

Semi-Weekly MLP Data Update

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Introduction

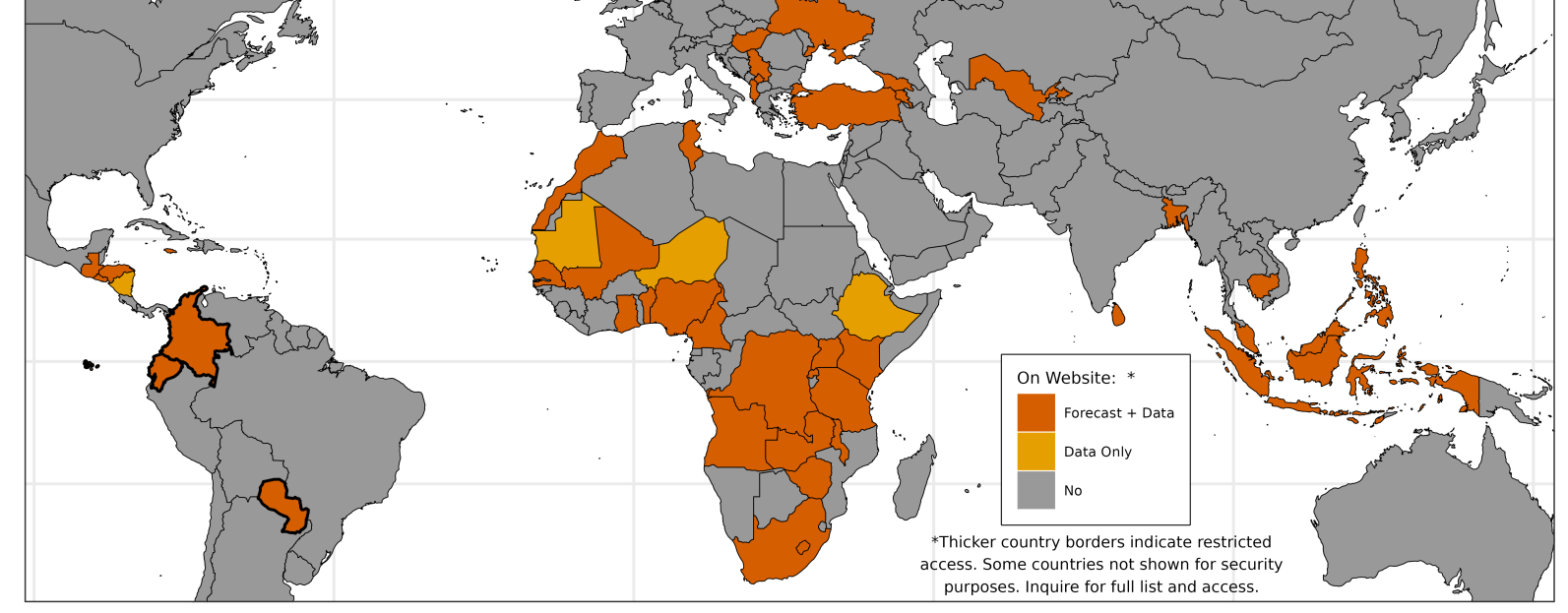
We have updated data and forecasts for Paraguay, Belarus, Sri Lanka, Benin, Zimbabwe, and Tanzania. In these memos, we describe any major events that were detected by our data since the last update. We hope that this information can be useful for monitoring conditions across countries. We also review any notable forecasts made during the last data update and highlight any notable events we are forecasting over the next seven months. Importantly, we only highlight predictions of relatively large events from models with relatively high accuracy scores. In some cases, models with lower performance predict major events, or models with high performance predict smaller events, but we do not highlight these predictions. We encourage you to visit the site to a more thorough investigation.

Note: We have recently completed a review of all local sources that we are scraping to assess their alignment/bias. When we have a larger volume of news from state-aligned sources, we apply weighting that over-represents news from more independent sources. We are currently applying weights to Belarus.

MLP Website: [here](#)

PW Protected Page: [here](#) (email jspr@sas.upenn.edu for access)

Current country coverage



Paraguay Update

For Paraguay, this update includes coverage through the end of November 2022. Since the data was last updated for August, we saw increased levels of reporting on arrests in September, capturing reporting on the arrest of several prominent members of the Paraguayan People’s Union (UPP) criminal gang; defamation in September, capturing reporting on the legal proceedings against presidential candidate José Luis Chilavert and Ombudsman Miguel Godoy on defamation charges; and non-lethal violence in November, capturing reporting on attacks on two different police stations.

Forecasts

Over the next seven months, we are not predicting any major events.

Actual vs Predicted Values

In the last update, we did not predict any major events in months covered by this update.

Benin Update

For Benin, this update includes coverage through the end of November 2022. Since the data was last updated for July, we did not see significant increases in reporting on any of the events we track.

Forecasts

Over the next seven months, we are not predicting any major events.

Actual vs Predicted Values

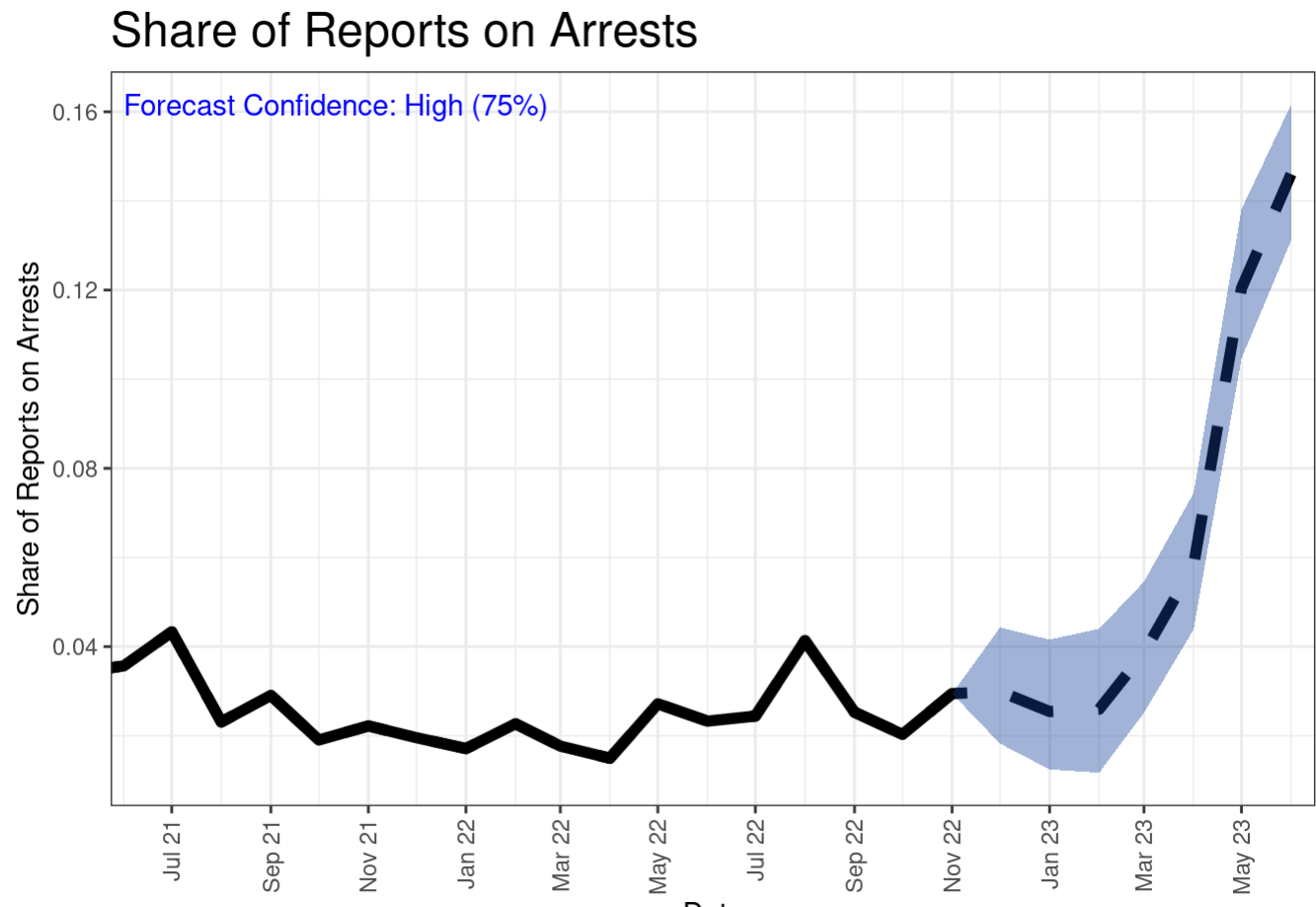
In the last update, we did not predict any major events in months covered by this update.

Sri Lanka Update

For Sri Lanka, this update includes coverage through the end of November 2022. Since the data was last updated for August, we saw slightly increased levels of reporting on corruption in November, capturing reporting on allegations of massive corruption against a high-profile businesswoman (our models were predicting a large increase, but the actual increase was smaller than predicted); and increased levels of reporting on legal changes in October, capturing reporting on amendments to the country’s constitution.

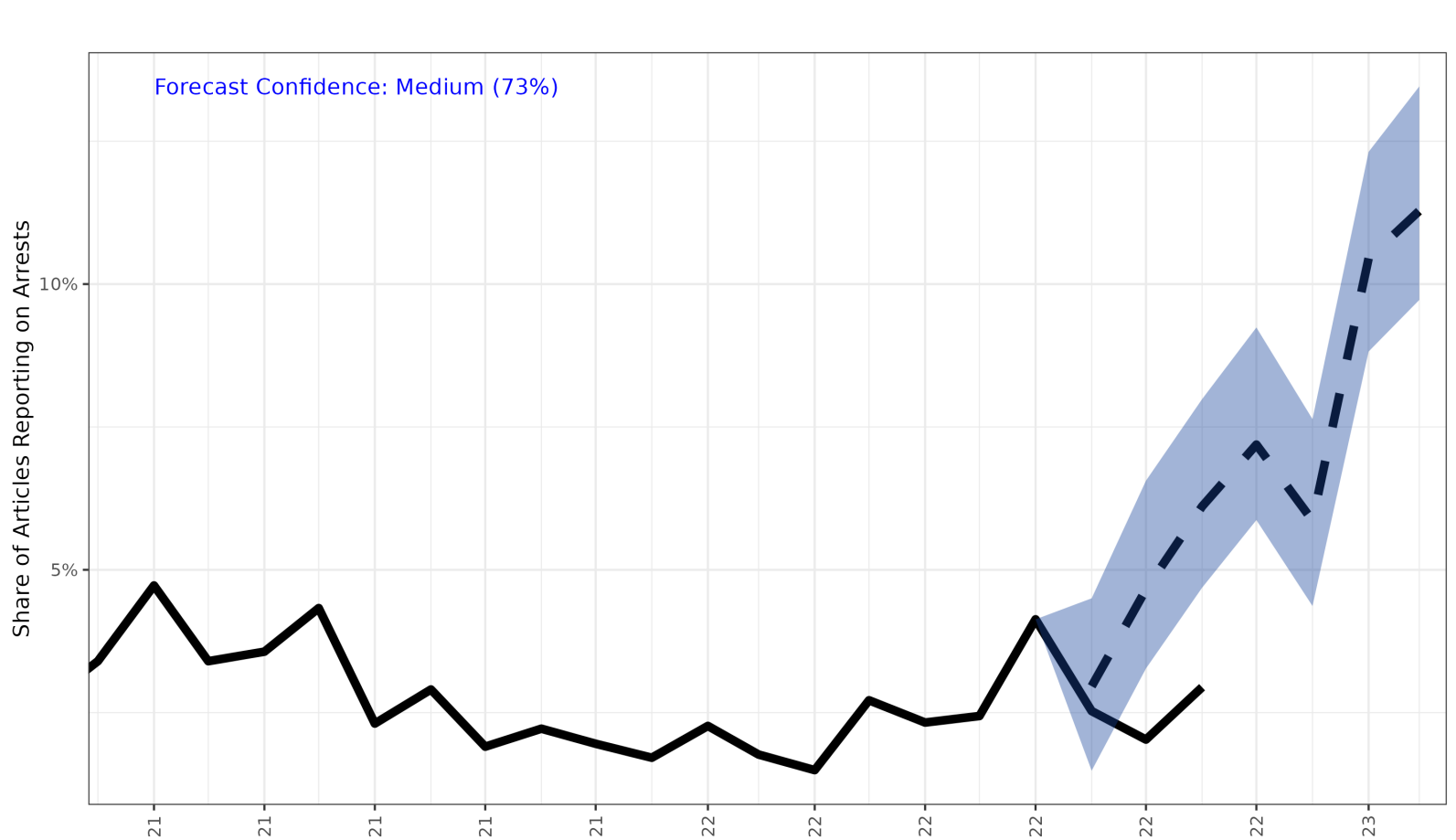
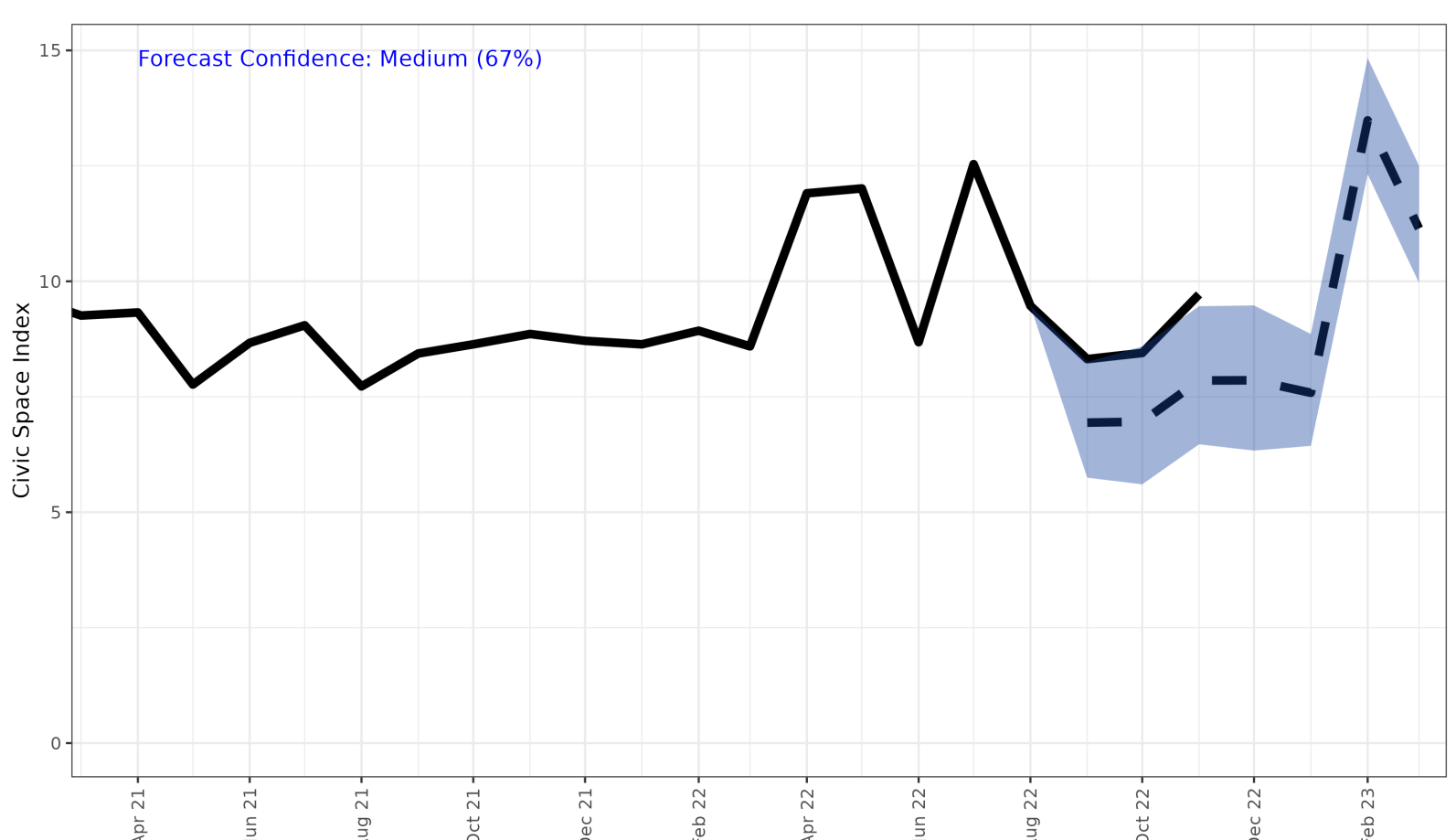
Forecasts

We are predicting a large increase in arrests in Q2 2023.



Actual vs Predicted Values

In our last update, we predicted a spike in the Civic Space Index and Arrests in Q1 2023. In Sri Lanka, the Civic Space Index is highly correlated with changes in violence and arrests. Our models are still predicting these increases to occur, however, we now expect them to come in Q2 rather than Q1. Furthermore, the forecast confidence for the Civic Space Index models has fallen to below our minimum confidence threshold.



Zimbabwe Update

For Zimbabwe, this update includes coverage through the end of November 2022. Since the data was last updated for July, we did not see significant increases in reporting on any of the events we track.

Forecasts

Over the next seven months, we are not predicting any major events.

Actual vs Predicted Values

In the last update, we did not predict any major events in months covered by this update.

Tanzania Update

For Tanzania, this update includes coverage through the end of November 2022. Since the data was last updated for July, we saw increased levels of reporting on activism in September and October, capturing reporting on various NGO activities, including conservation efforts around Global Ismaili CIVIC Day.

Forecasts

Over the next seven months, we are not predicting any major events.

Actual vs Predicted Values

In the last update, we did not predict any major events in months covered by this update.