

TODAY'S MEDIA TRENDS

TELEARUBA

FEBRUARY 18, 2026

THE GDELT PROJECT



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PERU'S INSTITUTIONAL COLLAPSE REACHES A NEW ZENITH WITH THE SEVENTH PRESIDENTIAL REMOVAL IN A DECADE, WHILE MOUNTING REGIONAL LABOR UNREST AND HIGH-STAKES US-IRAN NEGOTIATIONS SIGNAL A PERIOD OF PROFOUND VOLATILITY.

DAY-AT-A-GLANCE

The reporting from February 18, 2026, is dominated by the sudden and dramatic removal of Peru's interim president, **José Enrique Jerí Oré**, following a 75-24 censure vote in Congress. This development marks the seventh change in presidential leadership since 2016, highlighting a state of near-permanent institutional decay. Jerí faced a cascade of scandals, including allegations of sexual violence, unexplained wealth, and secret meetings with Chinese businessmen dubbed "Chifagate." The resulting [power vacuum](#) is expected to last at least 24 hours until a new interim leader is elected, further destabilizing a nation already weary of political turnover ahead of scheduled April elections.

Concurrently, the South American continent faces significant labor tensions as **Argentina** prepares for a general strike against the structural reforms proposed by the government of **Javier Milei**. The proposed changes, which include reducing medical leave pay to 75% and extending workdays to 12 hours, have triggered fierce opposition from unions and segments of the legislature. This domestic friction is mirrored in **Guatemala**, where Attorney General Consuelo Porras faces unprecedented international pressure following UN reports linking her to the [disappearance of 80 minors](#), alongside ongoing sanctions from the United States and the European Union for corruption.

Globally, the information environment is focused on the unsealing of files related to the **Jeffrey Epstein** scandal, with former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton calling for transparency while accusing the Trump administration of a [continuous cover-up](#). In the Middle East, high-stakes negotiations between the U.S. and **Iran** in Geneva suggest a potential breakthrough in diplomatic relations, despite hardline rhetoric from Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei regarding the vulnerability of U.S. naval assets. In the Caribbean, **Aruba** concludes its 72nd Carnival season amidst a flurry of arrests, while transitioning to new commercial logistical services and heightened public health awareness regarding colon cancer.

MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS

The Censure and Removal of José Enrique Jerí Oré

- The Peruvian Congress approved a [motion of censure](#) against interim President Jerí with 75 votes in favor, citing "moral incapacity."
- Jerí's removal stems from multiple scandals, including "Chifagate," allegations of [sexual violence](#), and the controversial \$340 million purchase of warplanes despite domestic health and education crises.
- The presidency is currently vacant, with the board of directors of Congress expected to elect a successor within [24 hours](#).

Argentine General Strike and Labor Reform Contention

- Unions have called for a general strike against the Milei administration's labor reforms, which seek to [deregulate hiring](#) and reduce employee benefits.
- Key points of contention include the reduction of salary during medical leave and the [12-hour workday](#) extension.

US-Iran Diplomatic Maneuvers in Geneva

- Diplomatic sources report progress in Geneva negotiations, with Iran expected to present a [formal document](#) within two weeks.
- Tensions remain high as Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei asserts that U.S. aircraft carriers are [vulnerable to destruction](#) by Iranian weaponry.

Institutional Crisis in Guatemala

- UN experts have formally linked Attorney General Consuelo Porras to the disappearance of [80 Guatemalan children](#).
- Porras remains under heavy sanction by the U.S. and EU, creating a significant bottleneck for [judicial appointments](#) and state legitimacy.

Post-Carnival Security and Logistics in Aruba

- Aruba authorities reported dozens of arrests for alcohol, weapons, and [drug possession](#) following the conclusion of Carnival 72.
- Post Aruba launched a new [Business Delivery](#) service to support small and medium enterprises with same-day delivery.

KEY GOVERNANCE TOPICS

Armed Conflict & Militarization

- Public outcry in Peru intensified over the outgoing administration's decision to spend [\\$340 million](#) on combat aircraft while the nation lacks basic health infrastructure.
- The U.S. Capitol police arrested a man from Georgia armed with a [shotgun and tactical gear](#) who attempted to storm the building.

Civil Unrest & Social Order

- Violent crime continues to plague the region, with reports of "motochorro" gangs stealing vehicles and [assaulting pregnant women](#) in Santiago, Chile.
- Labor groups in Argentina are leveraging strikes as a primary tool to combat [economic shock therapy](#).

Leadership Dynamics & Governance

- Peru's transition to a [bicameral system](#) is being debated as a potential solution to executive-legislative gridlock, though critics fear it will further concentrate power in the Senate.
- The death of civil rights icon Jesse Jackson at 84 marks the end of an era in U.S. [social activism](#).

Legal Warfare & Regulatory Risk

- The unsealing of Epstein-related files represents a significant [litigation risk](#) for high-ranking political and corporate figures globally.
- Guatemala's executive branch is exploring [legal mechanisms](#) to remove the Attorney General without triggering a constitutional crisis.

DEEP DIVE: TRENDS AND THEMES

The Weaponization of Censure in Parliamentary Hybrids

Peru serves as the primary case study for the decay of the presidential system into a "disguised parliamentarism." The frequent use of **censure** and **vacancy** motions has effectively stripped the executive of its mandate, turning the presidency into a short-term administrative role. Analysts suggest that the legislative branch has weaponized constitutional ambiguities to [remove presidents](#) based on political calculations rather than judicial findings of guilt, creating a cycle where no leader can survive long enough to implement policy.

The "Chifagate" and Foreign Influence

A recurring theme is the perceived corrosive influence of Chinese business interests in Latin American politics. The "Chifagate" scandal in Peru, involving secret meetings between President Jerí and Chinese entrepreneurs at a restaurant, has become a symbol of [cronyism](#). This ties into a broader geopolitical narrative where nations like the U.S. and China are portrayed as competing for access to [critical infrastructure](#) like Peruvian ports, often at the expense of local sovereignty and ethics.

Bio-Ethics and Technological Sovereignty

A controversial development involves a Twitch streamer using a [homemade ear-sensor](#) to control digital interfaces via her equilibrium system. This highlights a trend toward "bio-hacking" and the lack of regulatory oversight for consumer-grade neural-mechanical interfaces, raising questions about [long-term health risks](#) and psychological impacts.

INTERNAL DYNAMICS & DOMESTIC INSTABILITY

Peru: Institutional Anarchy

- The removal of the seventh president in ten years has left the Peruvian public in a state of [political apathy](#) and uncertainty.
- Citizens report feeling as though they are living in [anarchy](#), with a Congress that prioritizes internal power struggles over public welfare.

Argentina: Labor vs. Executive

- The Milei administration is facing its stiffest challenge yet as unions mobilize against reforms that could [invalidate existing worker protections](#).

- The government's ability to maintain social order is under threat as [protests intensify](#) around the Congress in Buenos Aires.

EXTERNAL DYNAMICS & GLOBAL POSTURE

Venezuela's Cautious Re-integration

The resumption of flights between Madrid and Caracas by **Iberia** and **Plus Ultra** signals a pragmatic shift in European-Venezuelan relations, despite ongoing [U.S.-Venezuela tensions](#). This move is seen as a lifeline for the Venezuelan diaspora and a sign that economic necessities are beginning to outweigh diplomatic isolation strategies.

Aruba's Environmental Stewardship

Aruba continues to project itself as a leader in marine conservation, specifically regarding the [lionfish invasion](#). By integrating conservation into the local economy (e.g., lionfish jewelry and cuisine), the island is creating a model for [ecological resilience](#) that bridges the gap between environmental disaster and commercial innovation.

THE ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT

Market sentiment in Latin America is increasingly clouded by political instability and aggressive labor reforms. In Argentina, the government is attempting to curb a [43% informality rate](#) through radical deregulation, which has yet to prove its efficacy to international investors. Meanwhile, Aruba's economy is showing signs of diversification through infrastructure projects like [man-made](#)

[reefs](#) and new logistics services targeting the SME sector.

- **Peru Defense Spending:** Controversy surrounds the [\\$340 million](#) payment for fighter jets amidst fiscal tightening.
- **Argentine Labor Costs:** Proposed reforms seek to [lower dismissal costs](#) and allow for salaries to be paid in foreign currencies or in-kind benefits.
- **Aruba Logistics:** Post Aruba's Business Delivery aims to optimize the [supply chain](#) for local retailers during high-demand periods like San Valentin.

LEADERSHIP CHANGES

The leadership landscape is characterized by forced removals and the passing of historic figures, creating significant voids in both the Peruvian executive and U.S. civil rights movements.

- **José Enrique Jerí Oré:** Censured and removed from the Peruvian presidency; currently faces potential prosecution for [sexual crimes and corruption](#).
- **María del Carmen Alva:** Identified as a leading [candidate](#) to replace Jerí, having previously served as President of Congress.
- **Jesse Jackson:** Deceased at age 84; his legacy as a [civil rights leader](#) is being commemorated globally.
- **Consuelo Porras:** The Guatemalan Attorney General faces mounting calls for her [resignation or removal](#) following damning UN reports.

EDITORIAL POSTURE & STORY HIERARCHY

The broadcast prioritized **political crisis management**, with the Peruvian presidency's collapse receiving the most airtime. The tone was one of **skeptical observation**, emphasizing the repetitive nature of these crises. The coverage of **local Aruban affairs** served as a stabilizing counterweight, focusing on community safety, economic innovation, and cultural heritage (Carnival). **Global health** (colon cancer) was given significant weight as a public service announcement. Conspicuous omissions include the lack of detailed coverage on the specific outcomes of the U.S.-Iran negotiations, which were presented with a heavy reliance on Iranian state rhetoric without counter-balancing U.S. official statements.

GEOPOLITICAL FRAMING

The international system is portrayed as increasingly fragmented, with "middle power" institutions like the Peruvian Congress and the Guatemalan Judiciary acting as volatile actors that can disrupt regional stability.

COUNTRIES and LEADERS

- **Peru:** Framed as a [failed institutional model](#) characterized by "rebote" (accidental) leadership and a toxic relationship between the executive and legislative branches.
- **Javier Milei:** Portrayed as a radical reformer whose ["shock therapy"](#) is driving a wedge between the state and the labor force.

- **Iran (Ali Khamenei):** Presented as a [defiant adversary](#) that continues to threaten U.S. military hegemony while simultaneously engaging in high-level diplomacy.
- **Donald Trump:** Portrayed by critics (via Hillary Clinton) as the leader of an administration defined by [continuous cover-ups](#) regarding Epstein and foreign policy toward Cuba.

NON-STATE & CORPORATE ACTORS

- **UN Experts:** Framed as [moral arbiters](#) whose reports have fundamentally undermined the legitimacy of the Guatemalan Attorney General.
- **Iberia:** Portrayed as a [pragmatic bridge](#) between Europe and Venezuela, prioritizing connectivity over political alignment.

INFORMATION WARFARE ENVIRONMENT

- **Narrative Seeding:** The framing of the Peruvian presidency as "vacant" despite the lack of a judicial sentence is a clear example of [legalistic spin](#) to justify political removal.
- **Meta-Narrative:** The unsealing of the Epstein files is being used as a [distraction or a weapon](#) in the U.S. domestic political arena, with both sides using the information to paint their opponents as corrupt.
- **Propaganda Delta:** The reporting on Iran's "vulnerable U.S. carriers" appears to seed [fear-based narratives](#) within the Western media cycle, potentially influenced by Iranian psychological operations.

HYPOTHESES AND FUTURE OUTLOOK

- **Peruvian Election Delay:** Given the current vacuum, there is a high probability that the [April elections](#) will be marred by low turnout or violent protests as the public's faith in the electoral process evaporates.
- **Argentine Civil Unrest:** The general strike is likely to escalate into [sustained street confrontations](#) if the Milei administration does not offer concessions on medical leave and workday length.
- **Guatemalan Purge:** The UN report likely provides the necessary [political cover](#) for the Arévalo administration to finally move for the formal removal of Consuelo Porras, potentially through emergency decree.

STRATEGIC FORESIGHT

Short Term (1-4 Weeks): Expect immediate [protests in Lima](#) and a spike in regional market volatility following the vacancy. The unsealing of more Epstein files will likely dominate U.S. headlines, leading to high-profile [resignations](#) in the corporate sector.

Medium Term (1-6 Months): The implementation of Argentina's labor reforms will serve as a bellwether for [populist-libertarian experiments](#) across the continent. Peru's ability to hold a peaceful election will determine if it avoids becoming a [failed state](#).

Long Term (1-5 Years): The [bicameral reform](#) in Peru may lead to a more stable legislative process, but only if constitutional [candados](#) (locks) are established to prevent the weaponization of censure. Environmental innovation in the Caribbean will likely transition from conservation to a

[circular economy](#) focused on invasive species management.

RISK ASSESSMENT

The current geopolitical and domestic environment presents several critical flashpoints that could deteriorate rapidly.

- **Peru Institutional Collapse:** The risk of total state paralysis is high. Triggers: Failure to elect a [new interim president](#) within 48 hours or widespread rioting in Lima. Likelihood: High. Impact: Extreme regional instability. Mitigations: International mediation and adherence to the April election timeline.
- **Argentine Labor Volatility:** Widespread strikes could halt [critical infrastructure](#) and supply chains. Triggers: Police violence against strikers or the passage of the 12-hour workday law. Likelihood: Moderate. Impact: High economic disruption. Mitigations: Negotiated settlements with major unions.
- **US-Iran Negotiation Failure:** A breakdown in Geneva could lead to [kinetic escalation](#) in the Persian Gulf. Triggers: A provocative Iranian naval exercise or the failure to present the promised document in two weeks. Likelihood: Low. Impact: Global energy price spike. Mitigations: Continued back-channel diplomacy.
- **Guatemalan Judicial Stalemate:** The refusal of Consuelo Porras to leave could lead to a [constitutional deadlock](#). Triggers: Direct executive action to bypass the Attorney General. Likelihood: High. Impact: Loss of donor funding and institutional decay. Mitigations: Leveraging the UN report to build a domestic legislative coalition for removal.

- **Cyber-Physical Bio-Harm:** Unregulated neural interfaces could lead to [neurological trauma](#) in consumers. Triggers: A mass-market release of uncertified ear-sensors or joysticks. Likelihood: Moderate. Impact: Public health crisis and lawsuits. Mitigations: Rapid regulatory oversight of "bio-hacking" consumer electronics.

GAPS & BLIND SPOTS

A complete risk assessment is hindered by several missing perspectives in the broadcast.

- The specific demands and concessions discussed in the [US-Iran Geneva talks](#) remain entirely opaque, leaving analysts to guess at the actual likelihood of a deal.
- The broadcast failed to address how the Peruvian vacancy affects [military and police command structures](#), which are critical for maintaining order during a transition.
- There is no mention of the potential for [Chinese retaliation](#) or diplomatic protest following the public naming of their businessmen in the "Chifagate" scandal.
- The reporting on the Epstein files lacks a [balanced perspective](#) from the defense teams of those accused, focusing primarily on the accusations made by political figures.

CONTRARIAN NARRATIVE SCENARIOS

- **The Peruvian Strategic Vacuum:** Rather than a collapse, the removal of Jerí might be a coordinated ["cleansing"](#) of the executive branch by a multi-partisan coalition to ensure the April elections are not influenced by a corrupt incumbent.

- **Milei's Controlled Chaos:** The Argentine labor unrest might be [intentionally provoked](#) by the government to force a final, decisive confrontation that breaks the power of the unions once and for all, paving the way for permanent deregulation.
- **The Black Swan - The "Capitol 2.0":** The arrest of the armed man at the [U.S. Capitol](#) might not be an isolated incident, but the start of a coordinated effort by extremist groups to disrupt the unsealing of the Epstein files, leading to a major domestic security crisis in the U.S.

RECOMMENDATIONS & IMPLICATIONS

For Statecraft/Public Sector:

- **Security:** Increase monitoring of U.S. federal buildings in light of the [armed arrest](#) and potential civil unrest linked to the unsealing of high-profile judicial files.
- **Economic:** Prepare for regional energy disruptions if US-Iran talks [stall in Geneva](#).
- **Diplomatic:** Coordinate with the OAS to ensure the [Peruvian elections](#) remain scheduled and are monitored by international observers.

For Private Sector/Investors:

- **Supply Chain:** Diversify logistics providers in South America to avoid disruptions caused by the [Argentine general strike](#).
- **Regulatory Compliance:** Review investment portfolios in Guatemala and Peru for [corruption-related legal risks](#) in light of recent UN and legislative actions.

- **Safety Standards:** Manufacturers of consumer electronics should delay the development of neural-mechanical interfaces until [regulatory frameworks](#) are established.

LEGISLATIVE ROUNDUP

Legislative activity was focused on the removal of executives and the implementation of structural labor reforms. The Peruvian Congress utilized constitutional [motions of censure](#) to declare a presidential vacancy, while the Argentine legislature debated the government's [mega-reform bill](#).

• **BILLS DISCUSSED/DEBATED:**

- **Argentine Labor Reform Act:** Proposes a [12-hour workday](#), reduction in dismissal costs, and changes to medical leave pay; intended to stimulate hiring and formalize the economy.
- **Peru Bicameral Constitutional Reform:** Seeks to re-establish a [two-chamber Congress](#) to provide better legislative balance and oversight.

• **HEARINGS & PRESS EVENTS:**

- **Peruvian Censure Debate:** A multi-hour session resulting in the [75-24 vote](#) to remove President Jerí.
- **UN Human Rights Panel in Geneva:** Experts presented findings linking the Guatemalan Attorney General to [human rights violations](#).

KEY STORIES

- **Censure of José Jerí:** The Peruvian Congress removed the interim president after [130 days](#) in office amid massive corruption and sexual assault allegations.

- **Argentina General Strike:** Unions and labor groups organized protests against the government's plan to [deregulate](#) the labor market.
- **Epstein File Unsealing:** Hillary Clinton called for the release of all files, accusing the [Trump administration](#) of hiding the truth.
- **Guatemala UN Report:** Experts linked AG Consuelo Porras to the [disappearance of 80 children](#), increasing international pressure for her removal.
- **U.S. Capitol Arrest:** An 18-year-old from Smyrna, Georgia, was arrested with a [shotgun and tactical gear](#) near the Capitol.
- **Death of Jesse Jackson:** Tributes were paid to the [civil rights leader](#) who passed away at 84 due to complications from Parkinson's.
- **Aruba Carnival Security:** Authorities arrested [25 people](#) for fighting, drugs, and weapons during the final lap of Carnival 72.
- **Colon Cancer Awareness:** Health segments highlighted that early detection leads to a [95% recovery rate](#), focusing on diet and sedentary risks.
- **Post Aruba Innovation:** Launch of a [Business Delivery](#) service to facilitate same-day logistical support for local companies.
- **Lionfish Conservation Documentary:** A new project in Aruba uses [educational coloring books](#) and culinary innovation to combat the invasive species.
- **Venezuelan Flight Resumption:** Iberia and Plus Ultra announced the return of [Madrid-Caracas routes](#) starting in March.
- **Neural Control Polemic:** A Twitch streamer faced backlash for using a [homemade ear-sensor](#) to control digital games via brain/equilibrium signals.

- **Deportation of Julián Carbajal:** A 28-year-old Colombian recounted his [four-month detention](#) by ICE and eventual deportation from the U.S.
- **US-Iran Geneva Negotiations:** Negotiators reported [constructive progress](#) toward a new diplomatic framework, despite naval threats from Tehran.
- **Lunar New Year in China:** Reports on the world's [largest human mobilization](#) as families celebrate the Year of the Horse with robot-assisted martial arts displays.

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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