litigation and ensure US-monitored distribution for health and infrastructure ([Source](#)).
- Total bilateral trade expectations are set to exceed \$5 billion in the coming months as more buyers enter the market ([Source](#)).

([Source](#), [Source](#))

### • **Strategic Shift in Energy Pricing: The \$1 Gasoline Plan**

- PDVSA launched a pilot plan in eastern Caracas (Altamira, El Hatillo, etc.) to sell 97-octane "super-premium" gasoline for \$1 per liter, exclusively in USD ([Source](#), [Source](#)).
- This marks a departure from subsidized fuel models and aims to cater to modern, high-compression vehicle fleets ([Source](#), [Source](#)).

([Source](#), [Source](#), [Source](#))

### • **Regional Instability: Peru's Eighth President in a Decade**

- The Peruvian Congress appointed 83-year-old leftist José María Balcázar as interim president following the removal of José Jerí ([Source](#), [Source](#)).
- Balcázar faces severe ethical questions and past statements supporting child marriage, highlighting a deepening crisis of representation in the Andes ([Source](#), [Source](#)).

([Source](#), [Source](#), [Source](#))

## KEY GOVERNANCE TOPICS

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### • Geopolitics and "Doctrina Donro"

- Analysts describe a new "unipolar" reality where the "America First" policy (the "Donro Doctrine") enforces spheres of influence, effectively isolating Venezuela from its previous Russian and Chinese military dependencies ([Source](#), [Source](#)).
- The "re-occidentalization" of Venezuela's economy is viewed as a victory for US supply chain security in the face of Middle Eastern volatility ([Source](#)).

([Source](#), [Source](#), [Source](#))

### • Legislation

- **Ley de Amnistía para la Convivencia Democrática:** Designed to close the "25-year cycle of political wounds" by pardoning crimes related to protests and political dissent while excluding corruption and human rights abuses ([Source](#), [Source](#)).
- **Reforma de la Ley de Hidrocarburos:** Aimed at providing juridical security to international investors and reducing state obstructionism in oil production ([Source](#), [Source](#)).
- **Ley contra el Odio:** Discussion of a potential reform due to past "misuse" of the law to suppress political speech ([Source](#), [Source](#)).

([Source](#), [Source](#), [Source](#))

### • Domestic Stability & Social Order

- The Public Ministry reported over 5 million people attended to in "street justice" programs, claiming a significant increase in institutional credibility ([Source](#), [Source](#)).
- Carnival 2026 saw 7.4 million people mobilized, a 17% increase from 2025, used by the government as evidence of "social peace" ([Source](#), [Source](#)).
- Severe infrastructure failures persist, with 15-day water outages reported in El Junquito and Parque Caiza ([Source](#)).

([Source](#), [Source](#), [Source](#))

### • AI and Biosurveillance

- Deep concern over "Moldbook," an AI-only social network where agents interact without human supervision, which recently suffered a massive data leak ([Source](#)).
- Discussion of "smart glasses" (Meta/Ray-Ban) as potential surveillance tools capable of identifying strangers via AI facial recognition ([Source](#)).

([Source](#), [Source](#))

## LEGISLATION/POLICY

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The current legislative agenda is a direct response to the post-January 3rd landscape, focusing on political pacification and the creation of an investor-friendly environment. The National Assembly is working at an "accelerated pace" to approve the Amnesty Law and

reform economic codes that were previously dominated by state interventionist ideologies.

- **BILLS DISCUSSED/DEBATED:**

- **Ley de Amnistía para la Convivencia Democrática:** Extinguishes criminal and administrative actions for political events since 1999. Includes 16 articles and creates a follow-up commission to verify compliance by the judiciary ([Source](#), [Source](#)).
- **Ley de Reforma de Hidrocarburos:** Modifies royalty structures and state participation levels to attract foreign capital ([Source](#), [Source](#)).
- **Ley para la Defensa de los Derechos Socioeconómicos:** A proposed reform to "decriminalize" certain commercial activities and foster private sector confidence ([Source](#)).
- **Ley contra el Odio (Reform):** Intended to refine the definitions of "hate speech" to prevent the law from being used as a tool for arbitrary detention ([Source](#)).

([Source](#), [Source](#), [Source](#), [Source](#))

- **HEARINGS & PRESS EVENTS:**

- **National Assembly Second Discussion (Amnesty):** Led by Jorge Rodríguez, emphasizing that "mercy is the path to peace" and warning against "psychopaths" seeking more violence ([Source](#), [Source](#)).
- **Public Ministry Balance:** Tarek William Saab's "Justice in the Parish" event, highlighting the closure of the "25-year circle of wounds" through the new law ([Source](#)).
- **Energy Press Conference:** Chris Wright and Delsi Rodríguez detailing the roadmap for the US-VZ energy alliance ([Source](#), [Source](#)).

([Source](#), [Source](#), [Source](#))

## DEEP DIVE: TRENDS AND THEMES

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**The End of the Multilateral Illusion** The transcripts suggest a somber realization within the Venezuelan intelligentsia: the "multilateralism" promised by Russia and China failed to protect the previous administration on January 3. Analysts now argue that sovereignty is "compromised" in a unipolar world where the US is the only actor capable of providing technology, capital, and a market for oil. The "re-occidentalization" is not an elective policy but a "state of necessity" ([Source](#)). This theme is reinforced by the lack of meaningful Russian or Chinese pushback against the US military's presence in Caracas ([Source](#)).

**The "Deglobalization" Paradox** While the world is moving toward "near-shoring" and protectionism (the Davos discussions mentioned by Trump), Venezuela is doing the opposite—opening its economy to foreign giants after years of autarky. This "neoprotectionism"

in the US (protecting old industries) is ironically what is driving the need for Venezuelan resources to power the next technological leap, specifically in AI and energy ([Source](#)). The "Donro Doctrine" treats the Americas as a single industrial block to compete with China ([Source](#)).

**Institutional Fragility vs. Revolutionary Persistence** Despite the US intervention, the core administrative structures of the PSUV remain in place under Delsi Rodríguez. The "Amnesty Law" is a tool for these structures to remain relevant and avoid total dismantling. However, the disconnect between "Acting Presidency" rhetoric (calling Maduro the "true president") and the actual cooperation with US Southern Command creates a bizarre dual-reality that may not be sustainable ([Source](#), [Source](#)).

**The Rise of Digital Anomie** The social commentary segments on "Terians" (people identifying as animals) and the addictive nature of AI and social networks (Mark Zuckerberg's Los Angeles trial) highlight a growing concern over the loss of human identity in the digital age. This mirrors the political "disphoria" in Venezuela, where the population is struggling to define its national identity after the shock of intervention ([Source](#)).

## STRATEGIC FORESIGHT

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**Short Term (1-4 Weeks):** The Amnesty Law will be fully sanctioned and published in the Official Gazette, triggering a wave of high-profile prisoner releases and the return of some political exiles. However, expect "provocations" or small-scale sabotage from radical "anti-tutelage" factions ([Source](#)). PDVSA's \$1 fuel plan will expand to more stations, potentially sparking localized protests over "dollarized" living costs ([Source](#)).

**Medium Term (1-6 Months):** A major influx of US technical experts will begin the rehabilitation of the national electrical grid, a prerequisite for the promised 1.6 million barrel-per-day oil production target ([Source](#), [Source](#)). Discussion of a "Currency Board" or formal dollarization will reach a fever pitch by the September deadline mentioned by analysts ([Source](#)).

**Long Term (1-5 Years):** Venezuela will likely undergo a total structural realignment, potentially re-entering the OEA and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights as part of its "re-occidentalization." The "Qatar Fund" model may become a permanent fixture for managing natural resource wealth, effectively limiting the Venezuelan state's ability to fund "parallel" revolutionary projects ([Source](#)).

## RECOMMENDATIONS & IMPLICATIONS

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### For International Policy:

- **Diplomatic Normalization:** Nations should prioritize the reopening of full embassies in Caracas, following the US lead, to ensure a seat at the table during the "re-occidentalization" process ([Source](#), [Source](#)).
- **Resource Competition:** European and Asian nations must recognize that the "Donro Doctrine" may seek to monopolize Venezuelan energy and "rare earth" minerals for US AI development ([Source](#)).
- **Human Rights Monitoring:** The transition commission created by the Amnesty Law requires international technical assistance to ensure it does not become a tool for "selective" justice or the laundering of past corruption ([Source](#)).

## For Private Sector/Investors:

- **Supply Chain Opportunity:** Significant opportunities exist in the "ancillary services" sector—specifically electrical infrastructure, water treatment, and telecommunications—as the US-managed funds begin to liquidate for domestic repair ([Source](#), [Source](#)).
- **Regulatory Risk:** While the "Qatar Fund" provides some protection, investors must navigate a "hybrid" legal environment where US federal law and Venezuelan local law overlap in oil contracts ([Source](#)).
- **Market Divergence:** The launch of \$1 premium gasoline indicates a bifurcated consumer market; luxury and high-tech goods will see rapid growth in Caracas "bubbles," while infrastructure for mass-market goods remains critical but underfunded ([Source](#), [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 Project at <https://blog.gdelproject.org/> and the Internet Archive's TV News Archive at <https://archive.org/details/tv>.