

TODAY'S MEDIA TRENDS

GLOBOVISION

FEBRUARY 20, 2026

THE GDELT PROJECT

VENEZUELA: POLITICAL AMNESTY & ENERGY RAPPROCHEMENT WITH THE UNITED STATES – A TRANSITIONAL REPORT

Navigating a Precarious Political Transition Through Unanimous Legislation and Transactional Energy Deals

DAY-AT-A-GLANCE



FEBRUARY 20, 2026
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY PASSES "LAW OF AMNESTY FOR DEMOCRATIC COEXISTENCE AND PEACE" (Unanimous)



Acting President Rodriguez spearheads legislation; amnesty for political crimes since 1999



TRANSACTIONAL ENERGY PIVOT WITH US UNDER TRUMP: 50 MILLION BARRELS TO HOUSTON

JANUARY 3, 2026:
MILITARY INTERVENTION & DETENTION OF MADURO/FLORES



Aims to lower political tension and uncertainty; signals "new political time" to international community

MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS

UNANIMOUS AMNESTY LAW PASSAGE



National Assembly approves all 16 articles (1999-2026). Tracking Commission led by Jorge Arriaza for releases within 15 days

US-VENEZUELA ENERGY PIVOT



Trump confirms 50M barrels to Houston. US Energy Secretary Wright projects 30-40% production increase by end of 2026. US Treasury License 50A expands operations (Repsol, Maurel & Prom)

NORMALIZATION OF DIPLOMATIC TIES



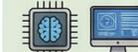
US Charge d'Affaires Laura Dogu arrives in Caracas. Spain requests EU lift individual sanctions on Delcy Rodriguez

DOMESTIC SECURITY REALIGNMENT



Interior Minister Cabello deploys 131 "Quadrants of Peace" in Valles del Tuy; vehicles to communal circuits for "Military-Police-Popular" fusion

EMERGENCE OF AI AS STRATEGIC PILLAR



"Latin GPT" & "Centipede" tools in retail/banking; elite-driven modernization for reduced state capacity

KEY GOVERNANCE TOPICS

GEOPLITICS
"Re-Westernization": Crude exports shift from China/India to US Gulf Coast (Don-Row Doctrine)

ECONOMIC STATECRAFT
Qatar Trust Funds: Currency stabilization (aiming for dollarization by Sept 2026) & social "emergency" spending

LEGISLATION

- Amnesty Law (Pardons political crimes, excludes corruption/crimes against humanity)
- Organic Law of Hydrocarbons Reformed (Simplified tax regime for investment)
- Anti-Blockade Law mechanisms transferred



ENERGY SECURITY
US prioritizes grid recovery for sustained oil production; US firms to intervene technically

CORRUPTION & GOVERNANCE
Amnesty excludes corruption; "anti-corruption" purge in PDVSA continues

SUCCESSION & STABILITY
Delcy Rodriguez as Acting President. Triumvirate with Padrino Lopez & Cabello for "pragmatic survival"

LEGISLATION/POLICY

BILLS DISCUSSED/DEBATED

- Amnesty Law (Full & General)
- Reform of Law Against Hate (Reduce "inadequate use")
- Organic Law of Hydrocarbons (Reform for economic viability)

HEARINGS & PRESS EVENTS

- Amnesty Law Handover at Miraflores
- Installation of Special Tracking Commission
- Quadrants of Peace Deployment

DEEP DIVE: TRENDS AND THEMES

THE TRANSITION OF 'CALCULATED FORGIVENESS'



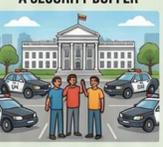
Rhetoric shifts from "combating fascism" to "receiving forgiveness". Co-opting opposition demand to de-escalate. Exclusions for war/humanity crimes remain legal lever

ENERGY TRANSACTIONALISM AS SOVEREIGNTY



Paradox: Admitting 'stain' of intervention while welcoming US. Becoming 'energy partner' to regain economic power; sovereignty redefined as negotiating terms of extraction

COMMUNAL POWER AS A SECURITY BUFFER



Cabello reinforces grassroots defense. Strengthening communal loyalty as buffer against unrest or foreign intervention amid reforms

STRATEGIC FORESIGHT

SHORT TERM (1-4 WEEKS)

- High-profile releases from El Helicoido/Ramo Verde; staged media events.
- US technical assistance teams arrive for Guri Dam/refineries

MEDIUM TERM (1-6 MONTHS)

- Salary Reform debate peaks; potential 'Unified Strong Salary' and labor tensions.
- Formal announcement on dollarization probable by Sept 2026

LONG TERM (1-5 YEARS)

- Structural realignment to US-EU axis.
- Potential Mercosur/OAS rejoin.
- Stability depends on Rodriguez-Cabello-Arriaza coalition delivering purchasing power increase

RECOMMENDATIONS & IMPLICATIONS

FOR INTERNATIONAL POLICY

SECURITY: Monitor 'Junta de Paz' initiatives; risk of unregulated policing.

DIPLOMATIC: EU moving to lift sanctions; opportunity for 'Multilateral Normalization' but risk losing leverage.

TRADE: Shift to US marginalizes China/India; expect Beijing friction

FOR PRIVATE SECTOR/INVESTORS

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY: Electrical/water infrastructure (70% need replacement); US Treasury clearance required.

REGULATORY RISK: Account for 'Communal Law' and local 'Communal Councils'.

AI & DATA: 'Greenfield' for AI due to human capital loss; corporate adoption surpassing traditional software

Report based on analysis of transcripts, official statements, and press coverage surrounding the February 2026 events in Venezuela. All information subject to ongoing verification.

TODAY'S MEDIA TRENDS

GLOBOVISION

FEBRUARY 20, 2026

VENEZUELA NAVIGATES A
PRECARIOUS POLITICAL
TRANSITION THROUGH
UNANIMOUS AMNESTY
LEGISLATION AND TRANSACTIONAL
ENERGY RAPPROCHEMENT WITH
THE UNITED STATES

DAY-AT-A-GLANCE

February 20, 2026, marks a watershed moment in Venezuelan governance as the National Assembly unanimously passed the "Law of Amnesty for Democratic Coexistence and Peace." This legislation, spearheaded by Acting President (Presidenta Encargada) Delcy Rodríguez, attempts to resolve decades of political hostilities by granting broad amnesties for political crimes committed since 1999. The law is the centerpiece of a broader "Program for Coexistence and Peace" designed to stabilize the domestic front following the seismic events of January 3, 2026—described in the transcripts as a military intervention by a nuclear power that resulted in the detention of Nicolas Maduro and Cilia Flores, who are currently characterized by supporters as "prisoners of war" held abroad. The administration is utilizing the amnesty to lower political ten-

sions and lower "uncertainty" among the citizenry, while concurrently signaling to the international community a commitment to a "new political time" based on mutual recognition and the rule of law. ([Source](#), [Source](#), [Source](#), [Source](#), [Source](#))

Parallel to the political opening, the Venezuelan state is pivoting toward a high-stakes transactional relationship with the United States under the second Trump administration. Economic statecraft is currently dominated by the "Great Energy Agreement," which has already facilitated the shipment of 50 million barrels of crude to Houston and secured visits from US Secretary of Energy Chris Wright and high-ranking officials from the US Southern Command. This rapprochement is driven by an "energy-for-stability" logic: the US gains a reliable, proximate source of heavy crude and rare minerals necessary for AI development, while Venezuela receives vital sanctions relief and potential access to multilateral financing (IMF/World Bank). However, internal friction remains high; while Acting President Rodríguez manages state affairs and domestic reforms, segments of the radical opposition continue to demand immediate elections, and the government faces intense pressure from the labor sector for a sustainable minimum wage increase as oil revenues begin to trickle in through Qatar-based trust funds. ([Source](#), [Source](#), [Source](#), [Source](#))

MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS

- **Unanimous Passage of General Amnesty Law:** The National Assembly approved all 16 articles of the law covering political crimes from 1999 to 2026. The law creates a tracking commission led by Jorge Arriaza to oversee the release of detainees and the extinction of criminal records within a 15-day window for the judiciary. ([Source](#), [Source](#), [Source](#))
- **US-Venezuela Energy Pivot:** US President Donald Trump confirmed that 50 million barrels of Venezuelan crude are in transit to Houston. US Energy Secretary Chris Wright projected a 30-40% increase in Venezuelan production by the end of 2026, while the US Treasury issued License 50A, expanding authorized oil operations to companies like Repsol and Maurel & Prom. ([Source](#), [Source](#), [Source](#))
- **Normalization of Diplomatic Ties:** The arrival of US Charge d'Affaires Laura Dogu in Caracas marks the formal reopening of the US mission. Additionally, Spanish Foreign Minister José Manuel Albares announced Spain will request that the EU lift individual sanctions on Acting President Delcy Rodríguez to encourage the "good path" of the transition. ([Source](#), [Source](#), [Source](#))
- **Domestic Security Infrastructure Realignment:** Interior Minister Diosdado Cabello deployed 131 "Quadrants of Peace" in the Valles del Tuy region, distributing new patrol vehicles and motorcycles directly to communal circuits. This move emphasizes a "Military-Police-Popular" fusion to maintain order during the political transition. ([Source](#), [Source](#))

- **Emergence of AI as a Strategic Economic Pillar:** The launch of "Latin GPT" in Chile and the proliferation of "Centipede" (a corporate AI tool in Venezuela) highlight an elite-driven effort to modernize Venezuelan retail, banking, and public administration to compensate for reduced state capacity. ([Source](#), [Source](#))

KEY GOVERNANCE TOPICS

- **Geopolitics:** Venezuela is undergoing "re-Westernization," shifting its crude exports away from China and India back to the US Gulf Coast. This aligns with the "Don-row Doctrine" (a 21st-century variant of the Monroe Doctrine) which emphasizes US hegemony in the Western Hemisphere in exchange for regional stability and energy security. ([Source](#), [Source](#))
- **Economic Statecraft:** Trust funds for oil revenues are being established in Qatar to shield Venezuelan assets from international litigation. Funds are being partitioned: one portion for currency stabilization (aiming for dollarization by September 2026) and another for social "emergency" spending in health and infrastructure. ([Source](#), [Source](#), [Source](#))

- **Legislation:**

- **Law of Amnesty for Democratic Coexistence:** Approved to pardon political crimes since 1999; excludes crimes against humanity and corruption. ([Source](#))
 - **Organic Law of Hydrocarbons (Reformed):** Simplifies the tax regime from 22 taxes down to three (Royalty, Integrated Tax, and Income Tax) to attract private investment. ([Source](#), [Source](#))
 - **Law Against Hate (Under Review):** President of the National Assembly Jorge Rodríguez announced a pending reform to correct "misapplications" of this law used to suppress dissent. ([Source](#))
 - **Anti-Blockade Law:** Mechanisms from this law are being transferred to the Hydrocarbons Law to institutionalize private participation in oil fields. ([Source](#))
- **Energy Security:** The US has prioritized the recovery of the Venezuelan electrical grid as a prerequisite for sustained oil production, with plans for US firms to intervene technically within one year. ([Source](#), [Source](#))
 - **Corruption & Governance:** The Amnesty Law specifically excludes crimes against public patrimony (corruption), signaling that the "anti-corruption" purge within PDVSA and state ministries will continue despite the political opening. ([Source](#), [Source](#))
 - **Succession & Stability:** Delcy Rodríguez's role as Acting President appears consolidated, supported by the military (Padrino López) and the political apparatus (Jorge Rodríguez and Diosdado Cabello), creating a triumvirate focused on "pragmatic survival." ([Source](#), [Source](#), [Source](#))

LEGISLATION/POLICY

Legislative activity is currently focused on creating the legal "scaffolding" for a post-conflict economy and political reconciliation. The primary goal is to provide enough legal certainty to foreign investors while maintaining social control through communal structures. Press events throughout the day featured a rare display of bipartisan cooperation in the National Assembly, although skepticism remains regarding the implementation of judicial releases.

BILLS DISCUSSED/DEBATED:

- **Law of Amnesty for Democratic Coexistence:** Provides a "full and general amnesty" for crimes and misdemeanors in the context of political violence. It includes 16 articles, with Article 7 modified to allow those outside the country to be represented by counsel without physical presence. ([Source](#), [Source](#), [Source](#))
- **Reform of the Law Against Hate:** Proposed to reduce the "inadequate use" of hate speech charges by officials, seen as a necessary step for the "normalization" of expression. ([Source](#), [Source](#))
- **Organic Law of Hydrocarbons (Reform):** Focuses on "economic viability," adjusting the fiscal load to ensure positive cash flow for private partners and allowing 100% private ownership in refineries. ([Source](#), [Source](#))

HEARINGS & PRESS EVENTS:

- **Amnesty Law Handover at Miraflores:** Acting President Delcy Rodríguez received the sanctioned law from Jorge Arriaza and Jorge Rodríguez, calling it an "act of greatness" and a "new avenue for politics." ([Source](#), [Source](#))

- **Installation of the Special Tracking Commission:** Jorge Arriaza announced the commission is in "permanent session" and will meet with the Supreme Court and Public Ministry to ensure the 15-day release window is met. ([Source](#), [Source](#))
- **Quadrants of Peace Deployment:** Diosdado Cabello held a televised event in Valles del Tuy to hand over 0km patrol vehicles, emphasizing that the hardware belongs to the "Communal Power," not just the police. ([Source](#), [Source](#))

DEEP DIVE: TRENDS AND THEMES

The Transition of "Calculated Forgiveness": The government's rhetoric has shifted from "combating fascism" to "receiving and asking for forgiveness" ([Source](#)). This shift is not a moral epiphany but a tactical necessity. By co-opting the opposition's primary demand—the release of political prisoners—the Rodríguez administration is de-escalating the domestic crisis to focus on the US relationship. However, the exclusion of "crimes of war" and "crimes against humanity" ensures the state retains a legal lever against high-profile figures who cannot be easily integrated into the new order. ([Source](#), [Source](#))

Energy Transactionalism as Sovereignty: The transcripts reveal a complex paradox: the administration admits to a "stain" on national honor due to the January 3rd US military intervention, yet it is enthusiastically welcoming the US Southern Command and US Energy Secretary ([Source](#), [Source](#)). The prevailing narrative is that by becoming an "energy partner" rather than an "enemy," Venezuela can regain enough economic power to eventually push the US back out. In the interim, "sovereignty" is being redefined as the ability to negotiate the terms of foreign extraction

rather than the exclusion of it. ([Source](#), [Source](#))

Communal Power as a Security Buffer: Diosdado Cabello's emphasis on giving patrol cars to "communes" rather than just "police" suggests that the government is reinforcing its grassroots defense network ([Source](#), [Source](#)). As the central government moves toward "re-Westernization" and potentially unpopular economic reforms (like cutting the public payroll or reducing subsidies), it is strengthening the loyalty of the communal bases to act as a buffer against any social unrest or a "second wave" of foreign-backed intervention. ([Source](#), [Source](#))

STRATEGIC FORESIGHT

Short Term (1-4 Weeks): Expect a flurry of high-profile releases from the El Helicoide and Ramo Verde prisons as the Tracking Commission executes the Amnesty Law. This will likely be accompanied by staged media events of "reconciliation." Simultaneously, look for the first major US "Technical Assistance" teams arriving to inspect the Guri Dam and national refineries. ([Source](#), [Source](#))

Medium Term (1-6 Months): The debate over the "Salary Reform" will reach a breaking point. The government will likely move toward a "Unified Strong Salary" that incorporates bonuses into the base pay but eliminates some retroactive severance benefits, modeled on "international standards." Tensions with the labor unions will spike. By September, a formal announcement regarding the "bi-monetary" or "dollarized" exchange system is probable. ([Source](#), [Source](#), [Source](#))

Long Term (1-5 Years): Structural realignment of the Venezuelan economy toward the US-EU axis. If the energy rapprochement holds, Venezuela could rejoin Mercosur and

the OAS. However, the stability of the "Rodríguez-Cabello-Arriaza" coalition will depend on whether they can deliver a tangible increase in purchasing power before the "National Popular Consultation" or any eventual general elections. ([Source](#), [Source](#))

RECOMMENDATIONS & IMPLICATIONS

For International Policy:

- **Security:** The US and regional partners should monitor the "Junta de Paz" (Peace Board) initiatives. While Trump views it as a way to avoid spending "taxpayer money," the lack of clear mandate versus the UN Security Council creates a risk of unregulated regional policing. ([Source](#), [Source](#))
- **Diplomatic:** European interests (Spain/France) are moving toward lifting sanctions. This presents an opportunity for a broader "Multilateral Normalization" package, but risks losing leverage if the Maduro/Rodríguez transition regresses on human rights. ([Source](#))
- **Trade:** The shift back to the US Gulf Coast marginalizes Chinese and Indian interests. Expect diplomatic "friction" from Beijing as its long-term oil-for-loan contracts are deprioritized in favor of Houston-based refineries. ([Source](#), [Source](#))

For Private Sector/Investors:

- **Investment Opportunity:** The electrical grid and water infrastructure (70% of pipes need replacement) represent multibillion-dollar opportunities for firms with US Treasury clearance. The "technical intervention" model is the preferred entry point. ([Source](#), [Source](#))

- **Regulatory Risk:** Investors must account for "Communal Law." Agreements signed at the national level may still face operational friction from local "Communal Councils" who now control physical security assets (patrol cars/motos). ([Source](#), [Source](#))
- **AI & Data:** Venezuela is a "Greenfield" for AI deployment in retail and logistics due to the massive loss of human capital (migration). Corporate AI adoption is already surpassing traditional software in the banking and retail sectors. ([Source](#), [Source](#))

ABOUT THIS REPORT

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 oth-

erwise have encountered and uncover connections, emphases and narrative shifts that enable more comprehensive reporting and deeper, evidence-based research.

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For questions or suggestions, please contact 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>.