

Semi-Weekly MLP Data Update

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Introduction

We have data and forecasts for one new country: North Macedonia. We have updated data and forecasts for Kosovo, Bangladesh, Georgia, Hungary, Indonesia, and Uzbekistan. We are forecasting significant events for Kosovo, and Uzbekistan.

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.

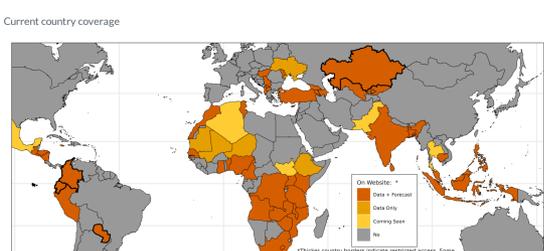
We encourage you to visit the MLP website to explore all of our data, forecasts, and recent pipeline updates.

MLP Website: [here](#)

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

Dashboards and Pipeline Updates: [here](#)

Current country coverage



New Country: North Macedonia

North Macedonia is a new country. Our data includes coverage through the end of May 2023. Over the last five months, we saw increases in reporting on:

- **Legal Actions in February:** Multiple politicians were brought under trial for corruption related charges in February, including the director of Youth and Sports Agency.
- **Raids in February:** Multiple schools in Skopje were evacuated and searched after repeated bomb threats.
- **Troop Mobilization in February:** Hundreds of police were deployed to Skopje to maintain security at the celebration of Macedonian revolutionary Goce Delchev.
- **Legal Changes in March-May:** The North Macedonian Parliament continued the process of attempting to amend the constitution. Among the main laws passed is one permitting the construction of two corridors connecting North Macedonia to regional infrastructure and ports in neighboring countries.

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.

Georgia

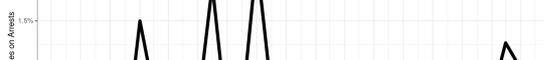
For Georgia, our data includes coverage through the end of May 2023. Since the data was last updated through February, we saw increases in reporting on:

- **Arrests in March:** Over the first ten days of the month, over 100 people were arrested at protests outside of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Protesters were arrested on minor charges of hooliganism and disobedience to legal requests.
- **Legal Changes in March:** The Georgian Parliament attempted to pass a law designating certain actors and civil society groups as "agents of foreign influence" based on their funding levels. The legislation faced massive backlash from the public and was eventually withdrawn.
- **Protests in March:** Protest occurred outside of Parliament during the first ten days of the month, with citizens voicing their displeasure with the "agents of foreign influence" draft law.
- **Raids in March:** Police disrupted protests and cleared the streets of protesters outside of the Parliament building.
- **Non-lethal Violence in March:** Protests outside of the Georgian Parliament turned violent, with tear gas and water jets being used on citizens. Citizens reciprocated the violence by throwing various items at special forces agents.
- **Troop Mobilization in March:** Police mobilized outside of Parliament, using tear gas and water cannons in an attempt to disperse protesters.
- **Political Threats in March:** The government threatened to react with equal levels violence if protests outside of Parliament turned violent.

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.

In our standard civic space forecasts from October, we predicted an increase in Arrests and Protests in late-Q1 2023. Although our updated forecasting models from February were no longer predicting these increases, we did see major spikes in Arrests and Protests in late-Q1 2023.



In our civic space shocks forecasts from October, we predicted a shock to legal changes resulting from the controversial Agents of Foreign Influence Bill. This shock persisted into March, when the bill was eventually withdrawn from consideration after massive protests. We also saw a shock to Raids, as police attempted to squash protests.



Hungary

For Hungary, our data includes coverage through the end of May 2023. Since the data was last updated through February, we did not detect reporting on any major events.

Forecasts

Our standard models are not predicting any major events over the next seven months. Our shock models are predicting a shock to Legal Actions in late-Q2 2023. See the CSEWS dashboard for a list of events that we can forecast accurately in this country.

Kosovo Update

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

- **Legal Actions in April:** Former president Hashim Thaçi and other political figures were put on trial for war crimes by the International Criminal Court.
- **Civic Activism in April:** Serbian List negotiated with the removal of Kosovo Police Special Units from northern municipalities.
- **Election Activities and Irregularities in April:** Kosovo held municipal elections in the north of the country amid a boycott by Serbian parties and low turnout.
- **Raids in April-May:** Kosovo police raided the offices of the Kosovo Energy Corporation and arrested the director on suspicion of corruption. Police also raided the offices of former Public Housing Enterprise officials. Kosovo Special Police entered a northern municipality after dispersing a crowd intending to prevent the entry of the new chairman.
- **Irregular Transitions and Non-lethal Violence in May:** Protesters in Northern Kosovo clashed with police and journalists in an attempt to prevent elected municipal mayors from taking office.

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 shock models from February predicted a shock to arrests in Q2 2023. Consistent with this prediction, we saw a spike in Arrest activity in May.



Bangladesh

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

- **Defamation Cases in April-May:** A Rajshahi leader was accused of threatening to kill Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.
- **Political Threats in May:** Threats of murder were made against Prime minister Sheikh Hasina.

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

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

- **Corruption in May:** The communications minister was arrested on corruption allegations related to the 4G Base Transceiver Station (BTS) construction project.
- **Civic Activism in May:** Former student activists involved in the 1998 protests formed a new advocacy organization called Indonesia's Advocates.
- **Raids in May:** The Corruption Eradication Commission raided the Social Affairs Ministry in a probe into rice-aid corruption.
- **Defamation Cases in May:** The Justice Assembly rejected the objections filed by Harris-Fatma in defamation case against the Minister of Investment Affairs.
- **Lethal Violence in April:** 3 Uzbek terrorist attempted to escape Indonesia, killing one immigration officer in the process. There was also reporting on violence between the military and separatist rebels in Papua continues, with the rebels killing at least one soldier.
- **Non-lethal Violence in April:** Six suspected members of the Islamic Jamaah terrorist group were captured by special forces. An unknown crowd attacked and burned multiple police stations in Makassar.
- **Election Activities and Irregularities in May:** The Indonesian Constitutional Court is expected to make a ruling on whether to change the electoral system to a closed ballot system.

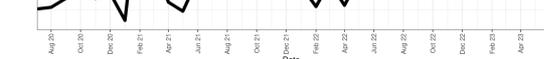
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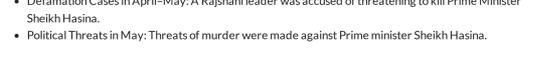
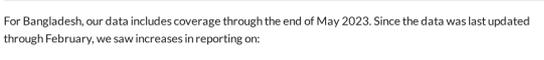
In our standard civic space forecasts from the last two updates (March and December), our models predicted an increase in the Raids in Q2. Consistent with this prediction, we saw a small spike in Raids in May. Our updated models are predicting Raids activity will return to normal levels after the following months.



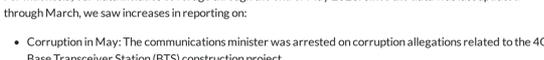
In our standard civic space forecasts from the last two updates (March and December), our models predicted an increase in the Civic Space Index in late-Q2 or early-Q3. Our updated forecasting models are no longer expecting this spike to occur.



Our standard civic space forecasts from the last two updates (March and December) also predicted an increase in the Lethal and Non-Lethal Violence in Q2. However, the forecast accuracy in our March forecasts fell below our reporting threshold, tempering our confidence in these predictions. However, we did see small spikes in both measures during Q2.



Finally, our standard civic space forecasts from March predicted increases in Defamation Cases in Q2-Q3 and Protests in Q3. Our updated forecasting models are still predicting increased Defamation Cases in Q2-Q3 and Protests in Q3-Q4. However, the accuracy of these updated models have fallen below our reporting threshold.



Uzbekistan

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

- Arrests in May: Two individuals who demanded 80,000 dollars in exchange for the appointment of the district governor were arrested. 2 bloggers were arrested under charges involving the misuse of vehicles and petty hooliganism.
- Legal Changes in March: A massive overhaul of the Uzbek constitution will be brought to referendum in April. The draft law consists of 6 sections and 155 articles.
- Election Activity in May: Early elections for the President of Uzbekistan have been scheduled for July 9. The new constitution of Uzbekistan was supported heavily by the public in the referendum. Various political parties nominated their candidates for the early Presidential election.

Forecasts

Our standard models are not predicting any major events over the next seven months. Our shock models are predicting a shock to Legal Actions in Q4 2023. See the CSEWS dashboard for a list of events that we can forecast accurately in this country.