

TODAY'S MEDIA TRENDS

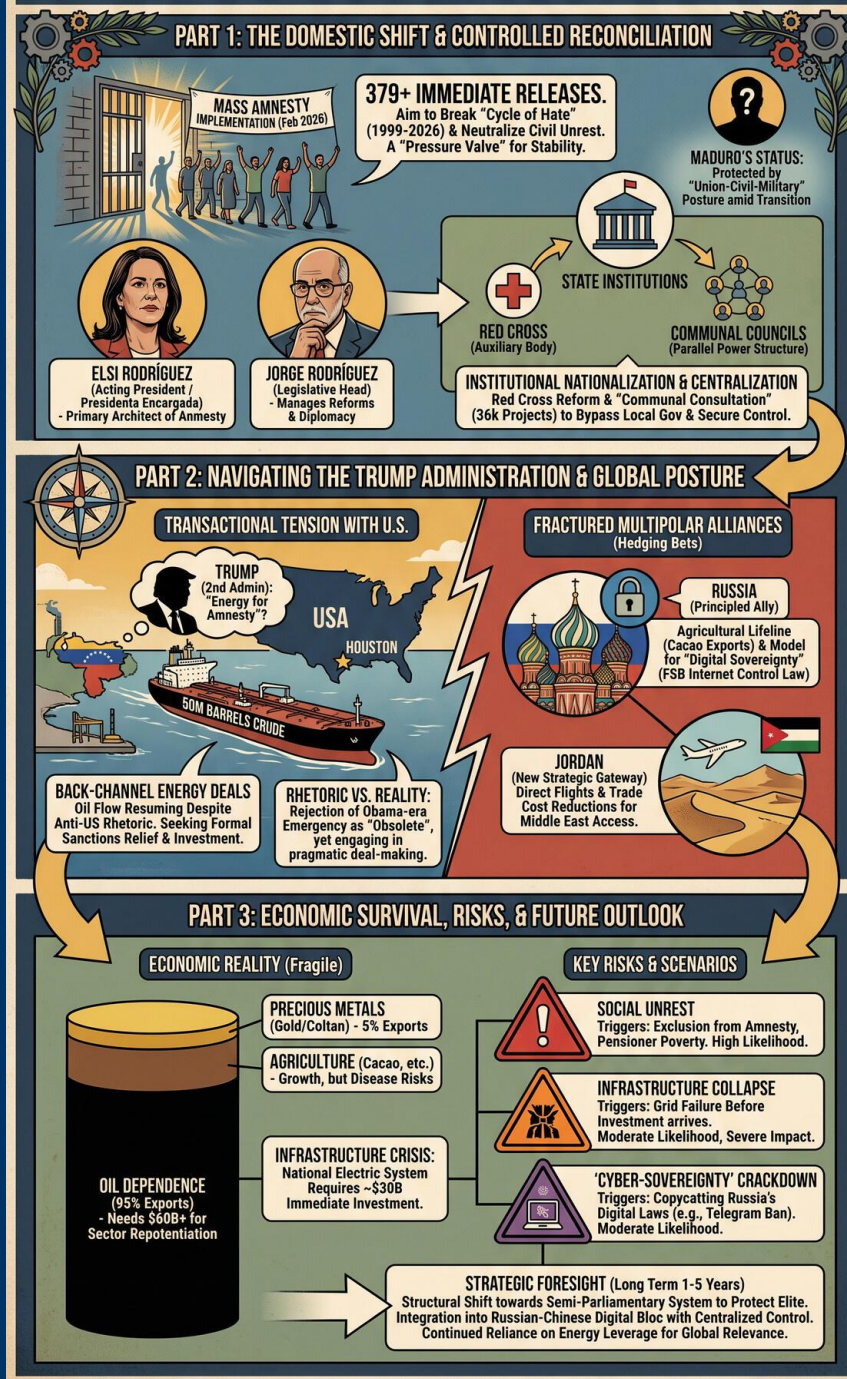
GLOBOVISION

FEBRUARY 21, 2026

THE GDELT PROJECT

THE VENEZUELAN STATE'S CALCULATED TRANSITION: AMNESTY, CONTROL, & GEOPOLITICAL REALIGNMENT WITH THE TRUMP ERA.

A Visual Narrative of Domestic Reconciliation, International Friction, and Strategic Survival (Based on February 2026 Report)



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THE VENEZUELAN STATE INITIATES
A STRUCTURED POLITICAL
TRANSITION VIA A SWEEPING
AMNESTY LAW WHILE NAVIGATING
RENEWED GEOPOLITICAL FRICTION
WITH THE SECOND TRUMP
ADMINISTRATION.

DAY-AT-A-GLANCE

February 21, 2026, marks a pivotal shift in Venezuelan domestic policy as the government aggressively implements the [Amnesty Law](#) promulgated on February 19. This initiative, described by leadership as a move to break a "cycle of hate" lasting since 1999, has resulted in the immediate processing of [379 release measures](#) across Caracas, Barinas, Portuguesa, and Monagas. While framed as a "reconciliation," the underlying subtext suggests an attempt to stabilize the nation's internal security environment to facilitate critical energy agreements with the United States under the [administration of Donald Trump](#). The day's broadcasts emphasize a "union-civil-military" posture intended to protect the [liberty of President Nicolas Maduro](#), suggesting a

period of significant executive vulnerability or transition.

Simultaneously, Venezuela is expanding its economic footprint through a "multipolar" strategy, finalizing trade and aviation agreements with [Jordan](#) and maintaining robust agricultural exports to [Russia](#) despite domestic production challenges. The government is also overhauling institutional frameworks, including a public consultation to reform the [Red Cross Law](#) and reviewing the 2017 "Anti-Hate Law" to ensure it aligns with the new reconciliation narrative. These legal maneuvers coincide with a rejection of the [US national emergency renewal](#), which Foreign Minister Ivan Gil characterized as an obsolete instrument of interference that fails to reflect current regional realities.

MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS

Mass Implementation of the Amnesty Law

- The government launched 379 amnesty measures, with a focus on [371 cases in Caracas](#) and others in rural states like Barinas and Monagas.
- Deputy Stalin Gonzalez detailed legal procedures where lawyers must present cases to tribunals to have [criminal records expunged](#).
- A special commission remains in [permanent session](#) to handle exclusions and ensure the rapid release of prisoners not accused of specific excluded crimes.

US-Venezuela Diplomatic and Energy Tension

- President Donald Trump reportedly affirmed that [50 million barrels](#) of Venezuelan crude are currently destined for Houston as part of a trade resumption.

- Foreign Minister Ivan Gil rejected the US [emergency renewal](#), originally signed by Barack Obama in 2015, calling it a narrative of confrontation.
- Internal debates suggest the need for [hydrocarbon law reforms](#) to accommodate private sector investment and US energy demands.

Institutional Reform and Overhaul

- The National Assembly is holding public consultations to transform the [Red Cross](#) into a formal auxiliary body of the state.
- Jorge Rodríguez announced a review of the [Anti-Hate Law](#) to adapt to the "reconciliation" era.
- A major communal consultation involving [36,416 projects](#) is scheduled for March 8, 2026, to decentralize legislative management.

KEY GOVERNANCE TOPICS

Leadership Dynamics & Governance

- The "Rodríguez siblings" (Jorge and Delsi/ Elsi) appear to be the primary executors of state policy, with Elsi Rodríguez identified as [Acting President](#) (Presidenta Encargada) during the amnesty rollout.
- Mention of a movement to guarantee the "liberty of President Maduro" indicates [internal or external pressures](#) regarding the head of state's status.

Legal Warfare & Regulatory Risk

- The Amnesty Law is being used as a tool to [de-escalate political conflict](#) while maintaining strict exclusions for certain types of violent political crimes.

- In Peru, Interim President [Jose Maria Balcázar](#) faces a trial for fund appropriation, highlighting regional institutional instability.

Macroeconomics & Trade

- Cacao production has grown by [10 percent](#), but producers face disease outbreaks and a lack of state investment to meet Russian demand.
- The "Single Window for Foreign Trade" in Táchira aims to [digitalize and centralize](#) all export procedures to reduce administrative friction.

Cybersecurity & Digital Control

- In Russia, Vladimir Putin signed a law granting the [FSB power](#) to disconnect internet and phone networks by executive decree, signaling a tightening of digital sovereignty.
- Russian authorities plan to [block Telegram](#) on April 1, 2026, due to security concerns among the military and diplomatic corps.

DEEP DIVE: TRENDS AND THEMES

Controlled Reconciliation as Survival Strategy

The rapid implementation of the Amnesty Law serves a dual purpose: it acts as a domestic "pressure valve" to neutralize civil unrest and as a diplomatic signal to the Trump administration that Venezuela is returning to constitutional norms. The framing of this reconciliation as "zero hate" ([cero odio](#)) is a strategic attempt to rebrand the PSUV's image after nearly three decades of "antipolitics." However, the exclusion of certain crimes ensures the state retains

leverage over its most potent political adversaries.

Institutional Nationalization

The proposed reforms to the Red Cross Law signify a broader trend of the state absorbing traditionally independent or international NGOs. By converting the [Red Cross into an auxiliary organ](#) of the public powers, the government is securing control over humanitarian corridors and the distribution of aid, integrating these functions into the "Plan Vuelta a la Patria" and communal healthcare networks.

INTERNAL DYNAMICS & DOMESTIC INSTABILITY

The Venezuelan state appears to be undergoing a transition of internal power centers. While Maduro remains the symbolic leader, **Elsi Rodríguez** and **Jorge Rodríguez** are increasingly portrayed as the active heads of the executive and legislative branches, respectively. This shift is occurring against a backdrop of institutional decay, where "antipolitics" and "hate crimes" are cited as the cause of two decades of [social trauma](#). The communal councils are being mobilized as a secondary power structure to bypass traditional municipal governance, with [36,000 projects](#) being touted as the new face of participatory democracy. Labor unrest is managed through rhetoric about "salaries of hunger" versus the "economic blockade," but the amnesty is clearly intended to prevent these economic grievances from turning into a unified political uprising.

EXTERNAL DYNAMICS & GLOBAL POSTURE

Venezuela is positioning itself within a "fractured multipolar" arena. It remains defiantly anti-Washington in its rhetoric, rejecting the renewal of [Obama-era emergency measures](#), yet it is simultaneously engaging in back-channel energy deals with President Trump. The state is forging alternative alliances in the Middle East, specifically with [Jordan](#) via direct flights and export cost reductions, and maintaining a critical agricultural lifeline with [Russia](#). Regional relations are strained; while Colombia's Petro warns of [electoral fraud](#) in his own country, Venezuela is projecting an image of stable, "post-conflict" governance to attract foreign capital into its Special Economic Zones.

THE ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT

The economy remains heavily reliant on oil while desperately attempting to diversify through Special Economic Zones and agricultural exports. Capital flows are restricted by sanctions, leading the government to seek "real data" via digital censuses to manage production quotas. Market sentiment is cautiously optimistic regarding US oil deals, but domestic infrastructure, particularly the [national electric system](#), requires an estimated \$30 billion in immediate investment to sustain industrial growth.

- **Oil & Gas:** Trump reports [50 million barrels](#) of crude in transit to the US; Venezuela requires \$60 billion for sector repotentialization.

- **Agriculture:** Cacao exports to Russia are at a record high, though production is threatened by "witch's broom" disease in [Sucre state](#).
- **Trade Infrastructure:** Táchira trade window created to facilitate [non-petroleum exports](#) and ZEE development.
- **Precious Metals:** The state continues to focus on gold and [coltan exports](#), which currently represent only 5% of net exports compared to oil's 95%.
- **Aviation:** Rutaca Airlines increases frequency in [Bolívar state](#) to 114 monthly flights to stimulate regional tourism and investment.

LEADERSHIP CHANGES

Leadership roles are being clarified as the state moves toward a post-crisis governance model, with the Rodríguez faction taking preeminence.

- **Elsi (Delsi) Rodríguez:** Termed the **Presidenta Encargada**, she is the primary architect of the Amnesty Law and the current public face of executive decisions [regarding reconciliation](#).
- **Jorge Rodríguez:** Remains the dominant legislative force, managing [legal reform consultations](#) and US-diplomatic communication.
- **Jose Maria Balcázar:** The interim president of Peru is currently **on trial** for misappropriation of funds, signaling his likely political exit [before the June deadline](#).
- **Angel Prado:** As Minister for Communes, he is leading the mobilization for the [March 8 elections](#), indicating a rise in his domestic political profile.

EDITORIAL POSTURE & STORY HIERARCHY

The network's editorial hierarchy is dominated by the **Amnesty Law**, which is presented as an unalloyed success and a gift of the state to its citizens. This is followed by stories of **national productivity** (Cacao, Táchira trade) to project economic resilience. Cultural news, such as the **death of Willy Colón** and the ALS diagnosis of actor **Eric Dane**, is used to fill significant airtime, likely as a distraction from the more sensitive details of the political transition. A conspicuous omission is any mention of opposition leader Maria Corina Machado by name, although she is indirectly maligned by the Kicosis program as part of the "Maria Corinos" group that supposedly [hates the people](#).

GEOPOLITICAL FRAMING

The world is framed as a hostile arena where Venezuela is finally finding "respect" through legal reconciliation and energy leverage. The US is portrayed as a transactional foe-turned-partner under Trump, while regional neighbors like Peru and Chile are framed as chaotic or corrupt.

- **United States:** Portrayed as a declining but necessary partner. Trump is framed as a **strong but transactional leader** who is willing to bypass international debt norms for [energy security](#).
- **Russia:** Framed as a **principled ally** and a vital market for non-oil exports, as well as a model for [sovereign digital control](#).
- **Peru:** Framed as a **failed state** in a state of chronic "presidential crisis," having had eight presidents in ten years [due to corruption](#).

- **Colombia:** Framed as **unstable**, with President Petro portrayed as a leader [fearing fraud](#) and seeking Venezuelan oil cooperation to survive.
- **Jordan:** Framed as a **new strategic gateway** for Venezuelan trade in the Middle East [under Royal sponsorship](#).

INFORMATION WARFARE ENVIRONMENT

The state is actively seeding a "meta-narrative" of **Reconciliation vs. Hate**. By labeling the violence of the last 26 years as a product of "antipolitics" and "external influence," the government is attempting to absolve the ruling party of its role in institutional decay. The use of programs like **Kicosis** to attack journalists and specific social media "laboratories" suggests an ongoing operation to discredit independent information flows while domesticating international bodies like the [Red Cross](#). The Russia-style internet law signed by Putin is presented as a [sovereign security measure](#), potentially seeding the ground for similar digital crackdown legislation in Venezuela.

HYPOTHESES AND FUTURE OUTLOOK

- **Energy for Amnesty:** The US will likely formalize the removal of specific sanctions in exchange for the continued release of high-profile political prisoners under the [Amnesty Law framework](#).
- **Communal Power Shift:** The March 8 consultation will be used to justify the [defunding of municipal governments](#) in favor of state-aligned communal councils.

- **Maduro's Transition:** The framing of Maduro as needing "liberty" suggests a possible [exit ramp](#) where he retains immunity while the Rodríguez faction takes full administrative control.

STRATEGIC FORESIGHT

Short Term (1-4 Weeks): Continued daily releases of prisoners under the Amnesty Law. Completion of the [Red Cross Law](#) overhaul. Potential social media blackouts following the Russian model if amnesty leads to protests.

Medium Term (1-6 Months): Relaunch of the [Special Economic Zones](#) with US and Chinese investment. Implementation of the new Hydrocarbon Law to allow for 100% foreign control of specific wells.

Long Term (1-5 Years): Structural shift from a presidential to a [semi-parliamentary system](#) to protect the ruling elite from future prosecution. Integration into a Russian-Chinese digital bloc with centralized internet control.

RISK ASSESSMENT

The primary risks center on the fragility of the reconciliation process and the potential for external shocks to derail the energy-based economic recovery.

- **Risk of Social Unrest:** Triggers include the exclusion of popular activists from the amnesty or a failure to address [pensioner poverty](#). Likelihood: High. Impact: Moderate to High instability. Mitigations: Accelerated communal project funding and media censorship.

- **Infrastructure Collapse:** Triggers include a catastrophic failure of the [electric grid](#) before investment arrives. Likelihood: Moderate. Impact: Severe economic paralysis. Mitigations: Emergency credit lines from BRICS or the US Treasury.
- **Regional Conflict Spillover:** Triggers include [electoral violence in Colombia](#) or a total collapse of the Peruvian government. Likelihood: Moderate. Impact: Refugee surges and border militarization. Mitigations: Diplomatic mediation via the Vatican.
- **Cyber-Sovereignty Crackdown:** Triggers include the [April 1 Telegram ban](#) in Russia causing copycat laws in Caracas. Likelihood: Moderate. Impact: Loss of business communication and increased isolation. Mitigations: Development of domestic digital platforms.
- **Cacao Sector Collapse:** Triggers include the failure to control [agricultural diseases](#) while relying on exports to Russia. Likelihood: High. Impact: Localized rural poverty and loss of foreign currency. Mitigations: Distribution of organic fertilizers and state technical assistance.

GAPS & BLIND SPOTS

The broadcasts provide a one-sided view of the amnesty and omit critical details about the current status of the opposition and the real state of national debt.

- The exact location and **legal status of Nicolas Maduro** is obscured behind rhetoric of "union-civil-military" support.
- There is no mention of **hyperinflation or specific exchange rates**, only vague references to "diferencial cambiario."

- The **status of the \$4 billion debt** mentioned by Trump is not clarified in terms of repayment terms or source [of funds](#).
- The **exclusions of the Amnesty Law** are mentioned but not detailed, leaving it unclear which political prisoners are being permanently disqualified from the process.

CONTRARIAN NARRATIVE SCENARIOS

- **The Amnesty is a Purge:** Rather than reconciliation, the amnesty could be a strategic move to clear out less dangerous prisoners to make room for a [new wave of arrests](#) against the "radical" opposition that refuses to join the Rodríguez dialogue.
- **Trump-Maduro Backchannel as Stalling Tactic:** The energy deals may not be a sign of normalization but a stalling tactic by the Venezuelan state to [rebuild oil capacity](#) before a future pivot back to complete isolationism once revenues stabilize.
- **Black Swan Event:** The [sudden death of a high-profile musician](#) like Willy Colón could be exploited to distract from a simultaneous secret military trial or an unannounced leadership purge.

RECOMMENDATIONS & IMPLICATIONS

For Statecraft/Public Sector:

- Closely monitor the [Amnesty Commission's session](#) for signs of factional splits between the military and the Rodríguez faction.
- Anticipate a regional push for a "Latin American Confederation" modeled on the [European Union](#) as proposed in international news segments.

- Prepare for [Russian-influenced digital regulations](#) that could impact regional data sovereignty.

For Private Sector/Investors:

- Focus on [Special Economic Zones](#) in Táchira and Bolívar, which are being fast-tracked for digital trade and increased airline connectivity.
- Evaluate the regulatory risks associated with the [nationalization of humanitarian aid](#) via the new Red Cross Law.
- Invest in agricultural tech to combat [cacao diseases](#), as the sector is a priority for Russian trade but lacks internal expertise.

LEGISLATIVE ROUNDUP

The legislative agenda is currently the most active component of the state, focusing on the dismantling of conflict-era laws and the centralization of institutional power.

- **BILLS DISCUSSED/DEBATED:**
 - **Amnesty Law for Democratic Coexistence:** Promulgated Feb 19, currently in [mass implementation](#) to release non-violent political prisoners.
 - **Red Cross Reform Law:** Seeks to integrate the [Red Cross](#) as a state auxiliary organ.
 - **Hydrocarbon Law Reform (2026):** Proposed to [diversify energy investment](#) and allow for foreign-led exploration.
 - **Anti-Hate Law Review:** A proposed [softening of 2017 legislation](#) to align with the reconciliation narrative.

• HEARINGS & PRESS EVENTS:

- **Commission for Amnesty Oversight:** Permanent session led by [Jorge Arriaza](#).
- **Táchira Trade Window Summit:** Press event by [Minister Coromoto Godoy](#) to launch digital export portals.
- **Miranda Communal Consultation Launch:** Campaign for the [March 8 vote](#).

KEY STORIES

- **Amnesty Measures rollout:** 379 individuals targeted for [immediate processing](#) across Venezuela.
- **Trump Oil Affirmation:** US President claims [50 million barrels](#) of crude are moving to Houston.
- **Red Cross Consultation:** National Assembly seeks to [state-align](#) the humanitarian organization.
- **Russian Digital Law:** Putin signs law allowing FSB to [shut down internet](#) and blocks Telegram for April 1.
- **Peru Presidential Trial:** Interim leader [Jose Maria Balcázar](#) accused of fund misappropriation.
- **Jordanian Trade Overture:** Venezuela and Jordan agree to [direct flights](#) and trade cost reductions.
- **Cacao Production Crisis:** sucre state crops hit by disease; record [exports to Russia](#) at risk.
- **Death of Willy Colón:** The 75-year-old salsa legend [passes away](#) in New York from respiratory issues.
- **Miranda March 8 Consultation:** Campaign begins for 36,416 projects across [1,140 tables](#).

- **Táchira Trade Window:** Minister Godoy launches a [digital export window](#) in the border state.
- **Neymar Jr. Recovery:** Player confirms he will stay in [Santos FC](#) following knee surgery to prep for World Cup 2026.
- **US-Cuba Vatican Talks:** Mike Hammer meets Holy See officials to [discuss Cuba's status](#) under the Trump administration.
- **Death of Eric Dane:** The actor [dies at 53](#) from ALS complications.
- **Mexican Robot Dogs:** Guadalupe municipality acquires [robots for surveillance](#) during the 2027 World Cup.
- **Basketball Education Pact:** Ministry of Education and Basketball Federation sign [convenio for 20,000 schools](#).
- **Pet Psychology segments:** In-depth advice on [dog trauma](#) and cat behaviorism featured on AM show.

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.

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