

# Semi-Weekly MLP Data Update

AUTHOR  
DevLab@Penn

PUBLISHED  
May 15, 2023

Table of contents

[Introduction](#)  
[Angola Update](#)  
[Benin Update](#)  
[Ethiopia Update](#)  
[Ghana Update](#)  
[Mauritania Update](#)  
[Tanzania Update](#)  
[India Update](#)

## Introduction

We have updated data and forecasts for Angola, Benin, Ghana, Tanzania, and India. We have updated data for Ethiopia and Mauritania. We are forecasting major events for Angola, Ghana, and Tanzania. We are applying weighting for India and Angola.

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.

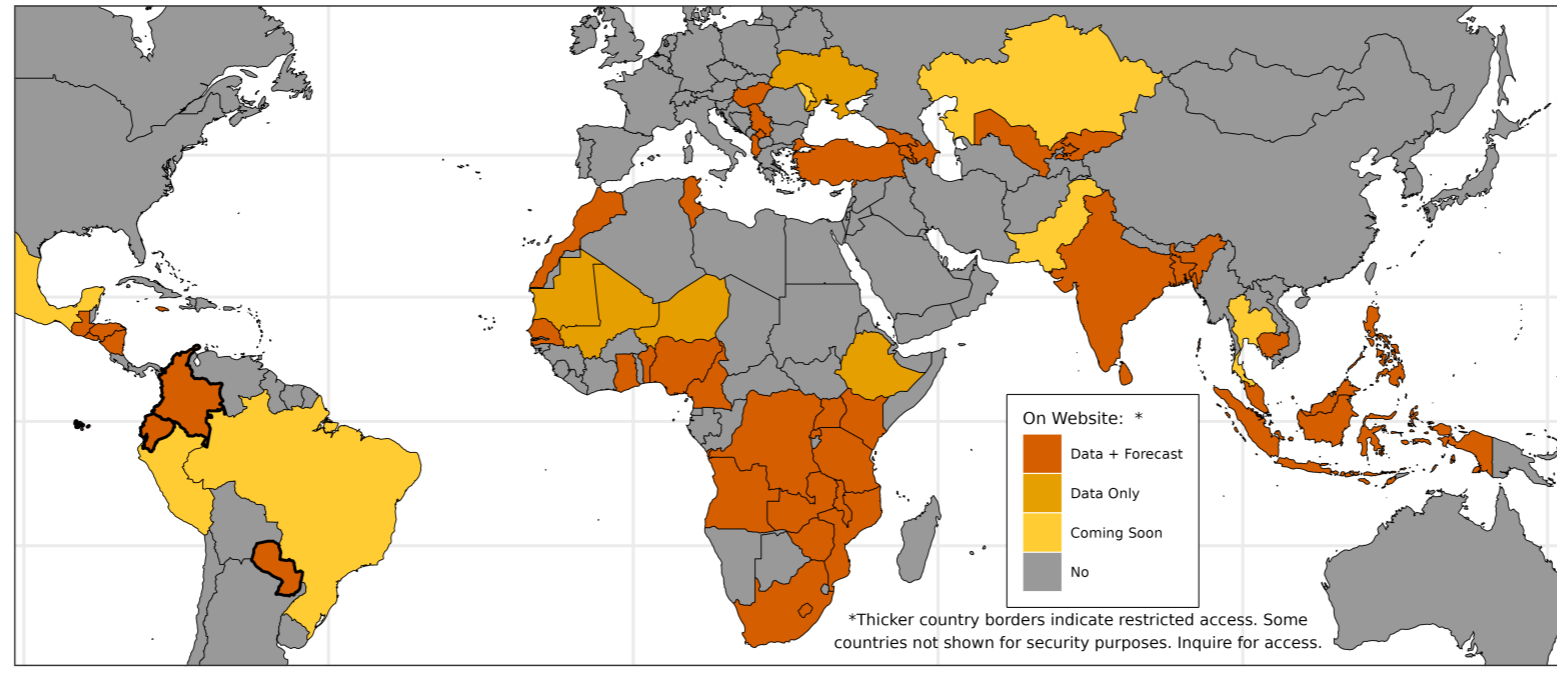
We encourage you to visit the MLP website to explore all of our data, forecasts, and recent pipeline updates.

MLP Website: [here](#)

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

Dashboards and Pipeline Updates: [here](#)

Current country coverage



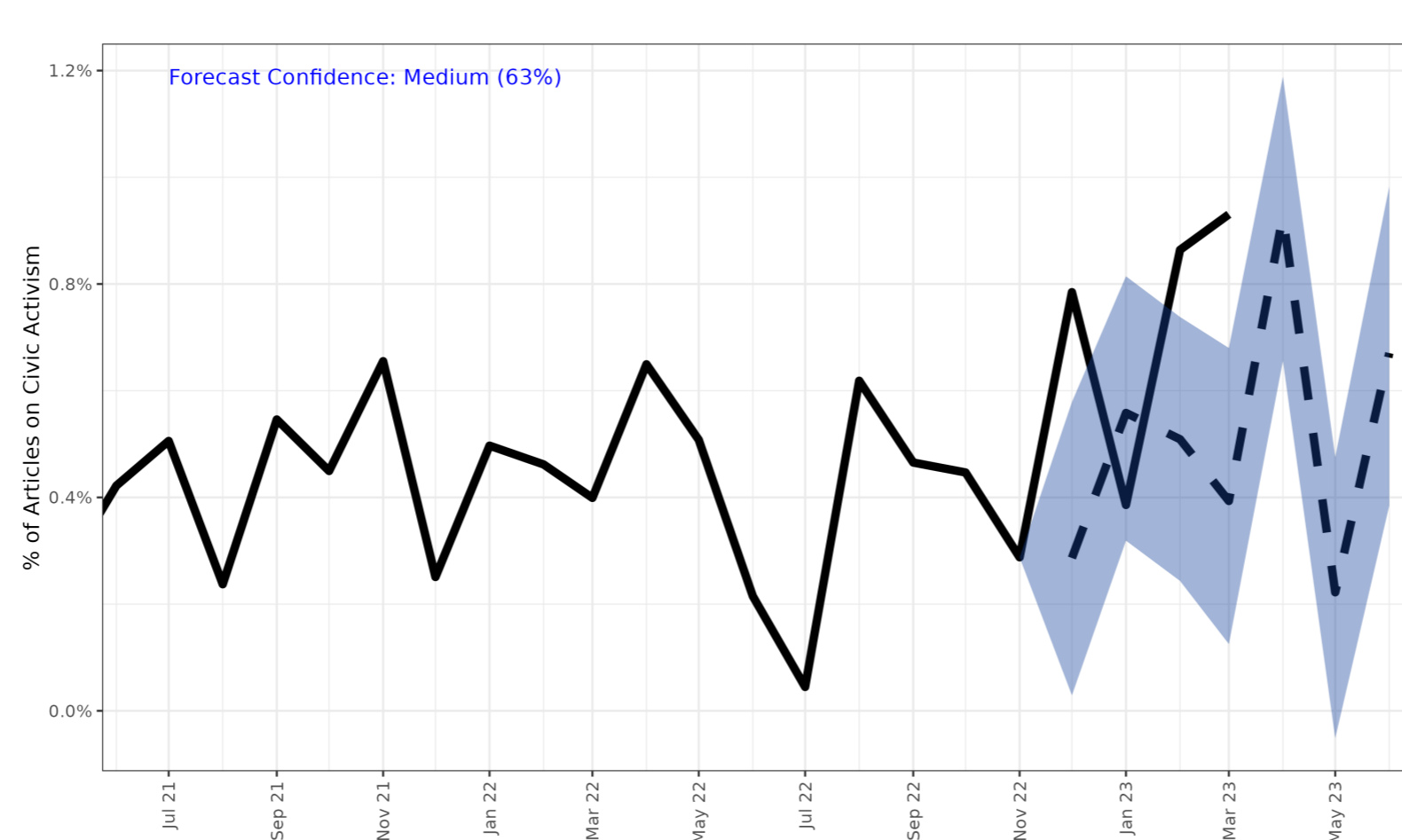
## Angola Update

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

- Civic Activism in February-March: Activists protested a wave of evictions and demolitions in Luanda, restrictions on the right to assembly, and the prolonged detention of the activist Tanaice Neutro. Another prominent activist was released from detention after receiving a suspended sentence.
- Purge/Replace February-March: The president of the Court of Auditors and the president of the Supreme Court resigned under suspicion of corruption, and 16 ambassadors were replaced.
- Raids in January: Police raided two criminal organization running scams on social media by impersonating government officials.

## Forecasts

In December, our standard forecasts predicted an increase in the Civic Activism in Q2 2023. Consistent with these predictions, we saw an increase in Civic Activism, although it occurred in Q1.



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

## Benin Update

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

- Arrests in December: Journalist Virgile Ahouansè was arrested after he made public an investigation into extrajudicial executions by security forces.
- Election Activity and Irregularities in January: Parliamentary elections were held, and the Beninese Constitutional Court rejected appeals from opposition parties questioning the results.
- State of Emergency in February: Six localities in northern Benin were subject to curfews because of activities by armed groups.
- Purge/Replace in February and April: The person in charge of public procurement (PRMP) of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation resigned after expressing disapproval of procurement practices. Several government ministers also resigned after being elected to Parliament. In April, the President reshuffled his council of ministers.

## 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.

## Ethiopia Update

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

- Troop Mobilization in January: Major troop withdrawals occurred as peace agreements were implemented.
- Censorship in February: The government was accused of blocking press access to Somali region.
- Legal Changes in March: Ethiopian lawmakers approved a Digital Identity Proclamation bill into law.
- Natural Disasters in March: Several regions were affected by disasters, including deadly flooding and droughts and a cholera outbreak.

## Forecasts

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

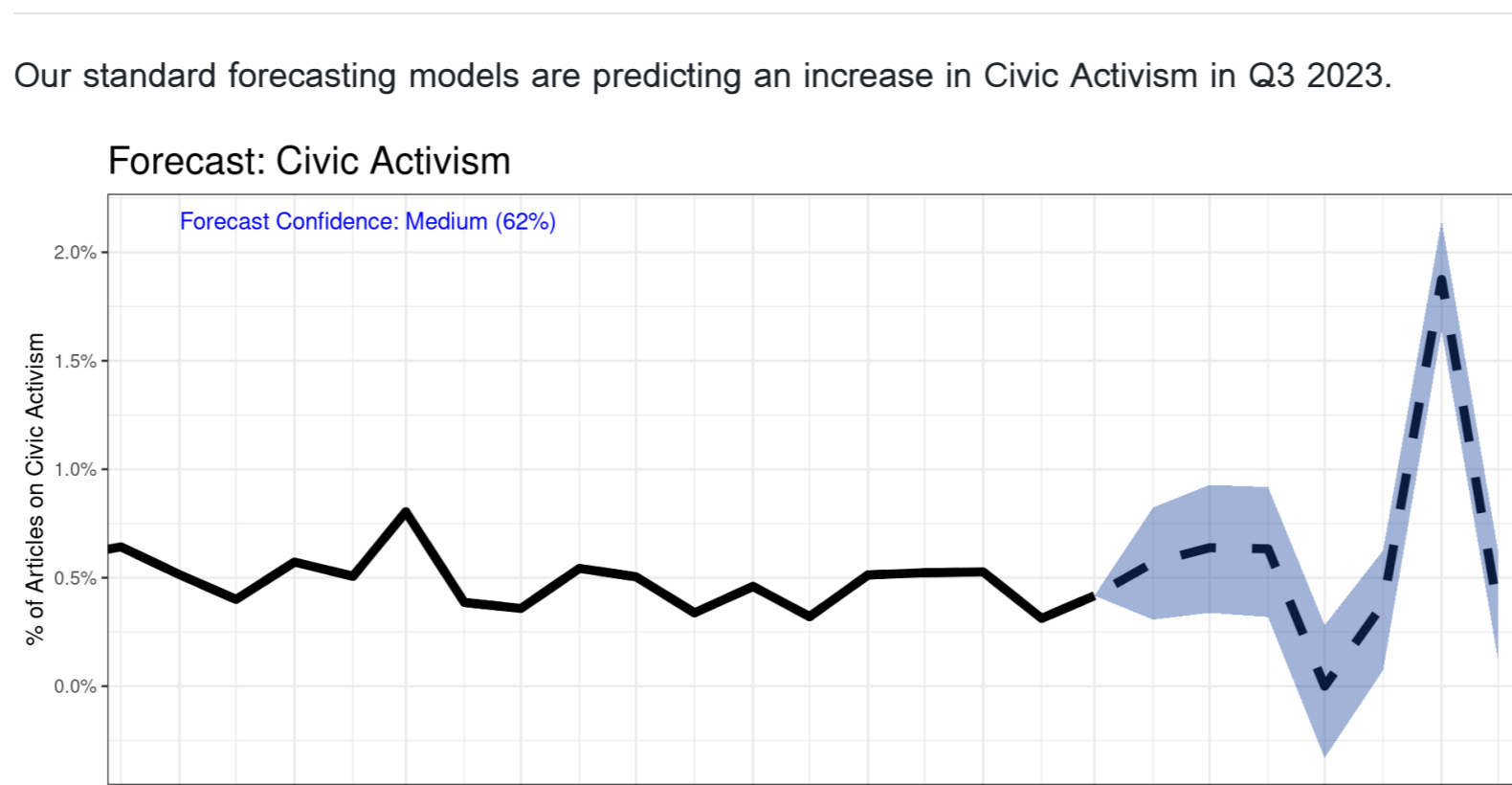
## Ghana Update

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

- Purge/Replace in January: The Office Special Prosecutor (OSP) leveled criminal charges against the Chief Executive Officer of the Northern Development Authority and two of his deputies. Members of the minority party in parliament launched an effort to overthrow the party's leadership.
- Defamation in March: The deposed Minority Chief Whip and Member of Parliament for Asawase in the Ashanti Region sued 11 NDC branch executives in his constituency.
- Raids in March: The military conducted a brutal raid against residents of Ashaiman in the Greater Accra Region after a soldier was murdered in the locality.

## Forecasts

Our standard forecasting models are predicting an increase in Civic Activism in Q3 2023.



Our CSEWS forecasts 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.

## Mauritania Update

For Mauritania, 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, Corruption, and Legal Actions in January: Former President Mohamed Ould Abdel Aziz was arrested on corruption charges.
- Protests in February: Teachers held strikes and nurses held a protest.
- Censorship in March: Mobile internet access was blocked after four terrorists escaped from prison.
- Election Activity in March: Candidates for regional and municipal were nominated in advance of elections in May.
- Legal Changes in March: The Council of Ministers met to endorse a range of draft decrees proposed by the president.

## Forecasts

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

## Tanzania Update

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

- Protests in January: The government lifted a ban on political rallies, prompting opposition parties to schedule rallies around the country.
- State of Emergency in January: The President restored a constitutional right to assembly by lifting a long-term ban on political rallies.
- Legal Changes in February: Parliament proposed amendments to the 2016 Media Services Act that the government argued would expand freedom of speech.
- Civic Activism in February: Tanzania activists engaged in awareness campaigns opposing the construction of the East Africa Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP).
- Censorship December-February: The government lifted a ban on political rallies, prompting prominent opposition figures in exile to return to the country. At the same time, the government banned a list of books for containing 'immoral' content.

## Forecasts

Our models are not predicting any major events over the next seven months. Our CSEWS forecasts are predicting a shock to *Protests* in March, although this shock was smaller than other recent mass protests.

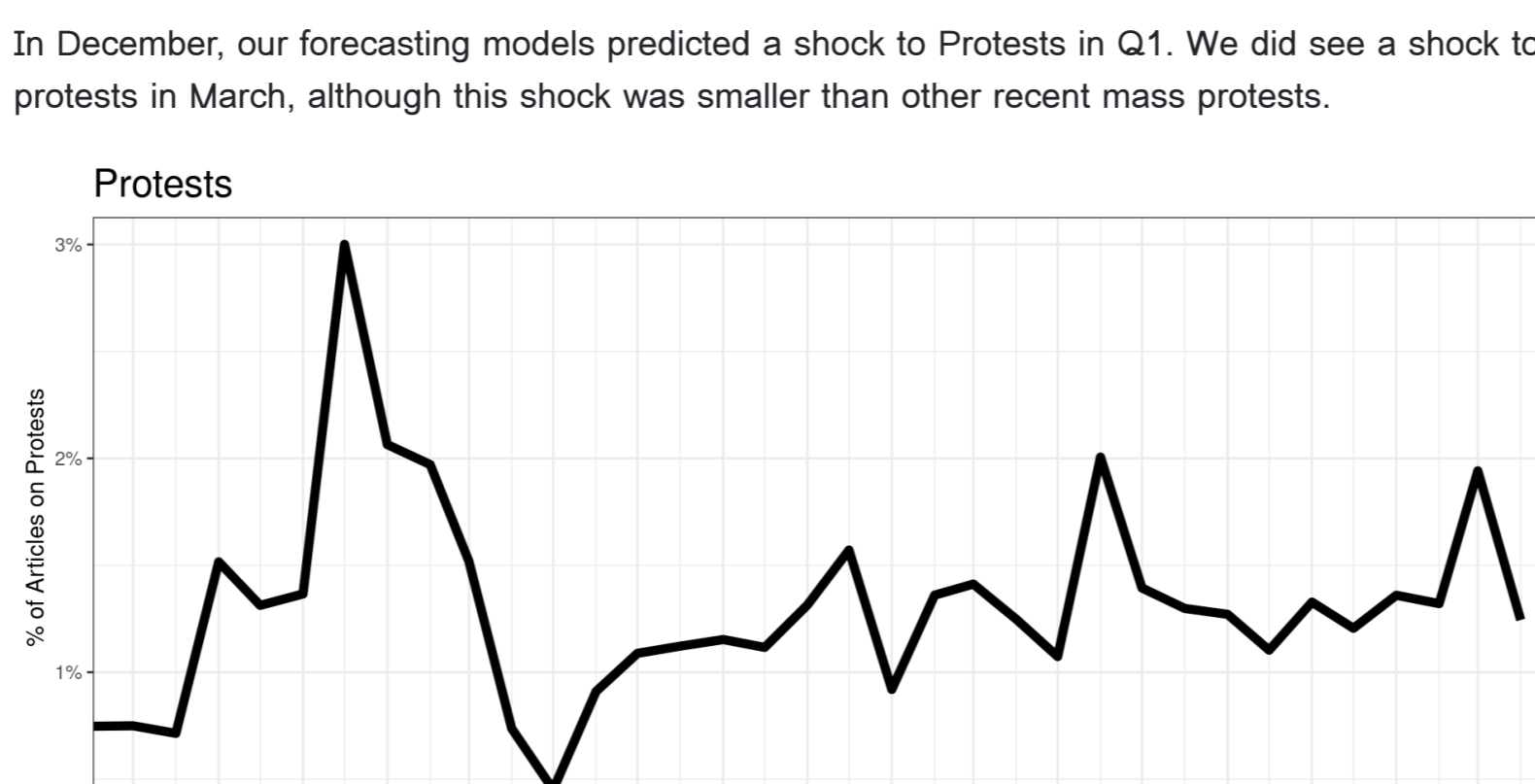
## India Update

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

- Censorship in January: The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting issued orders to block multiple YouTube videos and tweets of a BBC documentary on the Prime Minister.
- Corruption in March: There were charges of corruption for various government officials, including a bribery case against a major BJP representative.
- Legal Actions, Defamation Cases, Non-lethal Violence, and Protests in March-April: An India court convicted prominent opposition figure Rahul Gandhi and sentenced him for two-year imprisonment on charges of criminal defamation for comments he made about Prime Minister. Opposition parties staged protests over Gandhi's disqualification from serving in parliament.
- Lethal Violence in April: Masked men killed four soldiers at the Bathinda military station.

## Forecasts

In December, our forecasting models predicted a shock to *Protests* in Q1. We did see a shock to protests in March, although this shock was smaller than other recent mass protests.



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.