

Introduction

This memo describes updated data and forecasts for Georgia and Ukraine. 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.

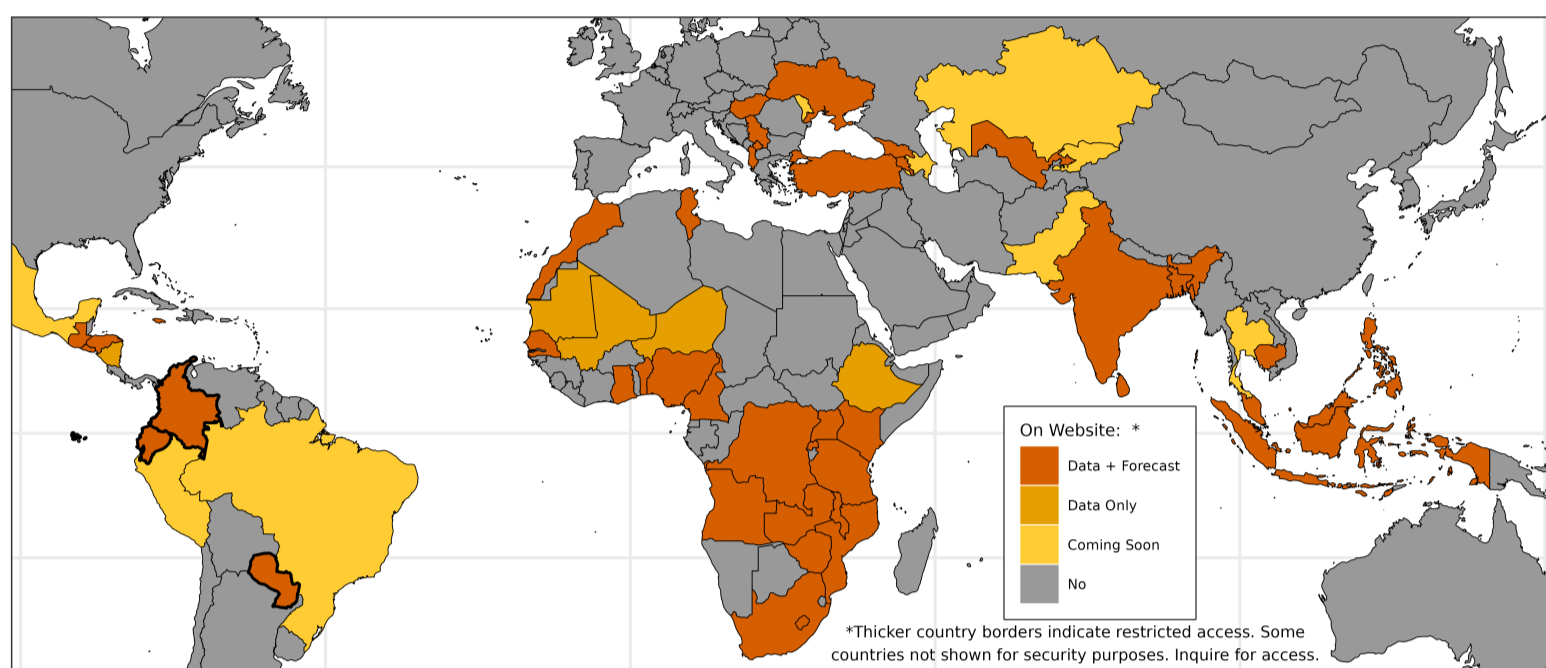
We encourage you to visit the MLP website to explore all of our data, forecasts, and recent pipeline updates.

MLP Website: [here](#)

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

Dashboards and Pipeline Updates: [here](#)

Current country coverage



Georgia Update

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

- **Censorship in December:** An anchor residing in and broadcasting from Georgia for a Russian TV station was fired after the government of Latvia launched an investigation into comments he made on air.
- **Lethal violence in January:** A former soldier killed five people, including a police officer, in a mass shooting.
- **Defamation cases in February:** The Supreme Court court upheld a defamation conviction brought by a local government official against a TV station for spreading false information.
- **Civic Space Index, Civic Activism, and Legal Changes in February:** Parliament proposed the controversial Agents of Foreign Influence Bill, which included draconian registration requirements for organizations receiving international funding. The bill caused significant public outcry.

Forecasts

In our standard civic space forecasts from October, we predicted an increase in Arrests in Q1 2023. The original forecast predicted the increase to occur in March but our current data ends in February. Major protests and the arrest of more than 100 protesters in March suggests this forecast may prove accurate at our next update. However, our updated forecasting models are no longer predicting this increase in Q1.

In our civic space shocks forecasts from October, we predicted a shock to legal changes and raids in the first half of 2023. In February, we saw a massive shock to legal changes resulting from Parliament's introduction of the controversial Agents of Foreign Influence Bill. We did not see a shock to raids. However, we may see evidence for a shock to raids at the next update when we produce data covering the remainder of Q1 and Q2 2023.

Our updated forecasting models are still predicting an increase in Q2.

Ukraine Update

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

- **Raids in November:** Reports of several raids by Ukrainian security services, including an orthodox monastery and an energy company owned by a Russian oligarch.
- **Censorship in December:** Ukrainian authorities drafted a bill to ban Moscow-backed church amid Russian invasion. Ukraine also stripped a Danish journalist of press credentials over alleged pro-Russia bias.
- **Defamation in January:** A lawsuit brought by MP Petro Poroshenko against a journalist proceeded in district court.
- **Purge/Replace in January:** Reporting on several resignations from officials in the President's office.
- **Corruption in January-February:** Widespread anti-corruption measures lead to the firing or resignation of officials implicated in corruption scandals.

In our most recent round of forecasts, our forecasting models predicted several extremely large changes in civic space activity. Investigations revealed that these unusual predictions were caused by dramatic increases in the value of RAI variables that were historically predictive of changes in civic space. These large increases occurred in the months after Russia's invasion. Given tremendous changes in the nature of Russian influence in Ukraine, these historical correlations between RAI activity and civic space are less likely to persist, making these forecasts unreliable. For this reason, we will refrain from publishing new forecasts until we develop a solution.

Forecasts

In our standard civic space forecasts from September, we were expected increases in Non-lethal violence in Q4 2022, Arrests, Corruption, Legal actions, and Lethal violence in Q4 2022 and Q1 2023, and Arrests in Q1 2023. We saw an increase in corruption in January and February. We did not see a significant increases in Arrests, Legal actions, or violence.