

TODAY'S MEDIA TRENDS

GLOBOVISION

FEBRUARY 25, 2026

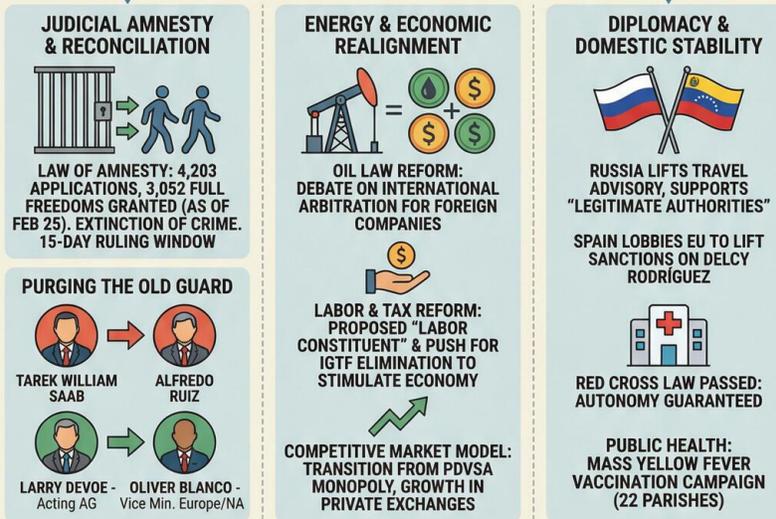
THE GDELT PROJECT

THE DELCY RODRÍGUEZ ADMINISTRATION CONSOLIDATES POST-MADURO GOVERNANCE THROUGH U.S. ENERGY STRATEGIC ALLIANCES AND A MASS JUDICIAL AMNESTY PROGRAM

FEBRUARY 25, 2026: DAY-AT-A-GLANCE - AGGRESSIVE PIVOT TO INSTITUTIONAL NORMALIZATION & ECONOMIC REINTEGRATION



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- PREPARE FOR OIL TENDERS, ANTICIPATE IGTf ELIMINATION (CONSUMER SPENDING BOOST)
- NOTE VETERINARY ALERTS AFFECTING BIOSECURITY

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DAY-AT-A-GLANCE

The political landscape of Venezuela on February 25, 2026, is defined by an aggressive pivot toward institutional normalization and economic reintegration following the seismic events of early January. Presidenta Encargada Delcy Rodríguez is successfully leveraging a new "special relationship" with the United States to stabilize her administration. In his State of the Union address, U.S. President Donald Trump officially recognized Venezuela as a [new energy partner](#), confirming that the U.S. has received 80 million barrels of Venezuelan crude since the start of the year. This geopolitical realignment is being fueled by a domestic "National Reconciliation" narrative, anchored by the rapid implementation of the Law of Amnesty for Democratic Coexistence, which has already seen over [3,000 individuals released](#) from custody or restrictive measures.

Simultaneously, the administration is executing a thorough "purging" and restructuring of the state's judicial and diplomatic apparatus to shed the vestiges of the previous era. The [sudden resignations](#) of Attorney General Tarek William Saab and Ombudsman Alfredo Ruiz mark a definitive end to the old guard, replaced by technocrats like Larry Devoe, who are tasked with aligning the justice system with international human rights standards to court further foreign investment. The appointment of former opposition figure [Oliver Blanco](#) as Vice Minister for Europe and North America further signals a strategic effort to build a "pluralistic" cabinet capable of navigating complex negotiations with Western powers and the European Union.

MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS

U.S.-Venezuela Strategic Energy Realignment

- U.S. President Donald Trump's State of the Union address explicitly detailed the [capture of Nicolás Maduro](#) during the January 3rd military operation, framing it as a historical success for regional security.
- The U.S. confirmed a massive surge in energy imports, with Venezuelan crude serving as a cornerstone for [U.S. supply expansion](#) and internal production goals.
- American Airlines, via Envoy Air, has officially requested authorization to [resume direct flights](#) between Miami and the cities of Caracas and Maracaibo.

Execution of the Law of Amnesty

- Deputy Jorge Arreaza reported that the special commission has received 4,203 applications for amnesty, resulting in [3,052 full freedoms](#) granted to date.
- The amnesty includes the "extinction of the crime" for those processed or convicted, and allows those [outside the country](#) to process their benefits via legal counsel without fear of detention upon return.
- The commission established a [15-day maximum window](#) for judges to rule on amnesty requests once submitted.

Judicial and Executive Leadership Transition

- The National Assembly accepted the resignations of [Tarek William Saab](#) and Alfredo Ruiz, appointing Larry Devoe as Acting Attorney General.
- Larry Devoe, an expert in human rights and international law, was sworn in with a mandate to [modernize the justice system](#) and eliminate historical stigmas of discrimination.
- The appointment of Oliver Blanco, former communications director for the opposition-led 2016 National Assembly, is being touted by the administration as proof of [national unity](#).

Reform of the Hydrocarbons and Labor Frameworks

- Legislators and analysts are debating a significant reform to the Oil Law (Ley de Hidrocarburos) that introduces [international arbitration](#) as a guarantee for foreign companies.

- The supermarket association (ANSA) has proposed a "Labor Constituent" to revise [labor immobility](#) and retirement social security to improve worker income and business flexibility.
- There is a growing parliamentary push for the [elimination of the IGTF](#) (tax on large financial transactions) to stimulate the economy.

Public Health Emergency: Yellow Fever Outbreak

- The government launched a massive [vaccination campaign](#) targeting 22 prioritized parishes across the states of Aragua, Lara, Barinas, and Portuguesa due to a yellow fever outbreak.
- The campaign specifically targets individuals between 1 and 59 years old who have [never been vaccinated](#) against the disease.

KEY GOVERNANCE TOPICS

Energy Security and Economic Resilience

- Venezuela is transitioning away from the PDVSA monopoly toward a [competitive market model](#) that allows for greater foreign capital participation while maintaining state oversight.
- The industry expects a [60% growth](#) in transactions through private exchanges like Volpriaben, indicating a shift toward market-driven financing.
- U.S. OFAC has issued new, favorable [licensing policies](#) for the resale of Venezuelan oil to Cuba, provided it supports the private sector and humanitarian needs rather than the Cuban military.

Diplomatic Engagement and Sovereignty

- Venezuela lodged a formal protest against Panama following the [forced opening](#) of a diplomatic valise at Tocumen International Airport, citing a violation of the Vienna Convention.
- Russia has reiterated its support for Venezuela's "legitimate authorities" while [lifting its travel advisory](#) for the country, signaling a return to stability.
- Spain is reportedly lobbying the European Union to [lift sanctions](#) against Delcy Rodríguez to encourage the ongoing political transition.

Domestic Stability and Rule of Law

- The National Assembly passed a new [Red Cross Law](#), granting the institution a special legal status while ensuring its autonomy and role as a moral public entity.
- The "Caracas Sonríe" program has reportedly reached [1.3 million beneficiaries](#) with health and social services, part of a broader effort to maintain social order through direct aid.
- Acting President Rodríguez emphasized a move toward "sustainable tourism" in Morocco, introducing a [digital registration app](#) and strict environmental regulations for boaters.

LEGISLATIVE ROUNDUP

The National Assembly remains the central theater for the administration's "reconciliation" and "modernization" legislative agenda, focusing on judicial relief, organizational reform, and economic liberalization.

BILLS DISCUSSED/DEBATED:

- **Ley de Amnistía para la Convivencia Democrática:** Fully enacted and being implemented to release political prisoners and [extinguish criminal records](#) for eligible offenses.
- **Ley de la Cruz Roja Venezolana:** Passed (sancionada) to modernize the organization's [legal structure](#) and ensure its independence as a humanitarian auxiliary.
- **Reform of the Ley de Hidrocarburos:** Discussed as a mechanism to provide [legal security](#) and arbitration rights for international oil majors.
- **Proposed Elimination of the IGTF:** A policy proposal from the opposition and business sectors to [reduce the tax burden](#) on dollar transactions.
- **Constituyente Laboral:** A proposal to revise [retroactivity and mobility](#) laws to allow for higher immediate wages for workers.

HEARINGS & PRESS EVENTS:

- **Amnesty Commission Briefing:** Jorge Arreaza detailed the flujograma (flowchart) for [amnesty applications](#) and the role of the three subcommittees.
- **Fiscal and Defensor Resignations:** A plenary session of the National Assembly where the [resignations were formalized](#) and Larry Devoe was sworn in.
- **Venezuela-Colombia Investment Forum:** Business leaders proposed a [single binational ID](#) to facilitate trade and tourism between the two nations.

DEEP DIVE: TRENDS AND THEMES

The Transition from Pariah State to Strategic Partner

The defining narrative of the day is the rapid "Trumpification" of Venezuelan foreign policy. By aligning with the Trump administration's energy needs, the Rodríguez government is effectively trading oil for political legitimacy. The mention of the [January 3rd operation](#) in the SOTU as a past event suggests a "clean break" with the Maduro era, allowing the U.S. to frame its current cooperation as a partnership with a transitional, more pragmatic government. This shift is not merely rhetorical; it is evidenced by the [80 million barrels](#) flowing northward, which provides the administration with the hard currency necessary to fund social programs like "Caracas Sonríe" and maintain the loyalty of the military through [prioritized healthcare](#).

Institutional "Amnesty" as Power Consolidation

While presented as an act of mercy and reconciliation, the mass amnesty program serves a dual purpose: it defuses domestic political tension and satisfies international human rights demands without requiring a total handover of power. By incorporating opposition figures like [Oliver Blanco](#) into the cabinet and tasking a human rights expert like [Larry Devoe](#) with leading the Public Ministry, the administration is building a "technocratic shield." This strategy aims to convince the European Union and the U.S. that Venezuela is "democratizing," thereby clearing the path for the [lifting of all sanctions](#).

Economic "Pragmatism" and the Multicurrency Reality

The economic discourse has shifted from socialist rhetoric to competitive pragmatism. The debate over the "Labor Constituent" and the [IGTF elimination](#) shows that the government is under pressure to formalize the dollarized economy. The goal is to move from a survival economy based on "matando tiritos" (side hustles) to a [formalized investment climate](#). However, the continued volatility in the [exchange rate gap](#) between official and parallel markets remains a critical vulnerability that the administration hopes to fix through increased oil revenues.

STRATEGIC FORESIGHT

Short Term (1-4 Weeks)

- Expect a continued [wave of releases](#) under the Amnesty Law, potentially including high-profile political figures to coincide with the next round of EU-Venezuela talks.
- The yellow fever vaccination campaign will [intensify in rural areas](#), potentially leading to localized travel restrictions if the outbreak is not contained.

Medium Term (1-6 Months)

- The [reinstatement of direct flights](#) between Caracas and Miami will likely trigger a surge in return migration and binational trade, further stabilizing the Rodríguez administration.
- Passing the Oil Law reform will lead to a [formal return of Saipem](#) and other major oil service providers to the Orinoco Belt.

Long Term (1-5 Years)

- Venezuela could pivot into a "Managed Democracy" model similar to some Gulf states, where economic openness and [energy cooperation](#) with the West are prioritized over traditional electoral competition.
- The successful "National Reconciliation" could lead to a [full diplomatic restoration](#) with the U.S., including the reopening of embassies and the formal recognition of the 2026 government.

RECOMMENDATIONS & IMPLICATIONS

For International Policy:

- Diplomatic entities should monitor the [Larry Devoe appointment](#) as a litmus test for genuine judicial reform; if the Public Ministry continues to use "non-amnestiable" loopholes to target dissent, the reconciliation is superficial.
- Neighboring states like Colombia should prioritize the [binational ID proposal](#) to manage the potential return of millions of migrants as the Venezuelan economy stabilizes.
- The U.S. must balance its energy reliance with the [illegal voting concerns](#) raised in the "Save America" act mentioned by Trump to avoid domestic political backlash.

For Private Sector/Investors:

- Oil and gas firms should prepare for [new engineering tenders](#) as Saipem and American majors move into the preparatory phase of Orinoco expansion.

- Retail and finance sectors should anticipate the [elimination of the IGTF](#), which will significantly lower the cost of transactions and likely increase consumer spending in the second half of 2026.
- Health sector providers should note the [veterinary alerts](#) regarding distemper and parvovirus, which indicate gaps in the national biosecurity chain that could affect agricultural or livestock investments.

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 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. You can also learn more about the GDELT Project at <https://blog.gdeltproject.org/> and the Internet Archive's TV News Archive at <https://archive.org/details/tv>.