

# TODAY'S MEDIA TRENDS

RT

MARCH 10, 2026

THE GDELT PROJECT

## GLOBAL SECURITY & ENERGY CRISIS: THE US-ISRAELI OFFENSIVE & MULTIPOLAR SHIFT

Day 10 of 'Operation Lions Roar' in Iran triggers systemic collapse, energy shocks, and pivot to Russian mediation.

### DAY-AT-A-GLANCE



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THE GLOBAL SECURITY ARCHITECTURE FACES SYSTEMIC COLLAPSE AS THE US-ISRAELI OFFENSIVE IN IRAN ENTERS ITS SECOND WEEK, TRIGGERING A WORLDWIDE ENERGY CRISIS AND A PIVOT TOWARD RUSSIAN-LED MEDIATION.

## DAY-AT-A-GLANCE

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The tenth day of the US-Israeli war on Iran, termed "Operation Lions Roar," has solidified into a protracted regional conflict with catastrophic global economic consequences. Following the February 28 assassination of Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei, the Iranian Assembly of Experts has appointed his son, [Mojtaba Khamenei, as successor](#), ensuring regime continuity and a hardened stance against Western demands. The conflict has escalated beyond Iran's borders, with the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) successfully blockading the Strait of Hormuz, causing global oil prices to surge past \$117 per barrel before settling near \$90 due to emergency reserve releases from Saudi Arabia. However, analysts warn that current [oil reserves may only last 36 days](#), threatening

a total shutdown of Middle Eastern production if the war continues.

Geopolitically, the day was marked by a significant one-hour telephone call between US President Donald Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin. While Trump framed the call as a discussion on Ukraine and the Middle East where Putin "wants to be helpful," the Kremlin's narrative suggests Russia is positioning itself as a [critical mediator that the US must rely on](#) to find an exit ramp from a conflict that has already damaged significant US military infrastructure. Meanwhile, in the European theater, the war in Ukraine has entered a more dangerous phase as Ukrainian forces reportedly used British-supplied Storm Shadow missiles to [attack the Russian border city of Briansk](#), resulting in civilian casualties and further straining the possibility of a diplomatic settlement.

Domestically, the Trump administration faces a fractured populace. While the President continues to demand "unconditional surrender" from Tehran, reports of a [deadly thermobaric strike on an Iranian school](#)—allegedly a "double-tap" Tomahawk attack—have sparked accusations of war crimes. The humanitarian fallout, combined with surging gas prices in the US (\$3.48 per gallon average) and severe LPG shortages in India and Bangladesh, suggests that the "short-term pain for long-term gain" narrative favored by Washington is meeting significant public resistance. The convergence of these events indicates a shift in global power, where Western unilateralism is being challenged by a defiant Global South and a resurgent Russia-China axis.

## MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS

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### The War in Iran and Regional Retaliation

- The US-Israeli air campaign has intensified, targeting Iran's electric grid, oil infrastructure in Karaj, and a [weapons research complex in Tehran](#).
- The IRGC has retaliated against US and Israeli interests across the GCC, confirming strikes on bases in [Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, and Iraq](#).
- Reports indicate the destruction of four highly advanced US [Thad missile defense radar units](#), which Iran claims has left Western forces "blind and deaf."
- Israel has expanded its operations into Southern Lebanon, with 700,000 people displaced and Hezbollah vowing to fight "with teeth and nails" after [missiles targeted banking systems and civilian centers](#).

### Global Energy Crisis and Economic Fallout

- The blockade of the Strait of Hormuz has halted 20% of the world's oil supply, forcing Saudi Arabia, the UAE, and Kuwait to [reduce output by 6.7 million barrels per day](#).
- Brent Crude reached a daily gain peak of \$117/barrel, sparking a run on fuel in South Asia where [LPG shortages are causing shop closures](#) and food security concerns.
- Russian President Putin has signaled a pivot away from the European market, warning that Russia will stop supplies if [reliable, non-political contracts are not established](#).

- Hungary and Slovakia have called for a suspension of sanctions on Russian energy to avert a total economic collapse in Central Europe [due to the Ukrainian oil blockade](#).

### The Succession of Mojtaba Khamenei

- The appointment of Mojtaba Khamenei has been met with massive pro-government rallies in Tehran, intended to signal [defiance of US-led regime change efforts](#).
- Analysts describe the new leader as a "political gatekeeper" with deeper ties to the IRGC and the "Axis of Resistance" than his predecessor, suggesting [increased regional militancy](#).
- The US and Israel have responded by threatening to target any Iranian official who continues to spread the ideals of the slain Ayatollah [Khamenei's radical ideology](#).

### Escalation in Briansk and the Ukraine Conflict

- The use of British Storm Shadow missiles against Briansk represents a direct escalation involving [Western specialists in flight-path coordination](#), according to Moscow.
- The strike hit a busy crossroads, killing six civilians and wounding 37 others, an act the Kremlin labels a [humane terrorist attack](#).
- The Trump administration is reportedly seeking a "breakthrough" in Ukraine talks, but the Briansk strike makes a [negotiated settlement less likely](#) in the near term.

## KEY GOVERNANCE TOPICS

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**Succession & Stability** The transition of power to [Mojtaba Khamenei](#) has been presented as a "landmark moment" for the Islamic Republic, aiming to preserve the 1979 revolution while navigating a decapitation strike. This succession reflects a consolidation of the religious and military elite, potentially making the regime more resilient against internal dissent and external kinetic pressure. [Huge crowds in Tehran](#) have pledged allegiance, undermining US intelligence assessments that suggested the government would collapse following the death of the senior Khamenei.

**Energy Security** The global oil market is currently in a state of extreme volatility. While Saudi Arabia has attempted to stabilize prices by releasing reserves from [storage in Japan and Korea](#), the long-term sustainability of this strategy is in doubt. The world is watching the Strait of Hormuz, as Iran warns prices will [hit \\$200 per barrel](#) if aggression continues. Russia is leveraging this crisis to force Europe into a "rapprochement," offering to fill energy gaps left by the Middle Eastern conflict [if sanctions are dropped](#).

**Geopolitical Power Dynamics** The Trump-Putin call highlights a shifting power dynamic where the US, despite its military lethality, is finding itself diplomatically isolated. Russia and China are increasingly seen as the "guarantors" of stability for the Global South. Iran's [20-year strategic partnership with Russia](#), signed in 2025, is now a cornerstone of Tehran's survival strategy, encompassing military, economic, and political cooperation intended to [defeat Western isolation](#).

**Critical Infrastructure & Terrorism** The war has introduced new forms of "economic terrorism," including strikes on [desalination](#)

[plants in Qeshm Island and Bahrain](#). The degradation of such infrastructure threatens the survival of millions in the arid Gulf region. Additionally, the reported use of [double-tap missile strikes](#) on non-military targets, such as schools and metro stations, has raised profound questions about the adherence of the US and Israel to the rules of war.

**Statecraft & Strategic Alignment** India is navigating a complex diplomatic path, balancing its "civilizational friendship" with Iran against its strategic ties with the US. Protests in Kashmir and Karnataka following [Khamenei's martyrdom](#) illustrate the deep religious and cultural ties that complicate the Indian government's ability to align fully with Washington. Similarly, Turkey is in a precarious position, hosting [NATO/US X-band radar assets](#) that are being used to target Iranian missiles, making it a [de facto participant in the war](#) and a target for IRGC retaliation.

## LEGISLATIVE ROUNDUP

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The day's policy focus remained on executive-driven military directives and international sanctions regimes rather than formal parliamentary legislation. President Trump's "America First" military doctrine, characterized by the [cancellation of "woke" civilian mitigation rules](#) at the Pentagon, has been identified as a primary driver of the current conflict's high civilian death toll. Meanwhile, the European Commission faces increasing pressure from member states to [suspend energy sanctions](#) as the 2027 ban on Russian hydrocarbons becomes economically untenable.

## BILLS DISCUSSED/DEBATED:

- **Executive Order on Emergency Oil Sales:** 415 million barrel SPR to offset a 16% rise in domestic gas prices.
- **EU Hydrocarbon Ban (2027):** immediate suspension to prevent energy starvation in landlocked states.
- **International Humanitarian Law (Proposed Revisions):** Nuremberg historical trials, with calls from the Global South to designate "extermination by famine" as a modern war crime in the siege of Iran.

## HEARINGS & PRESS EVENTS:

- **Trump-Putin Telephone Briefing:** views on Iran and Ukraine settlement.
- **Secretary Pete Hegseth Press Statement:** ignoring mounting reports of civilian atrocities.
- **Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan (Turkey) Briefing:** retaliate if its airspace is violated again.

## DEEP DIVE: TRENDS AND THEMES

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**The Religious Crusade Narrative** A disturbing trend is the emergence of religious and apocalyptic rhetoric surrounding the Iran conflict. In the US, reports of commanders referencing the [Book of Revelation and Armageddon](#) suggest that elements of the administration view the war not just as a geopolitical maneuver, but as a divine mission. Conversely, Iran has framed its struggle as a "Holy War" against "global arrogance," with the [martyrdom of Khamenei](#) serving to unify Shia and Sunni populations against a common Western foe. This religious zealotry on both

sides makes de-escalation nearly impossible, as compromise is seen as an affront to faith.

### **The End of Unipolar Information Control**

The war is being fought as much on social media as it is in the skies over Tehran. Despite Western censorship efforts, [videos of missile impacts](#) and civilian suffering are reaching the "Global South," undermining US claims that the war is a "limited" operation against nuclear threats. The Iranian media strategy—engaging with US reporters to [taunt ground forces](#)—and the use of Russian/Chinese satellite intelligence to expose US naval losses indicates that the West no longer holds a monopoly on the narrative or battlefield intelligence.

### **Fragmentation of Traditional Alliances**

The "unwavering support" traditionally expected from GCC allies is showing signs of strain. The UAE and Saudi Arabia have [refused to allow US bases](#) on their soil to be used for offensive strikes against Iran, seeking to maintain "partnership" over "alliance." This "agency" reflects a desire to avoid being collateral damage in a US-Israeli crusade. Similarly, Canada's pivot toward [stronger ties with Beijing](#) following threats from Trump suggests that even the closest Western allies are seeking "multipolar" alternatives to US dominance.

## STRATEGIC FORESIGHT

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**Short Term (1-4 Weeks):** The global economy will face a "shock" as Saudi oil reserves [potentially run dry](#) by mid-April. We should expect a second wave of Iranian "True Promise" missile strikes targeting regional command and control centers. The US may be forced to choose between a [disastrous ground invasion](#) or a humiliating diplomatic retreat moderated by Russia. Civil unrest in the US

and Europe will likely increase as gas and heating oil prices reach record highs.

**Medium Term (1-6 Months):** If the war persists, the US may resort to a military draft to sustain a [possible ground occupation of 500,000 troops](#). In the Ukraine theater, the Briansk strike could trigger a direct Russian response against NATO personnel in Ukraine or Eastern Europe. The EU's internal cohesion will likely fracture as [Hungary and Slovakia seek independent energy deals](#) with Moscow, effectively ending the unified sanctions front.

**Long Term (1-5 Years):** The structural integrity of NATO and the US-led financial order (Petrodollar) will be permanently weakened. Iran, Russia, and China will likely formalize a new security architecture for the Global South, centered on [BRICS and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization](#). The reconstruction of Iran and the "de-Westernization" of the Middle East will become a multi-generational project led by Eurasian powers.

## RECOMMENDATIONS & IMPLICATIONS

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### For International Policy:

- The US must immediately restore the [civilian mitigation protocols](#) within the Department of Defense to prevent further atrocities that are driving the Global South into the Russia-China orbit.
- Diplomats should leverage the [Trump-Putin communication channel](#) to establish a regional de-escalation framework before the conflict triggers a direct NATO-Russia confrontation.

- The international community must address the [potential famine in Iran](#) and Lebanon caused by the destruction of trade routes and civil infrastructure.

### For Private Sector/Investors:

- **Energy Diversification:** \$200 per barrel by shifting focus toward Russian energy entities (Gazprom/Rosneft) which are currently seeing [22% monthly stock growth](#) due to Western supply shocks.
- **Supply Chain Resilience:** LPG and fuel shortages cripple logistics and labor productivity.
- **Regulatory Risk:** reparations in international courts, potentially leading to the seizure of Western assets globally.

## 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 T Project at <https://blog.gdel tproject.org/> and the Internet Archive's TV News Archive at <https://archive.org/details/tv>.