

TODAY'S MEDIA TRENDS

TELESUR

MARCH 11, 2026

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

GLOBAL CRISIS & REALIGNMENT: The Strait of Hormuz Closure & Asia Occidental Conflict (March 2026)

Deepening Military Confrontation Triggering Energy Shock
& Political Shifts Across the Global South



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A DEEPENING MILITARY
CONFRONTATION IN ASIA
OCCIDENTAL AND THE CLOSURE
OF THE STRAIT OF HORMUZ HAVE
TRIGGERED A GLOBAL ENERGY
CRISIS AND SIGNIFICANT
POLITICAL REALIGNMENTS ACROSS
THE GLOBAL SOUTH.

DAY-AT-A-GLANCE

March 11, 2026, marks a critical inflection point in global security as the military conflict between the United States, Israel, and Iran escalates into open warfare with devastating humanitarian and economic consequences. The focal point of international outrage centers on a missile strike against a [girls' school in Minab](#), Iran, which resulted in the deaths of approximately 175 children. While the U.S. administration under Donald Trump has attempted to frame the incident as an Iranian "self-bombing" or accident, technical evidence and local reports suggest the use of [U.S. Tomahawk cruise missiles](#). In retaliation, Iran has effectively [closed the Strait of Hormuz](#), halting 20% of the world's oil supply and sending global energy markets into a state of extreme volatility. Retaliatory Iranian

strikes have targeted U.S. bases in [Bahrain and Kuwait](#), while Hezbollah has expanded operations against Israel in response to continued incursions into Lebanon.

In Latin America, the political landscape is undergoing a dramatic bifurcation. Chile has inaugurated [José Antonio Kast](#), marking the first "Pinochetista" government since the return to democracy, a move that has already sparked internal warnings of social repression and the use of "Aula Segura" laws against student protesters. Conversely, Colombia is consolidating its shift to the left following legislative elections where the [Pacto Histórico](#) emerged as the dominant force. The rise of Iván Cepeda as a presidential frontrunner, paired with indigenous leader Aida Quilcue, signals a deepening of the progressive agenda in Bogotá, even as the administration faces intense opposition from entrenched elites and the "Escudo de las Américas" military alliance promoted by Washington.

The convergence of these events suggests a world transitioning toward a more rigid multipolar confrontation. Traditional diplomatic channels appear exhausted, with Iran [rejecting new negotiations](#) with Washington. Meanwhile, state capacity is being tested globally: Cuba and Peru are grappling with severe energy shortages and infrastructure sabotage, while African nations are increasingly asserting their sovereignty by demanding [colonial reparations](#) and criticizing the perceived ineffectiveness of UN peace missions. The private sector faces an immediate crisis in logistics and fuel costs, as the "Hormuz blockade" threatens to turn a regional conflict into a prolonged global economic depression.

MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS

Escalation of War in Asia Occidental and Global Energy Shock

- Iran has launched its [37th wave of attacks](#) against Israeli and U.S. interests, utilizing "Khorramshahr 4" heavy missiles with one-ton warheads to strike military centers and radar installations.
- The [Strait of Hormuz remains closed](#) to tankers destined for the U.S. or Israel, leading to a 30-50% spike in gas and fuel prices across Europe.
- U.S. military officials report at least [150 American personnel wounded](#) in the conflict so far, while the Pentagon announces plans for the "most intense" bombing campaign against Iran to date.
- Israeli strikes on Lebanon have caused over [660,000 forced displacements](#), targeting residential areas in Beirut and the south.

Chile's Presidential Transition and Political Shift

- José Antonio Kast was inaugurated as [President of Chile](#), utilizing a controversial presidential sash featuring the national shield, a symbol associated with the Pinochet dictatorship.
- The new administration has faced immediate friction, [refusing administrative cooperation](#) with the outgoing Boric government and sparking student protests.

Colombia's Post-Election Realignment

- The Pacto Histórico gained [25 seats in the Senate](#), becoming the largest relative majority and positioning Iván Cepeda as the leading presidential contender for the May 30 elections.

- The inclusion of Aida Quilcue as a [vice-presidential candidate](#) is viewed as a historic move to represent indigenous and excluded sectors.

Cuban Domestic Crisis and Resistance

- Severe fuel shortages have paralyzed [inter-provincial transport](#), with trains running only once every eight days.
- The Cuban government is accelerating the installation of [20,000 photovoltaic systems](#) to mitigate the power crisis, supported by donations from China.
- Health authorities registered [Nasalferón](#), an antiviral nasal drop, to combat respiratory infections amid the blockade.

Governance and Human Rights Crises in Ecuador and Paraguay

- The Ecuadorian Constitutional Court ruled the state responsible for the [murder of four children](#) in Guayaquil, a blow to the security narrative of the Daniel Noboa administration.
- Paraguay's Congress approved a [military cooperation agreement](#) with the U.S., granting total immunity to American troops and contractors.
- International experts have filed a [complaint at the UN](#) against El Salvador's Nayib Bukele for crimes against humanity under the state of exception.

KEY GOVERNANCE TOPICS

Energy Security

- The closure of the Strait of Hormuz has created a [100-million-barrel deficit](#) in the global market since the conflict began.

- Europe faces an acute crisis, with specialists warning that [natural gas prices](#) could exceed \$1 per cubic meter.
- In Peru, the sabotage of the [Camisea gas pipeline](#) has disrupted the national energy supply, highlighting vulnerabilities in critical infrastructure.

Geopolitical Power Dynamics

- The "Escudo de las Américas" alliance, involving 12 Latin American nations, is being framed by critics as a [re-alignment with U.S. hegemony](#) to secure regional resources like lithium and the Guaraní Aquifer.
- The African Union is organizing a [legal strategy](#) to seek reparations from former colonial powers, citing the Chagos Islands case as a precedent.

Economic Security & Financial Resilience

- Argentina's Economy Minister Luis Caputo has urged citizens to [spend their dollar savings](#) to generate market liquidity as the country struggles to pay IMF interest.
- Global stock markets, including [Paris, Frankfurt, and London](#), reported significant losses as the energy conflict persists.

Biosurveillance / Disease Outbreaks

- Mexico is prioritizing a [measles vaccination campaign](#) aiming for 95% coverage to prevent a widespread outbreak of the highly contagious virus.
- The health crisis in Gaza and Lebanon is described as [humanitarian catastrophe](#) with the closure of hospitals due to bombardment.

Rule of Law & National Security

- In Haiti, the use of [kamikaze drones](#) under the advice of U.S. mercenaries has reportedly killed over 1,200 people in ten months.
- Paraguayan teachers are protesting a [pension reform](#) (Caja Fiscal) that they claim prioritizes financial speculation over worker dignity.

LEGISLATIVE ROUNDUP

Legislative activity this period is dominated by security agreements and controversial social reforms. In Paraguay, the focus is on military and pension legislation, while Venezuela is institutionalizing health and communal governance. The U.S. has notably seen executive orders impacting social and military policy that are now being reflected in international committee decisions.

BILLS DISCUSSED/DEBATED:

- **Paraguay Military Statute Agreement:** A [ratified agreement](#) with the U.S. that allows the entry of military personnel and contractors with diplomatic immunity.
- **Paraguay "Caja Fiscal" Law:** A [debated pension reform](#) that has triggered a national teachers' strike and street protests.
- **Venezuela Cruz Roja Law:** A [newly signed law](#) redefining the Venezuelan Red Cross as a public law entity under state sovereignty.
- **U.S. Executive Order 14,201:** An [order by President Trump](#) prohibiting trans women from competing in female Olympic sports, now being enforced by the USOPC.

- **Russia Civil Protection Bill:** A [proposed law](#) to protect Russian citizens from persecution by foreign or international tribunals.

HEARINGS & PRESS EVENTS:

- **Iran Foreign Ministry Briefing:** Spokesman Ismail Baghaei [ratified Iran's right](#) to defend its sovereignty and warned against third-party use of territory for U.S. attacks.
- **UN Human Rights Hearing (Geneva):** Presentation of a report [accusing the Salvadoran government](#) of systematic torture and sexual violence.
- **Mexican National Security Update:** President Sheinbaum announced a [44% reduction](#) in homicides since the start of her term.
- **Turkey Diplomatic Initiative:** President Erdogan called for a [trilateral meeting](#) between Russia, Ukraine, and the U.S. while warning against the escalation of the Iran conflict.

DEEP DIVE: TRENDS AND THEMES

The Weaponization of Information and "False Flag" Narratives

A significant trend is the divergence between Western mainstream media and Global South narratives. The [Minab school bombing](#) is a prime example: the U.S. and Israel have used media channels to label it an Iranian strike, while technical experts cite [U.S. cruise missile fragments](#) found on-site. This suggests a phase of the conflict where psychological operations are as critical as kinetic strikes, with Washington attempting to maintain the moral high ground while engaging in high-casualty operations. The [censorship reported](#)

in Tel Aviv further complicates the transparency of the conflict.

Regional Bloc Polarization and the "Hub" for Conflict

Ecuador has emerged as a [strategic hub](#) for U.S. military interests in South America via the "Escudo de las Américas." This reflects a broader trend of "Realist" statecraft, where smaller nations trade sovereignty for perceived security against organized crime. However, the [internal violence](#) in Ecuador suggests that this militarization may be exacerbating rather than solving structural instability. Meanwhile, the [cooperation between Panama and Chile](#) indicates a growing axis of neoliberal/right-wing states aligning against the progressive "Brics"-oriented nations.

Energy Decoupling and Communal Resilience

Under the pressure of blockades, countries like Cuba and Venezuela are doubling down on [communal governance](#) and local production. Venezuela's "Popular Consultations" for 36,000 projects suggest a move toward decentralized state capacity to survive international sanctions. Similarly, Cuba's pivot to [solar energy](#) is a direct response to the fragility of its fossil-fuel-dependent transport chain, marking a forced but rapid energy transition.

STRATEGIC FORESIGHT

Short Term (1-4 Weeks):

Expect an [intensification of strikes](#) as the U.S. and Israel launch what they call the "most aggressive" phase against Iran. The global oil price will likely remain above \$100/barrel unless the Strait of Hormuz is partially reopened through Chinese or Russian mediation. In Chile, the [student protests](#)

against President Kast are likely to face harsh police responses under the "Aula Segura" framework, potentially leading to a new wave of civil unrest.

Medium Term (1-6 Months):

The May 30 elections in Colombia could see [Iván Cepeda win in the first round](#) if he successfully builds a centrist alliance, which would lead to a major friction point with the U.S.-backed "Escudo de las Américas." In Europe, the [unilateral closure of pipelines](#) by Ukraine will continue to strain the European Union's internal cohesion, as Hungary and Slovakia demand a resumption of Russian oil transit.

Long Term (1-5 Years):

The current conflict is likely to catalyze a [terminal decline](#) of the dollar-based energy market if "OPEC Plus" and the "BRICS" successfully institutionalize a new trade currency. The African Union's push for [slavery reparations](#) may lead to a massive legal and financial re-ordering of North-South relations, potentially involving trillions in transfer agreements similar to the Chagos Islands settlement.

RECOMMENDATIONS & IMPLICATIONS

For International Policy:

- The [refusal of Iran](#) to negotiate suggests that non-Western mediators (China, Turkey, Brazil) are now the only viable actors for a de-escalation of the Hormuz crisis.
- Regional stability in Latin America is threatened by the [loss of sovereignty](#) in states like Paraguay and Ecuador, which may trigger constitutional crises or nationalist blowback.

- The UN must address the [ineffectiveness of peace missions](#) (Monusco, Minurso) to prevent a total loss of legitimacy in the eyes of the African Union.

For Private Sector/Investors:

- The logistics sector should prepare for a [long-term disruption](#) of the Suez-Hormuz route, with insurance premiums for maritime transit in the Gulf expected to remain prohibitive.
- Investment opportunities in [renewable energy infrastructure](#) in the Caribbean and South America are growing as these states seek to decouple from unstable global oil markets.
- The [sabotage of Peruvian gas assets](#) highlights a rising risk to fixed energy infrastructure in South America due to social conflict and lack of state protection.

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