

TODAY'S MEDIA TRENDS

TELESUR

MARCH 5, 2026

THE G D E L T P R O J E C T

GLOBAL ENERGY VOLATILITY & HEMISPHERIC REALIGNMENT: ESCALATING MIDDLE EAST CONFLICT REPORT



ESCALATING MIDDLE EAST CONFLICT TRIGGERS GLOBAL ENERGY CRISIS

OIL PRICES SPIKE TOWARD \$100/BARREL

US-IRAN WAR & HORMUZ CHOKEHOLD

STRAIT OF HORMUZ CLOSED: 20% GLOBAL OIL FLOW HALTED

TEL AVIV & WEST BANK

IRAN'S "TRUE PROMISE 4" OFFENSIVE

EUROPEAN ENERGY CRISIS: RUSSIA WARNS OF GAS CUTOFF, PRICES AT 3-YEAR HIGH

US SENATE BLOCKS WAR POWERS CURB, UNRESTRICTED MILITARY DISCRETION

US FISCAL SHOCK: COURT ORDERS \$130 BILLION TARIFF REIMBURSEMENT

WESTERN HEMISPHERE REALIGNMENT & POLITICAL SHIFTS

VENEZUELA-US ENERGY RAPPROCHMENT: CRITICAL MINERALS & OIL PACTS

NEW "WIN-WIN" MODEL AMIDST MADURO "PRISONER OF WAR" NARRATIVE

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CONFLICT TRIGGERS GLOBAL
ENERGY VOLATILITY AND
HEMISPHERIC REALIGNMENT

DAY-AT-A-GLANCE

March 5, 2026, marks a period of profound global instability characterized by the rapid escalation of a direct military conflict between the United States-Israel coalition and the Islamic Republic of Iran. Following a US-led offensive initiated on February 28, Iran has effectively closed and [seized control](#) of the Strait of Hormuz, a critical maritime corridor for 20% of global oil. This strategic strangulation has sent crude prices toward \$100 per barrel and triggered immediate [energy crises](#) across Europe, where the threat of a complete Russian gas cutoff further compounds economic anxiety. In the United States, the Senate has narrowly [blocked a resolution](#) intended to curb President Trump's war powers, effectively providing the executive branch with carte blanche to pursue the campaign against Tehran despite fractures within the NATO alliance, most notably with Spain [denying the use](#) of its military bases for the offensive.

In the Western Hemisphere, a significant geopolitical shift is underway as Venezuela, led by "Presidenta Encargada" Delcy Rodríguez, maneuvers into a [new energy partnership](#) with Washington. This rapprochement occurs under the shadow of the ongoing detention of Nicolás Maduro in New York, described by state media as a "prisoner of war." Simultaneously, a right-wing alignment is hardening in the region; Ecuador's Daniel Noboa has triggered a [diplomatic crisis](#) by expelling Cuban diplomats while deepening military ties with US Southern Command. These developments, combined with imminent and [highly contested](#) legislative elections in Colombia and a deepening recession in Argentina, suggest a volatile reconfiguration of Latin American power dynamics during a global period of hyper-inflation and resource scarcity.

MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS

• US-Iran War and the Hormuz Chokehold

- The Iranian Revolutionary Guard has declared [total control](#) over the Strait of Hormuz, halting transit for tankers linked to the US and UK.
- Iran launched a massive missile offensive, "True Promise 4," striking strategic targets in [Tel Aviv and West Bank](#) occupied territories, reportedly bypassing the "Iron Dome" defense system.
- The US Senate voted 53-47 to [reject war powers restrictions](#), granting the Trump administration unrestricted military discretion in the Middle East.
- Casualties from the first six days of conflict have [surpassed 1,200-1,400](#) across the region, including heavy civilian tolls in Iranian cities.

• Venezuela-US Energy Rapprochement

- Delcy Rodríguez hosted US Secretary of Interior Doug Burgum in Caracas to finalize [mining and energy](#) cooperation agreements.
- Venezuela signed major hydrocarbon [accords with Shell](#), aiming to leverage the "Win-Win" business model used in the oil sector for critical minerals.
- The Venezuelan National Assembly is set to pass an expanded [Mining Law](#) to attract US capital and bypass OFAC financial restrictions through localized management models.

• Ecuador-Cuba Diplomatic Rupture

- President Daniel Noboa declared the entire Cuban diplomatic staff [persona non grata](#), giving them 48 hours to vacate the country without providing specific justifications.
- This expulsion aligns with Ecuador's increasing military reliance on the US [Command South](#), which recently conducted joint operations in Guayaquil and Quito.
- Domestic opposition in Ecuador has condemned the move as an [act of vassalage](#) to the Trump administration ahead of a fascistic regional summit in Washington.

• Colombian Election Instability

- Ahead of the March 8 legislative elections, Colombian authorities [seized 726 million pesos](#) intended for illicit vote-buying.
- President Gustavo Petro has raised alarms over the private software company [ASD](#), alleging it lack auditability and poses a risk of systemic electoral fraud.
- Social organizations warned of the ["heirs of paramilitarism"](#) attempting to regain control of the Congress through 20 specific candidates identified by the Pares Foundation.

- **European Energy and Economic Shocks**

- Vladimir Putin warned that Russia may [suspend gas supplies](#) to Europe ahead of the 2027 deadline in response to further sanctions.
- European gas prices have reached [700 euros](#) per thousand cubic meters, a three-year high, following Qatar's suspension of LNG production due to the conflict.
- A US federal court has ordered the [reimbursement of \\$130 billion](#) in tariffs that were ruled unconstitutional, creating a massive fiscal shock for the US Treasury.

KEY GOVERNANCE TOPICS

Energy Security and Geopolitical Power Dynamics

The global energy market is currently being used as a primary weapon of statecraft. The [closure of Hormuz](#) and Russia's threats to divert gas to Asian markets [redirecting exports](#) indicate a decoupling from European markets. Simultaneously, Venezuela is attempting to stabilize its economy by [nationalizing hydrocarbon](#) management while inviting US investment, a complex paradox given the ongoing US-led detention of its former leadership.

- Oil price spikes are expected to hit \$100/barrel if the Hormuz blockade [continues into next week](#).
- South Africa's Energy Minister emphasized that Africa must define its [own energy trajectory](#) to avoid new technological asymmetries.

Critical Minerals and Supply Chains

The visit of Doug Burgum to Caracas underscores the strategic importance of [critical minerals](#) in Venezuela for the US industrial complex. The

Venezuelan government is positioning itself as a [reliable supplier](#) of rare earth and metallic minerals, looking to emulate the Shell/Chevron model of "joint ventures" to secure its own fiscal survival.

Diplomatic Engagement and Bloc Politics

The Americas are splitting into two distinct ideological blocs. Ecuador's realignment with the US through [joint military operations](#) and the expulsion of Cubans contrasts with the "Solidarity Bloc" formed by Cuba, Venezuela, and Colombia. Mexico is attempting a middle path with internal [democratic reforms](#) intended to reduce political spending and curb the power of elite "plurinominal" legislators.

National Security and Cybersecurity

In Colombia, the government has activated a [cybersecurity command](#) to monitor the March 8 elections, citing threats to technological infrastructure. Meanwhile, the US is facing internal pressure as the [Epstein files](#) reveal high-profile names, causing domestic political ripples even as the country prosecutes a foreign war.

LEGISLATIVE ROUNDUP

Legislative activity today focused on energy sovereignty, electoral reform, and the limits of executive military power.

BILLS DISCUSSED/DEBATED:

- **US Senate War Powers Resolution:** A bipartisan resolution intended to require Congressional authorization for strikes against Iran. It [failed to pass](#), receiving 47 of the required votes.

- **Venezuela Mining Law Reform:** A proposed expansion of the Mining Law to allow more flexible investment and [fiscal protections](#) for national and international capital.
- **Mexico Decalogue for Democracy:** A constitutional reform proposed by Claudia Sheinbaum to [eliminate 200 plurinominal](#) (proportional representation) legislators and reduce electoral spending by 25%.
- **Argentina RIGI (Large Investment Incentive Regime):** A debated framework providing [30-year tax exemptions](#) for major capital investments, criticized for lacking local content requirements.

HEARINGS & PRESS EVENTS:

- **US Secretary of Interior Burgum in Caracas:** A high-level meeting with Delcy Rodríguez focused on [securing mineral supplies](#) and oil ventures.
- **China's National People's Congress (APN):** Premier Li Qiang delivered a report outlining the [15th Five-Year Plan](#) (2026-2030), targeting 5% GDP growth and technological self-sufficiency.
- **Ecuadorian Ministerial Briefing:** Defense Minister Giancarlo Loffredo detailed a [\\$180 million security investment](#) plan including helicopters and drones for the drug war.

DEEP DIVE: TRENDS AND THEMES

Energy Warfare as the New Geopolitical Anchor The transcripts suggest that energy has transitioned from a commodity to the ultimate weapon of the 21st century. Iran's closure of Hormuz is not merely a tactical maneuver but a [strategic challenge](#) to the US dollar-based energy system. Russia's pivot

toward "reliable partners" in the South and East [marginalizes European industry](#), while the US is forced to seek mineral security in historically hostile states like Venezuela. This creates a "resource-for-recognition" diplomacy where energy-rich states can demand sovereignty concessions in exchange for supply stability.

The Fragmentation of the Western Alliance A significant trend is the emergence of EU/NATO resistance to US unilateralism. Spain's refusal to allow [bases for Iran strikes](#) and similar hesitance from the UK regarding bases in Cyprus indicates that the "blank check" for Middle East intervention has expired for some European allies. This [fracture in NATO cohesion](#) may lead to a more isolationist US policy or the formation of a "coalition of the willing" that bypasses formal international organizations.

Lawfare and the "Prisoner of War" Narrative The continued presence of Nicolás Maduro in New York and his wife Cilia Flores, described as [prisoners of war](#), serves as a central pillar of Venezuelan state messaging. This narrative is used to justify legislative shifts toward "anti-blockade" models that favor [national capital](#) and direct management of resources, effectively using the judicial conflict with the US to restructure the domestic economy under military-civilian "communal" control.

STRATEGIC FORESIGHT

Short Term (1-4 Weeks): Global oil prices will likely breach \$100 if the [Hormuz closure](#) exceeds two weeks, leading to immediate rationing in energy-dependent developing nations. In Colombia, the March 8 elections will likely result in [contested results](#) and civil unrest if software fraud allegations persist.

Expect further retaliatory Iranian strikes against US bases in the Gulf [targeting 11 countries](#).

Medium Term (1-6 Months): The US will likely formalize a sanctions-relief package for Venezuela in exchange for [mineral and oil flow](#) guarantees to offset Hormuz losses. Argentina's recession will deepen as [morosity in credits](#) reaches 20%, potentially forcing the Milei administration into a new confrontational phase with labor unions and the IMF.

Long Term (1-5 Years): A permanent shift in global trade routes is underway as [Russia redirects gas](#) infrastructure toward Asia. The US will likely face a multi-year fiscal challenge following the [\\$130 billion tariff refund](#), potentially leading to a retreat from global trade dominance in favor of regional "near-shoring" in a US-Ecuador-Argentina-Venezuela mineral axis.

RECOMMENDATIONS & IMPLICATIONS

For International Policy:

- Diplomats must prepare for a [bypassing of NATO consensus](#) as the US pursues unilateral Middle East objectives.
- The humanitarian crisis in Cuba [will worsen](#) due to the double impact of the US energy blockade and diplomatic isolation by regional neighbors like Ecuador.
- The "Digital Divide" remains a [barrier to productivity](#) in the Global South, requiring \$2.8 trillion in investment to stabilize economies against AI-driven stagnation.

For Private Sector/Investors:

- Supply chains for [critical minerals](#) should pivot toward Venezuela as the new Mining Law opens high-yield, high-risk opportunities for nationalized management.
- The energy sector in Europe faces [extreme price risk](#); industrial consumers must hedge against a total Russian gas cutoff by April.
- Investment in [Argentina's RIGI-protected sectors](#) (lithium and oil) offers major tax benefits but carries significant long-term regulatory and social stability risk due to lack of local content mandates.

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>.