

TODAY'S MEDIA TRENDS

CHANNELSTV

MARCH 10, 2026

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

REPORT: THE MIDDLE EAST WAR'S GLOBAL & AFRICAN IMPACTS AMIDST NIGERIA'S POLITICAL SHIFT

GLOBAL ENERGY SHOCK & GEOPOLITICAL SHIFT (Operation Epic Fury)



KHAMENEI ASSASSINATED; STRAIT OF HORMUZ CLOSED.

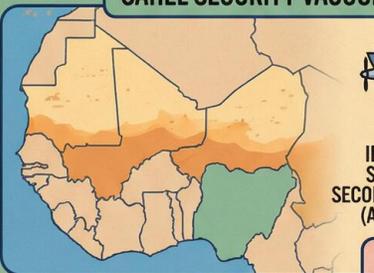


BRENT CRUDE >\$110/BBL; GLOBAL VOLATILITY.



FRAGMENTED GLOBAL ORDER; "MIGHT MAKES RIGHT" GEOPOLITICS.

SAHEL SECURITY VACUUM & AFRICAN ALLIANCES



IRANIAN DRONE SUPPORT LOST; SECONDARY FRONT RISK (AL-QAEDA/ISIS).



WESTERN INFLUENCE EVAPORATES; PIVOT TOWARD MOSCOW/BEIJING.



LASSA FEVER OUTBREAK (TARABA); URGENT INTERVENTION NEEDED.

NIGERIAN DOMESTIC POLITICAL REALIGNMENT & "RENEWED HOPE"

LEGAL WARFARE & ELITE POLITICS



COLLAPSING OPPOSITION (PDP); DEFECTIONS TO APC (HEGEMONY RISK).



PDP CONVENTION INVALIDATED



WIKE CONSOLIDATING POWER; ONE-PARTY DOMINANCE?

SECURITY, ECONOMY & INFRASTRUCTURE



NEW IG TUNJI DISU; LAKURAWA THREAT



DANGOTE REFINERY: PETROL N1075/LITER (STRATEGIC CUT).



WORLD BANK SPIN PROJECT (\$500M); AI GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORKS.



N56K SMARTPHONE LAUNCH; DIGITAL EXPANSION.

STRATEGIC FORESIGHT & IMPLICATIONS

- 🕒 **SHORT TERM:** Extreme Energy Volatility & PDP Appeals.
- 🕒 **MEDIUM TERM:** Sahel Jihadi Escalation & FCTA Budget Progress.
- 🕒 **LONG TERM:** Middle East Power Shift & Potential De Facto One-Party State.

THE COMBINED STORY: A Fragmented Order, Lawfare, and Strategic Realignment Reshape the Landscape. No QR Codes.

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THE MIDDLE EAST WAR RESHAPES
GLOBAL ENERGY MARKETS AND
AFRICAN SECURITY ALLIANCES
AMIDST DOMESTIC POLITICAL
REALIGNMENT IN NIGERIA

DAY-AT-A-GLANCE

March 10, 2026, marks a pivotal juncture in global geopolitics as "Operation Epic Fury," the joint U.S.-Israeli military campaign against Iran, enters its second week following the [assassination of Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei](#). The conflict has triggered a severe global energy shock, with Brent crude [surpassing \\$110 per barrel](#) due to the effective closure of the Strait of Hormuz. While U.S. President Donald Trump has signaled a potential [end to hostilities](#), defense officials warn of intensifying strikes to dismantle Iran's nuclear and missile capabilities. This volatility is felt acutely in the Sahel, where the withdrawal of Iranian security support—specifically drone technology—threatens to open a [secondary front for Al-Qaeda and ISIS](#) expansion.

Domestically, Nigeria is experiencing a fundamental political realignment. A landmark Court of Appeal ruling has

[invalidated the People's Democratic Party \(PDP\) national convention](#) held in Ibadan, effectively stripping the Tanimu Turaki-led faction of legitimacy and validating the Wike-aligned caretaker committee. This legal warfare, coupled with high-profile [defections of governors to the APC](#), suggests a collapsing opposition ahead of the 2027 elections. Simultaneously, the administration is pushing forward with its "Renewed Hope" agenda, launching a new [Inspector General of Police, Tunji Disu](#), to combat emerging threats like the "Lakurawa" terrorists in the Northwest, while leveraging marginal oil price drops to [reduce domestic fuel prices](#) at the Dangote Refinery.

MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS

- **Operation Epic Fury and the Death of Khamenei:** The U.S. and Israel have successfully [decapitated the Iranian leadership](#), leading to the appointment of Mujitpa Khamenei as the new Supreme Leader. Despite this, U.S. Central Command continues [massive B-2 and B-52 bomber strikes](#) against ballistic missile sites and command posts.
- **Strait of Hormuz Closure and Energy Shock:** Iran has [shuttered the world's most vital energy gateway](#), leading to a 25% single-day spike in oil prices earlier in the week. Major producers like Kuwait have [announced precautionary production cuts](#) due to maritime insecurity.

- **The Collapse of Nigeria's Main Opposition:** The PDP leadership crisis has reached a terminal phase following a [unanimous appellate court judgment](#) that restrained INEC from recognizing the Turaki-led faction. Prominent figures like the [Governor of Zamfara State](#) have formally defected to the APC, citing leadership failure.
- **Sahelian Security Vacuum:** Analysts warn that the war in the Persian Gulf is [evaporating Western influence in West Africa](#), accelerating a pivot toward Moscow and Beijing as Iran's ability to supply counter-insurgency drones to regional governments diminishes.
- **Nigerian Security Sector Overhaul:** Tunji Disu has been [decorated as the new Inspector General of Police](#), inheriting a force facing [attacks from Lakurawa terrorists](#) in Kebbi and widespread kidnapping in the North.

KEY GOVERNANCE TOPICS

Energy Security & Infrastructure

- The Dangote Refinery has [cut petrol prices to N1075 per liter](#), marking a strategic attempt to pass on savings from a temporary dip in global crude prices to N90/barrel.
- The World Bank has [approved \\$500 million for the SPIN project](#), aimed at improving sustainable power and irrigation in Nigeria to mitigate food security risks [exacerbated by high energy costs](#).

Legal Warfare (Lawfare) & Elite Politics

- The Nigerian judiciary is under scrutiny as [conflicting rulings on PDP leadership](#) move toward the Supreme Court, with critics accusing political actors of [using the courts to settle internal party scores](#).
- FCT Minister Nyesom Wike is [consolidating power in Abuja](#), using the appellate court victory to urge his rivals to "drop their egos" and align with the administration [prior to the 2027 cycle](#).

Terrorism & National Security

- Suspected [Lakurawa terrorists attacked a police station in Kebbi](#), freeing detained bandits and abducting an officer, signaling a failure in local intelligence and security architecture.
- President Tinubu maintains a [policy of non-surrender](#), promising to reinvest in agriculture and security as the economy stabilizes following reforms.

Technology Policy & AI

- The FITC and other regulatory bodies are [implementing AI governance frameworks](#) for the financial sector to mitigate risks associated with rapid digital transformation and [automated anti-money laundering systems](#).
- Apple has [pushed back its smart home display release](#) due to delays in upgrading its Siri digital assistant with more advanced AI capabilities.

Economic Security & Trade

- Nigeria is facing "economic catch-22" where [higher oil export revenues are offset](#) by the rising cost of importing refined fuels and a spike in shipping insurance rates [due to the Red Sea and Gulf instability](#).

- The CBN has introduced [automated monitoring systems](#) to detect suspicious transactions in the financial system as part of a broader push for fiscal integrity.

- **CSN Media Roundtable:** Civil society groups highlighted a [sharp rise in child malnutrition](#), which increased to [64.2% in 2023](#), demanding urgent intervention in the Northwest.

LEGISLATIVE ROUNDUP

The Nigerian Senate has resumed plenary sessions with a heavy focus on administrative appointments and budgetary approvals for the Federal Capital Territory, alongside a major shift in the chamber's partisan composition.

BILLS DISCUSSED/DEBATED:

- **2026 FCTA Statutory Budget:** President Tinubu [submitted the FCTA budget proposal](#) for consideration and approval following a three-week recess for budget defense exercises.
- **Human Rights Defenders Bill:** The House Committee on Human Rights is [processing a bill to protect activists](#) and ensure that international human rights standards are domesticated within national laws.
- **Special Seats for Women Bill:** Ongoing advocacy for [constitutional amendments to create reserved seats](#) for women in the National Assembly to address the current [sub-5% representation level](#).

HEARINGS & PRESS EVENTS:

- **Ministerial Screenings:** The Senate is preparing to screen [Taiwo Oyedele as Minister of State for Finance](#) and Senator [Magnus Abe as Chairman of the NUPRC](#).
- **Strategic Partnership Meeting:** The Ministers of Interior and Information met to [modernize immigration services](#), highlighting the issuance of [3.5 million contactless passports](#) to reduce corruption and improve efficiency for the diaspora.

DEEP DIVE: TRENDS AND THEMES

The Fragmentation of the Global Order

The war against Iran is not merely a regional skirmish but a catalyst for a "new world order" where [traditional international law legitimacy is being bypassed](#). Experts argue that the U.S. and Israel have [ignored the UN Security Council](#) because of the certainty of Russian or Chinese vetoes, signaling a return to "might makes right" geopolitics. This has profound implications for sovereignty, as the [responsibility to protect is weaponized](#) for regime change objectives [rather than strictly humanitarian ends](#).

Gender Equality: From Rhetoric to Power

International Women's Day 2026 has transitioned from celebration to a demand for [actual legislative power](#). While banking sectors show improvement in [female board representation](#), the political sphere remains a "boys' club" due to [finance and security barriers](#). The "Take it, You own it" theme at Zenith Bank [calls for women to claim leadership](#) rather than wait for permission, even as [funding cuts at UN Women](#) threaten frontline services fighting gender-based violence.

Domestic "Lawfare" and the APC Hegemony

Nigeria's political landscape is rapidly tilting toward a one-party dominant system. The [judicial dismantling of the PDP's convention](#)

and the subsequent [defection of Senator Ipalibo Banigo](#) and various governors to the APC suggest a strategic co-option of the opposition. Critics note that the [lack of an organized and disciplined setup](#) in the PDP makes it [vulnerable to external influence](#) and judicial interference.

STRATEGIC FORESIGHT

Short Term (1-4 Weeks): Expect extreme volatility in global petroleum prices as [Phase 2 of U.S. strikes](#) begins. Domestically, the PDP will likely [appeal the Ibadan convention ruling to the Supreme Court](#), while the administration accelerates the [deployment of 100,000 CNG kits](#) to mitigate transportation cost hikes.

Medium Term (1-6 Months): The Sahel could see an [escalation in jihadi violence](#) as Iranian drone support remains offline. In Nigeria, the passage of the [FCTA budget](#) and the [commencement of operations at the Abuja University of Technology, Abaji](#), will be used as proof of "Renewed Hope" progress [ahead of the mid-term reviews](#).

Long Term (1-5 Years): Structural shifts in the Middle East power balance [favoring a Saudi-Israeli axis](#) may permanently alter global crude supply chains. Nigeria may move toward a [de facto one-party state](#) if the opposition fails to [unify and resolve its legal crises](#), potentially leading to constitutional changes regarding [state police and local government autonomy](#).

RECOMMENDATIONS & IMPLICATIONS

For International Policy:

- The international community must address the [humanitarian catastrophe brewing in Iran](#), including [severe energy and water shortages](#) that could trigger mass migration [to neighboring states and Europe](#).
- Western powers should recalibrate their Sahel strategy to [fill the security vacuum left by Iran](#) before [Russia and China consolidate influence](#) through defense partnerships.
- Global health bodies should prioritize the [outbreak of Lassa fever in Taraba](#), which has already claimed [45 lives](#), to prevent regional spread.

For Private Sector/Investors:

- **Energy Sector:** High volatility in crude benchmarks [presents significant risks](#) but also opportunities for downstream companies with [robust storage and strategic reserves](#) like the Dangote Refinery.
- **Tech/Fintech:** Investment in [AI-driven compliance and anti-money laundering tools](#) is essential as regulators [tighten monitoring of the financial system](#).
- **Telecommunications:** The planned launch of a [N56,000 smartphone](#) by a GSM coalition could [rapidly expand the digital consumer base](#) in Nigeria and five other African markets.

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>.