

# Semi-Weekly MLP Data Update

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## Introduction

We have data and forecasts for one new country: Azerbaijan. We have updated data and forecasts for Armenia, Belarus, Indonesia, Malaysia, Niger, Morocco, Nigeria, DR Congo, Uganda, Tunisia, Mozambique, and El Salvador. We are forecasting major events for *Indonesia, Morocco, and El Salvador*.

Note: Since our last forecasts for these countries, we have made improvements to our measures of several events. Our new measures remove articles that report on events that are not directly relevant to civic space. For example, articles reporting on arrests that involve regular criminal activity are no longer included in the *Arrests* measure. For this reason, the forecasts made in past months are not directly comparable to the updated data. The affected categories are: *Arrests, Cooperation, Corruption, Defamation Cases, Legal Actions, Legal Changes, Purges, Raids, Political threats, Lethal violence, and Non-lethal violence*. For more information, see the *Recent Pipeline Updates* on [our web page](#).

In these memos, we describe any major events that were detected in 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 large events from models with high accuracy scores.

We encourage you to visit the MLP website to explore all of our data, forecasts, and recent pipeline updates.

MLP Website: [here](#)

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

Dashboards and Pipeline Updates: [here](#)

Current country coverage



## New Country: Azerbaijan

Azerbaijan is a new country. Our data includes coverage through the end of March 2023. Over the last seven months, we saw increases in reporting on:

- Civic Activism and Protests in November–January:** Environmental activists engaged in several activities, including monitoring and protesting illegal mining by Armenians around Karabakh.
- Purge/Replace in December–January:** There were several high-profile resignations and firings, including the Minister of Finance and the President of the Supreme Majlis of the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic.
- Raids in September, January:** In September, the Azerbaijani Army worked to guard against subversive activities in recently occupied territory. In January, raids uncovered a grenade launcher in a nearby district.
- Lethal and Non-lethal Violence in September:** Casualties were reported after military action on the Armenian-Azerbaijani border.
- Cooperation in December:** The Azerbaijani government held meetings with local groups in newly occupied territory and with Russia over the presence of peacekeeping forces.
- Threats in March:** Azerbaijani officials issued threats against illegal movement of ammunition and personnel mines from Armenia to Karabakh.

## Forecast

Our models are not predicting any major events over the next seven months. See the CSEWS dashboard for a list of events that we can forecast accurately in this country.

## Armenia Update

For Armenia, our data includes coverage through the end of February 2023. Since the data was last updated through September, we saw increases in reporting on:

- Legal Actions in February:** There were trials in a number of high profile cases, including a judge and a group of military officers.
- Legal Changes in December:** Parliament introduced changes to a host of laws governing the state's military and security apparatus.

## Forecasts

Our models are not predicting any major events over the next seven months. See the CSEWS dashboard for a list of events that we can forecast accurately in this country. Our CSEWS forecasts are not predicting any major events over the next seven months.

## DR Congo Update

For DR Congo, our data includes coverage through the end of March 2023. Since the data was last updated through December, we saw increases in reporting on:

- Election Activity and Irregularities in February:** The government and civil society groups conducted a major voter registration drive in the conflict-affected Eastern region of the country ahead of the December 2023 elections. These efforts were interrupted by insecurity, prompting calls for postponement and extensions of the registration period.

## Forecasts

Our models are not predicting any major events over the next seven months. See the CSEWS dashboard for a list of events that we can forecast accurately in this country.

## Uganda Update

For Uganda, our data includes coverage through the end of March 2023. Since the data was last updated through November, we saw increases in reporting on:

- Arrests in January:** An opposition MP was briefly arrested by the army while visiting local leaders in his constituency. Four journalists that reported on the event were also arrested. Separately, the government arrested a number of suspected members of the ADF rebel group and a group of opposition supporters accused of unlawful assembly.
- Legal Changes in March:** Parliament introduced and passed a draconian 'anti-homosexuality' bill. The bill was awaiting approval by the President.
- Corruption and Purge/Replace in March:** Several ruling party officials were implicated in a major corruption scandal, in which iron sheets intended for vulnerable households as part of a government welfare program were stolen. The scandal prompted widespread pressure for resignations.
- Lethal Violence in January:** The Ugandan army attacked and killed a group ADF rebels in a district bordering DR Congo.

## Forecasts

Our models are not predicting any major events over the next seven months. See the CSEWS dashboard for a list of events that we can forecast accurately in this country.

## Mozambique Update

For Mozambique, our data includes coverage through the end of March 2023. Since the data was last updated through December, we saw increases in reporting on:

- Purge/Replace in January:** President Nyusi dismissed several ministers, including the Deputy Health Minister and four Secretaries of State.
- Natural Disasters in February:** Cyclone Freddy struck the country.
- Election Irregularities in March:** Against opposition protests, district elections were postponed by the government until September.

## Forecasts

Our models are not predicting any major events over the next seven months. See the CSEWS dashboard for a list of events that we can forecast accurately in this country.

## Nigeria Update

For Nigeria, our data includes coverage through the end of March 2023. Since the data was last updated through December, we saw increases in reporting on:

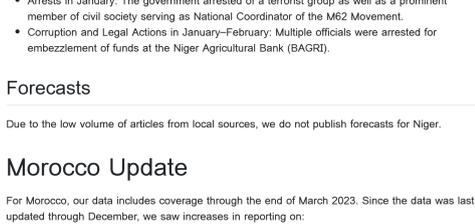
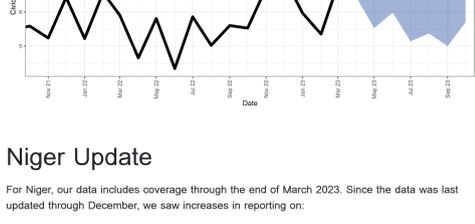
- Purge/Replace in January:** Two governors reshuffled their cabinets. Two political parties experienced internal struggles resulting major from figures being accused of wrongdoing by party members. The Director of Civil Society Organisations was also fired from her post.
- Election Activity and Irregularities in February:** Nigeria held general elections, with both parties making accusations of vote rigging.
- Political Threats in February–March:** Several candidates threatened legal action over election irregularities and security officials warned against spreading false information about the election that could incite violence.
- Troop Mobilization in February:** Security forces were mobilized to ensure the physical security of the elections.

## Forecasts

Our standard forecasts are not predicting any major events over the next seven months.

In December, our standard forecasts predicted a small increase in the Civic Space Index in Q1 2023. Instead, we saw a small decrease. This may be due to a major update to the measures included in the CSI discussed under the *Recent Pipeline Updates* on our web page.

Our standard forecasts are now predicting a small increase in the CSI for Q2. See the CSEWS dashboard for a list of events that we can forecast accurately in this country.



## Niger Update

For Niger, our data includes coverage through the end of March 2023. Since the data was last updated through December, we saw increases in reporting on:

- Arrests in January:** The government arrested of a terrorist group as well as a prominent member of civil society serving as National Coordinator of the M62 Movement.
- Corruption and Legal Actions in January–February:** Multiple officials were arrested for embezzlement of funds at the Niger Agricultural Bank (BAGRI).

## Forecasts

Due to the low volume of articles from local sources, we do not publish forecasts for Niger.

## Morocco Update

For Morocco, our data includes coverage through the end of March 2023. Since the data was last updated through December, we saw increases in reporting on:

- Legal Actions in January:** An international ISIS terror cell was dismantled in a joint operation with Spanish police.
- Corruption in January:** Employees of a major commercial bank were convicted of embezzlement.
- Troop Mobilization in February:** The Royal Army was deployed to guard a game played for the African Confederation Cup in Rabat.

## Forecasts

Our standard forecasts are not predicting any major events over the next seven months. Our CSEWS forecasts are predicting shocks to *Civic Activism, Corruption, and Legal Changes* over the next seven months. See the CSEWS dashboard for a list of events that we can forecast accurately in this country.

## Tunisia Update

For Tunisia, our data includes coverage through the end of March 2023. Since the data was last updated through February, we saw increases in reporting on:

- Troop Mobilization in March:** Security forces deployed around Parliament to prevent a march by the National Redemption Front (NRF).

## Forecasts

Our models are not predicting any major events over the next seven months. See the CSEWS dashboard for a list of events that we can forecast accurately in this country.

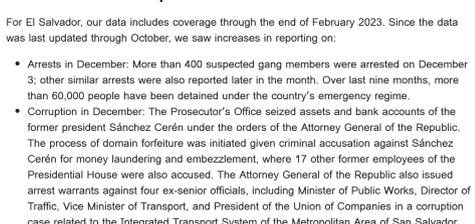
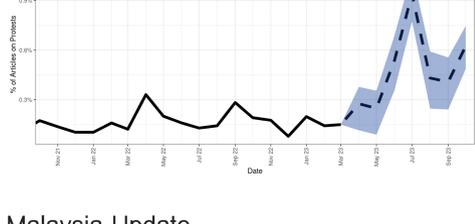
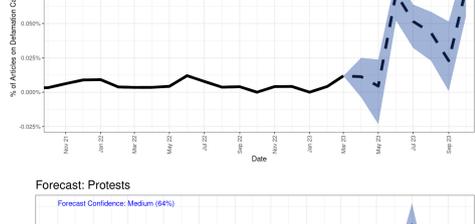
## Indonesia Update

For Indonesia, our data includes coverage through the end of March 2023. Since the data was last updated through December, we saw increases in reporting on:

- Arrests in January:** The anti-corruption commission (KPK) arrested the Governor of Papua Luke Enembe on suspicion of graft.
- Election Irregularities in March:** The State Court of Jakarta sided with a small political party to force two-year delays in the 2024 elections. Appeals to this case were ongoing.

## Forecasts

In December, our standard forecasts predicted increases in the *CSI, Raids, Lethal Violence, and Non-Lethal Violence* in Q2. Consistent with these predictions, our updated forecasting models are predicting increases in *Raids* in Q2 and the *CSI* in Q3. These updated models are also predicting increases in *Defamation Cases* in Q2–Q3 and *Protests* in Q3. Also consistent with the December forecasts, our updated models are still predicting increases in *Lethal Violence* and *Non-Lethal Violence*, although the accuracy of the updated models is lower than the December models, due to the major update to these measures (discussed under the *Recent Pipeline Updates* on our web page). See the CSEWS dashboard for a list of events that we can forecast accurately in this country.



## Malaysia Update

For Malaysia, our data includes coverage through the end of March 2023. Since the data was last updated through December, we saw increases in reporting on:

- Irregular Transitions in January:** The Deputy Chief Minister of the Sabah government attempted to oust the president of his party.

## Forecasts

Our models are not predicting any major events over the next seven months. See the CSEWS dashboard for a list of events that we can forecast accurately in this country.

## El Salvador Update

For El Salvador, our data includes coverage through the end of February 2023. Since the data was last updated through October, we saw increases in reporting on:

- Arrests in December:** More than 400 suspected gang members were arrested on December 3; other similar arrests were also reported later in the month. Over last nine months, more than 60,000 arrests have been detained under the country's emergency regime.
- Corruption in December:** The Prosecutor's Office seized assets and bank accounts of the former president Sánchez Cerén under the orders of the Attorney General of the Republic. The process of domain forfeiture was initiated given criminal accusation against Sánchez Cerén for money laundering and embezzlement, where 17 other former employees of the Presidential House were also accused. The Attorney General of the Republic also issued arrest warrants against four ex-senior officials, including Minister of Public Works, Director of Traffic, Vice Minister of Transport, and President of the Metropolitan Area of San Salvador.
- Civic Activism in December:** Relatives of the disappeared, members of the Search Block, and various human rights organisations came to the Legislative Assembly to ask for help for 42 disappeared victims.
- Troop mobilization in December:** As part of the fifth phase of the governmental Territorial Control Plan, at least 8,500 members of the Armed Forces and 1,500 agents of the National Civil Police (PNC) were mobilized in the municipality of Soyapango. More than a thousand members of the army and the PNC were deployed in the Tutunichapa community to actively extract and arrest criminals from the community.

## Forecasts

Our standard forecasts are not predicting any major events over the next seven months. Our CSEWS forecasts are predicting a shock to *Arrests* over the next seven months. See the CSEWS dashboard for a list of events that we can forecast accurately in this country.



Forecast: Protests

