

TODAY'S MEDIA TRENDS

PRESSTV

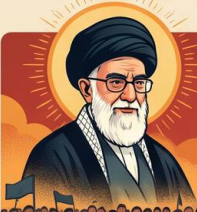
JULY 12, 2026

THE GDELT PROJECT

GLOBAL CRISIS: TOTAL WAR IN THE MIDDLE EAST & ECONOMIC COLLAPSE (JULY 2026).

Iran Closes Strait of Hormuz Following Assassination of Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. US Plunges into Economic Chaos.

THE TRIGGER & IMMEDIATE AFTERMATH



MARTYRED LEADER (ASSASSINATED)

MILLIONS ATTEND FUNERALS: UNIFIED "JURISPRUDENCE OF RESISTANCE" ACROSS IRAN & IRAQ



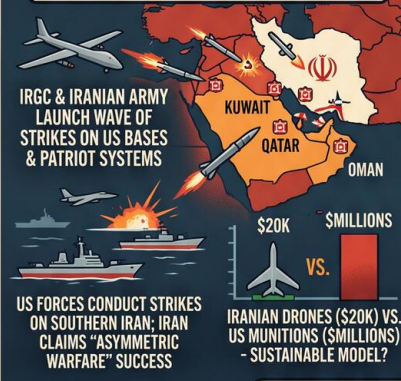
DEATH OF SEN. LINSEY GRAHAM (HAWKISH ALLY)

POLITICAL POLARIZATION & CONSPIRACY THEORIES IN US



STRAIT OF HORMUZ CLOSED TO ALL TRAFFIC BY IRAN (PGSA) - 22% OF WORLD OIL SUPPLY THREATENED

MILITARY ESCALATION & RETALIATION



IRGC & IRANIAN ARMY LAUNCH WAVE OF STRIKES ON US BASES & PATRIOT SYSTEMS

US FORCES CONDUCT STRIKES ON SOUTHERN IRAN; IRAN CLAIMS "ASYMMETRIC WARFARE" SUCCESS

IRANIAN DRONES (\$20K) VS. US MUNITIONS (\$MILLIONS) - SUSTAINABLE MODEL?

ECONOMIC FALLOUT & US CRISIS



OIL PRICES SPIKE TOWARDS \$120+ PER BARREL

US FUEL PRICES SURGE; INFLATION PERMEATES ECONOMY



US JOB GROWTH PLUMMETS (57K IN JUNE); PUBLIC ANGER & "NIGHTMARE" GOVERNANCE

US ADMITS USING FAILED ISLAMABAD MOU TO REPLENISH ARSENALS

GLOBAL REALIGNMENTS & UNREST



EMERGENCE OF "NEUTRAL ALLIED" BLOC: SKEPTICAL OF US SECURITY UMBRELLA



DOMESTIC UNREST: BOLIVIA'S GENERAL STRIKE AGAINST PRO-ZIONIST PIVOT; ALBANIA'S "FLAMINGO REVOLUTION"

MULTIPOLAR SHIFT & US "DECLINING EMPIRE" NARRATIVE

FUTURE OUTLOOK & RISKS



RISK: GLOBAL ENERGY SHUTDOWN & ECONOMIC DEPRESSION (HIGH LIKELIHOOD)



RISK: REGIME COLLAPSE IN ALLIED STATES (MODERATE-HIGH LIKELIHOOD)



RISK: TACTICAL NUCLEAR STRIKE IF CONVENTIONAL DEFEAT OCCURS (LOW-MODERATE LIKELIHOOD)

• KEY IMPLICATIONS: DIVERSIFY ENERGY ROUTES, RE-EVALUATE US BASE HOSTING, ENGAGE WITH 'NEUTRAL ALLIES'

TODAY'S MEDIA TRENDS

PRESSTV

JULY 12, 2026

THE MIDDLE EAST ENTERS A STATE
OF TOTAL WAR AS IRAN CLOSES
THE STRAIT OF HORMUZ
FOLLOWING THE ASSASSINATION
OF AYATOLLAH ALI KHAMENEI.

DAY-AT-A-GLANCE

July 12, 2026, marks a pivotal escalation in global instability as the Islamic Republic of Iran has formally declared the [Strait of Hormuz closed](#) to all maritime traffic. This decision follows months of "asymmetric warfare" and a series of devastating retaliatory strikes against U.S. military installations across the Persian Gulf, including targets in Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, Jordan, and for the first time, [Oman](#). The Iranian state narrative is centered on the legacy of Ayatollah Sayid Ali Khamenei, referred to as the "martyred leader," whose recent assassination by U.S. and Israeli forces has unified the nation and its regional allies in a "jurisprudence of resistance."

The conflict has triggered a severe economic crisis in the West, specifically the United States, where [inflation and fuel prices](#) have surged as oil markets price in a protracted supply disruption. Meanwhile, the death of

hawkish U.S. Senator Lindsey Graham—reported alternatively as a result of "sudden illness" and a Russian missile strike in Kyiv—has become a flashpoint for social media mockery and political polarization within the U.S. As millions attend funeral processions for Khamenei across Iran and Iraq, the Iranian government maintains that the "era of one-sided deals" is over, having effectively abandoned the [Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding](#) due to perceived U.S. violations.

MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS

Closure of the Strait of Hormuz

- The Persian Gulf Strait Authority (PGSA) has halted all traffic through the [Strait of Hormuz](#), citing illegal U.S. military movements.
- Iran claims the right to control the waterway under Article 51 of the UN Charter and customary maritime law, despite not being a signatory to certain UN conventions [on the sea](#).
- U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) has issued contradictory statements, claiming the straight [remains open](#) and that Iran does not control it.

Retaliatory Military Operations

- The IRGC and Iranian Army have launched waves of drone and missile attacks on U.S. bases in Kuwait (targeting Patriot systems), Qatar (Al-Udaid), and [Jordan \(Prince Hassan Airbase\)](#).
- Iran targeted the Port of Duqm in Oman, identifying it as a refueling platform for [U.S. aircraft carriers](#).

- U.S. forces have conducted strikes on southern Iranian provinces, including Bandar Abbas and [Qeshm Island](#), resulting in civilian casualties.

Domestic Unrest and Geopolitical Shifts

- Bolivia is experiencing a general strike and a "popular uprising" against President Rodrigo Paz over his pro-Zionist pivot and [austerity measures](#).
- In Albania, the "Flamingo Revolution" continues with its 42nd night of protests against a tourism project linked to the family of [Donald Trump](#).
- The death of Senator **Lindsey Graham** has led to intense propaganda battles, with some reports claiming he was assassinated in [Kyiv](#).

KEY GOVERNANCE TOPICS

Armed Conflict & Militarization

- The IRGC is transitioning from strategic patience to [offensive military operations](#), showcasing advanced hypersonic and pinpoint missile capabilities.
- Reports indicate the U.S. has hit over [100 targets in Iran](#), while Iran has responded by destroying at least 17 military bases [associated with the U.S.](#)

Energy & Critical Minerals

- The closure of the Strait of Hormuz threatens 22% of the world's [oil supply](#), with prices potentially reaching \$120 per barrel.
- U.S. Vice President **JD Vance** admitted the U.S. was using the failed Islamabad MOU to [replenish strategic arsenals](#) and oil reserves.

- Bolivian protests are partially driven by the [privatization of lithium](#), a critical mineral for global technology.

Information Warfare & Disinformation

- Iran is leveraging "soft power" through social media satire and "Lego movies" produced by students to [bypass Western media narratives](#).
- Western media outlets, specifically CNN and Fox News, are accused by Iranian sources of spreading [disinformation regarding an Iranian plot](#) to assassinate Donald Trump.

DEEP DIVE: TRENDS AND THEMES

The Jurisprudence of Resistance The broadcast heavily emphasizes the "jurisprudence of resistance" (*fiqh al-muqawama*), a doctrine that frames military conflict as a moral and religious obligation. This theme is used to contextualize the death of Khamenei not as a defeat, but as a catalyst for a [generational commitment](#) to sovereignty. The narrative posits that Western powers, primarily the U.S. and Israel, "fundamentally misunderstood" the concept of [martyrdom](#), which has resulted in a more unified Iranian public rather than a state collapse.

Economic Asymmetry and Empire Decline

A recurring theme is the portrayal of the U.S. as a "declining empire" suffering from self-inflicted wounds. Analysts argue that while the U.S. possesses superior conventional military power, it is losing the war of [geography and logistics](#). The use of expensive U.S. munitions against cheap Iranian drones (\$20,000 vs. millions) is cited as evidence of an [unsustainable military model](#) that is

bankrupting the American economy and alienating its domestic population.

Regional Realignment and the "Neutral Allied" The emergence of a new "neutral allied" bloc—comprising Turkey, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, and Qatar—is identified as a [turning point](#) in regional geopolitics. These nations are seen as increasingly skeptical of the U.S. "security umbrella," which failed to prevent the current conflict, and are moving toward a more [diversified foreign policy](#) that includes cooperation with Iran.

INTERNAL DYNAMICS & DOMESTIC INSTABILITY

Iran: Resilience Through Trauma Despite the loss of its top leader, Iran is depicted as possessing "mathematically designed" institutions [capable of self-reconstitution](#). The massive turnout for Khamenei's funeral—estimated at [40 million participants](#)—is used as evidence of a mandate for the current government. However, the broadcast acknowledges that the country is under "unprecedented pressure" from air strikes and [economic sanctions](#).

United States: Political and Economic Fragmentation The U.S. is framed as being in a state of "psychological distortion" and "Nightmare" governance. The broadcast highlights [falling job growth](#) (57,000 jobs in June vs. 114,000 expected) and a rising [federal budget deficit](#). Public sentiment is described as "angry" and "suffering" due to high fuel prices, with a prediction that the Republican Party will lose both houses of Congress in the [upcoming midterms](#).

EXTERNAL DYNAMICS & GLOBAL POSTURE

The Multipolar Shift The global system is portrayed as a "volcano" caused by U.S. and Israeli actions. Greece is specifically mentioned as a NATO member whose population [strongly opposes the Greek government's alignment](#) with U.S. sanctions on Iran. This suggests a growing rift between European citizens and their "beholden" political class.

Bolivia: A Microcosm of Global Struggle The situation in Bolivia is framed as a struggle between "indigenous resistance" (led by Evo Morales) and "neoconservative Zionism" (represented by Rodrigo Paz). The broadcast links the Bolivian struggle directly to the [Palestinian cause](#), suggesting that Latin American nations are key players in the anti-hegemonic [global movement](#).

THE ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT

The economic outlook is characterized by a "temporizing effect" where the U.S. is desperately trying to stabilize markets through temporary ceasefires while preparing for further war. Global supply chains, particularly in energy and maritime shipping, are at a point of failure.

Key Economic Vectors

- **Oil Prices:** Currently hovering around \$90 but predicted to spike to \$120+ due to the Hormuz [closure](#).
- **U.S. Job Market:** Significant slowdown with only 57,000 jobs added in June; unemployment rate at [4.2%](#).
- **U.S. War Costs:** Estimates suggest the total cost of the war against Iran will [exceed \\$1 trillion](#).

- **European GDP:** Wealthy European economies face cumulative GDP losses of 5% to 7% by [2030](#) due to heat-related factors and energy costs.

LEADERSHIP CHANGES

The day's news is dominated by the funerals of established leaders and the sudden exit of key political figures, signaling a vacuum in traditional geopolitical management.

- **Ayatollah Ali Khamenei:** Deceased (assassinated). His death has [unified the resistance](#) and triggered a transition to a "younger" leadership cadre, with his son **Sayid Mujtaba Khamenei** mentioned as a successor in the [national achievement](#).
- **Senator Lindsey Graham:** Deceased. Characterized as a "merchant of death" and a "staunch ally" of Trump. His passing is seen as a [prelude to a potential de-escalation](#) in U.S. hawkishness.
- **Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani (Qatar):** Deceased at age 74. Qatar has declared [four days of mourning](#).
- **Rodrigo Paz (Bolivia):** Current president facing a legitimacy crisis and potential [overthrow](#) due to the "Flamingo Revolution" and general strikes.

EDITORIAL POSTURE & STORY HIERARCHY

Press TV maintains a posture of **unwavering nationalistic defiance** and **calculated religious solemnity**. The "Lead Stories" are consistently the military successes of the IRGC and the "historic" nature of the Khamenei funerals. These stories are designed to project strength and stability in the face of crisis. The death of Lindsey Graham is treated with a tone of

schadenfreude, focusing on the "karma" of his support for war. "Buried Stories" include the specific internal logistics of Iranian civilian casualties, which are secondary to the narrative of resistance. Conspicuous omissions include any detailed discussion of the line of succession for the Supreme Leader, likely to maintain an image of seamless institutional continuity during a time of war.

GEOPOLITICAL FRAMING

The world is framed as a struggle between a "Maleficent Zionist Entity" and a "Unified Islamic Resistance." Leaders like Trump are portrayed as inept puppets of oligarchic interests, while Iranian figures are portrayed as principled martyrs.

COUNTRIES

- **Iran:** Portrayed as a stable, unified "rock" that the U.S. will "break its teeth on." Quotation: "Iran cannot be defeated and we have seen this already in the [past two wars](#)."
- **United States:** Framed as a "declining empire" run by "Austin Powers" instead of "James Bond." Quotation: "The US is not run by James Bond, it's run by [Austin Powers](#)."
- **Israel:** Characterized as the "gold bullet" used by the U.S. to instigate conflict, currently suffering from internal kenesset "violent reactions" [against Trump](#).

LEADERS

- **Donald Trump:** Portrayed as "crude, vulgar, and frankly stupid." Quotation: "When you have someone as crude and vulgar and frankly stupid as [Donald Trump](#)..."

- **Benjamin Netanyahu:** Framed as a "satanic whisperer" dragging the U.S. into a war to [avoid his own jail sentence](#).
- **Vladimir Putin:** Portrayed as a leader who was "bamboozled" by Trump but is now [ready to take on Europe](#).

NON-STATE & CORPORATE ACTORS

- **IRGC:** Framed as a highly competent, technologically advanced [protector of the nation](#).
- **Big Oil (U.S. Corporations):** Framed as "oligarchic interests" benefitting from the [suffering of the American people](#).

INFORMATION WARFARE ENVIRONMENT

A significant portion of the day's coverage is dedicated to analyzing the "propaganda stakes." Iranian analysts argue that the U.S. has a "propaganda advantage" through Western journalists but that Iran is "compensating" through direct [military action](#) and alternative media strategies. The broadcast explicitly mentions the use of **Lego-themed media** as a successful "soft power" tool to reach global audiences without the need for [deep historical context](#). There is also a narrative seeding that U.S. Senator Lindsey Graham was [poisoned or struck by a missile](#), which counters the official U.S. narrative of natural causes.

HYPOTHESES AND FUTURE OUTLOOK

- **Total Regional Conflict:** If the U.S. attempts to forcibly reopen the Strait of Hormuz, Iran will likely engage in "asymmetric warfare" targeting the Bab al-Mandab strait via Yemeni allies, effectively [terminating Suez Canal traffic](#).
- **U.S. Domestic Collapse:** Continued war and fuel price spikes are expected to lead to a "depression" in the U.S., potentially triggering [civil unrest](#) and a complete loss of the government mandate in the November midterms.
- **Nuclear Escalation:** Iranian commentators hypothesize that if the U.S. and Israel face a definitive military defeat, they may [resort to nuclear weapons](#) as a final act of desperation.

STRATEGIC FORESIGHT

Short Term (1-4 Weeks): Expect a massive "phase two" of Iranian military retaliation following the burial of Khamenei. Increased "Patriot battery" targetting in the Gulf [to degrade U.S. air defense](#).

Medium Term (1-6 Months): Potential for a "Minsk-style" stalling tactic from the U.S. to rebuild munitions stocks. Continued [sabotage efforts](#) in Iran and Europe. U.S. midterm elections will serve as a referendum on the war policy.

Long Term (1-5 Years): Structural shift of Gulf nations toward the "neutral allied" bloc. Potential [GDP collapse](#) in European NATO members due to energy isolation and climate-related economic losses.

RISK ASSESSMENT

- **Risk:** Global Energy Shutdown. **Triggers:** Permanent blockade of the Strait of Hormuz and Bab al-Mandab. **Likelihood:** High. **Impact:** Catastrophic global economic depression. **Mitigations:** Diplomatic formalization of a new security framework [independent of U.S. interests](#).
- **Risk:** Regime Collapse in Allied States. **Triggers:** Continued austerity and pro-U.S. pivots in nations like Bolivia and Albania. **Likelihood:** Moderate-High. **Impact:** Loss of U.S. geopolitical leverage in South America and the Balkans. **Mitigations:** Reversal of [neoliberal economic policies](#).
- **Risk:** Tactical Nuclear Strike. **Triggers:** Definitive defeat of U.S./Israeli conventional forces in a ground invasion. **Likelihood:** Low-Moderate. **Impact:** Global existential threat. **Mitigations:** Strategic patience and [multi-faceted diplomatic efforts](#).

GAPS & BLIND SPOTS

- The broadcast fails to detail the **actual status of Iran's oil exports** while the Strait of Hormuz is closed—how is Iran funding its war effort if its own exports are blocked?
- There is a lack of verified information regarding the **line of succession** for the Supreme Leader; the mention of his son [is anecdotal](#).
- The claim that NATO did not participate in the "Ramadan War" [is contradicted](#) by reports of thousands of flights taking off from Italy and Britain.

CONTRARIAN NARRATIVE SCENARIOS

Strategic Stall Strategy The U.S. and Israel may be intentionally provoking these strikes to draw Iran into an over-extended military posture, using the Strait closure as a justification for a massive [pre-emptive strike](#) on nuclear and space facilities under the guise of "freedom of navigation."

The "Managed Chaos" Hypothesis Donald Trump and his "mafia" may be intentionally [manipulating the oil market](#) to maximize profit for specific oligarchic interests, with the war serving as a profitable distraction from the [U.S.MCA failure](#) and domestic job market collapse.

Black Swan Event A sudden **assassination of Donald Trump or JD Vance** by an internal "Zionist lobby" faction to blame Iran and justify a [nuclear first strike](#).

RECOMMENDATIONS & IMPLICATIONS

For Statecraft/Public Sector:

- Security: Immediately re-evaluate the risk profile of **hosting U.S. bases** in the Gulf, as they are now primary targets for [IRGC drone strikes](#).
- Economic: Diversify energy supply routes to bypass the Persian Gulf entirely, focusing on [northern transport corridors](#).
- Diplomatic: Engage with the "neutral allied" bloc to broker a regional peace deal that [excludes the U.S.](#)

For Private Sector/Investors:

- Supply Chain: Hedge against \$120+ oil and a total [closure of maritime chokepoints](#).

- **Regulatory:** Prepare for the expiration of [U.S.MCA](#) and a return to bilateral, more volatile trade agreements.
- **Capital Allocation:** Divest from Western retail and fossil fuel interests heavily reliant on Persian Gulf transit and [re-allocate to Eurasian northern trade hubs](#).

LEGISLATIVE ROUNDUP

Discussions on policy centered on the failure of the Islamabad MOU and the potential for a "generalized war" period following the Trump administration's [economic policies](#). In Britain, there is a push to abolish [jury trials](#) for terrorism charges related to Palestinian protests.

BILLS DISCUSSED/DEBATED:

- **U.S.MCA Renewal:** Trump has refused to renew the trilateral agreement with Canada and Mexico, rendering it [irrelevant](#).
- **Article 5 of NATO:** Debated in the context of Turkey and whether NATO will [actually defend its members](#) against Zionist aggression.

HEARINGS & PRESS EVENTS:

- **NATO Ankara Summit:** Noted for the "birth of neutral allies" and the attendance of **Mark Rutte**, described as [Trump's "lap dog"](#).
- **U.S. Labor Bureau Stats:** Revealed a massive failure in job creation [expectations](#).

KEY STORIES

- **Closing of the Strait of Hormuz:** Iran's Persian Gulf Strait Authority (PGSA) officially closes the waterway to all traffic, citing [U.S. naval interference](#).
- **Assassination/Funeral of Khamenei:** Millions gather in Tehran, Mashad, and Iraq for the [burial ceremonies](#) of the "martyred" Supreme Leader.
- **Strikes on U.S. Bases:** Retaliatory strikes reported against bases in [Jordan](#), [Qatar](#), [Kuwait](#), Bahrain, and Oman.
- **Death of Lindsey Graham:** The hawkish U.S. Senator dies at 71; Iranian media attributes it to "karma" and [war-related failures](#).
- **U.S. Economic Crisis:** Jobs growth falls to 57,000; inflation permeates the economy as [gas prices exceed \\$5/gallon](#).
- **Bolivian General Strike:** Mass protests and barricades against President Rodrigo Paz's [neoliberal and pro-Zionist policies](#).
- **Albanian Flamingo Revolution:** Continued protests against [Jared Kushner-linked projects](#).
- **Gaza Genocidal Update:** Over 73,200 Palestinians reported killed; [Gaza transport system](#) at the brink of collapse.
- **Death of Qatar's Former Amir:** Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani dies [at 74](#).
- **Venezuela Earthquake:** Death toll rises to over 4,300 with [300+ bodies unidentified](#).

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.

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