

# Semi-Weekly MLP Data Update

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## Introduction

We have updated data and forecasts for Albania, Cambodia, Malaysia, Philippines, Serbia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, and Turkey. We have updated data for Ukraine. We are forecasting significant events for Albania, Cambodia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, and Turkey.

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.

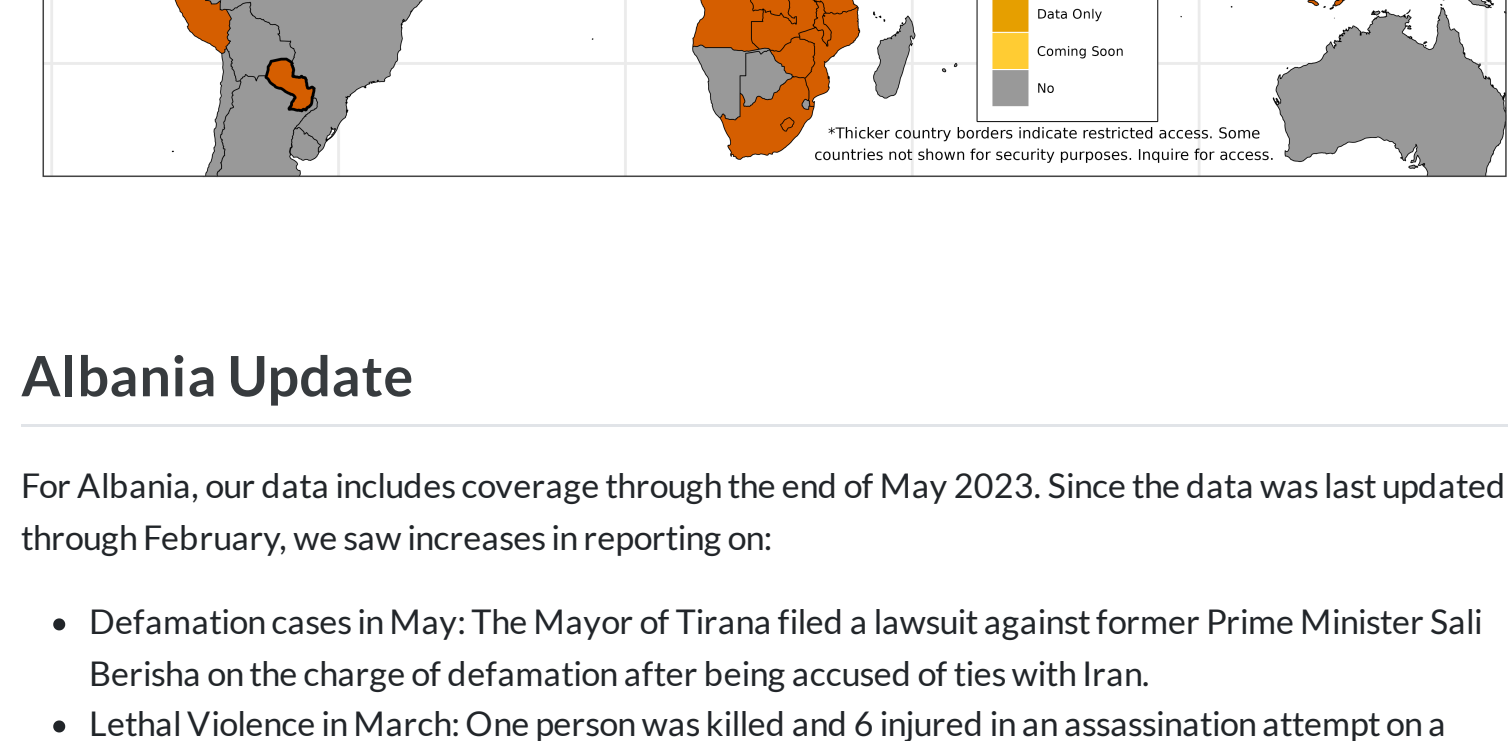
We encourage you to visit the MLP website to explore all of our data, forecasts, and recent pipeline updates.

MLP Website: [here](#)

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

Dashboards and Pipeline Updates: [here](#)

Current country coverage



## Albania Update

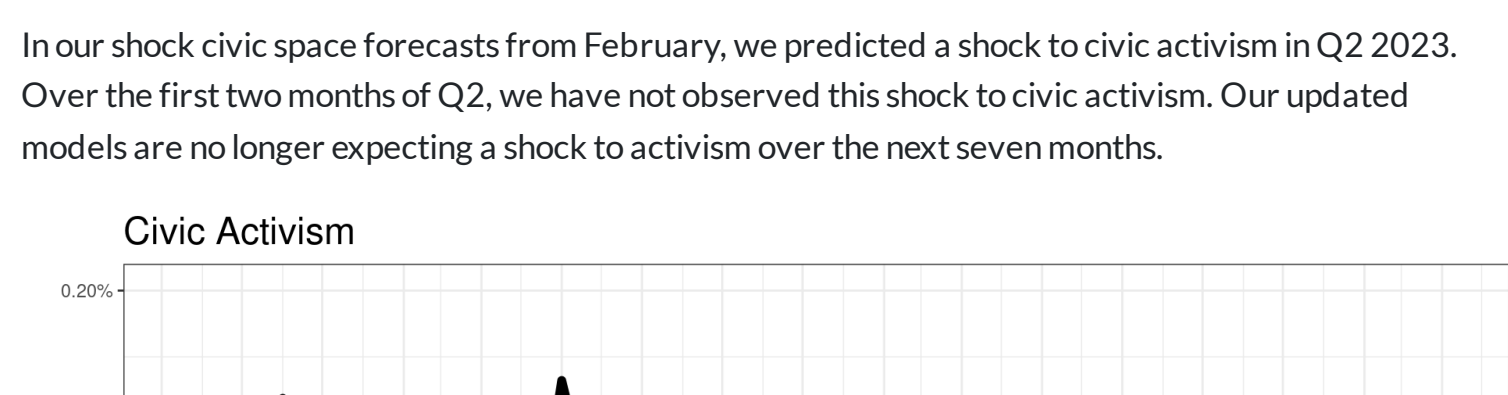
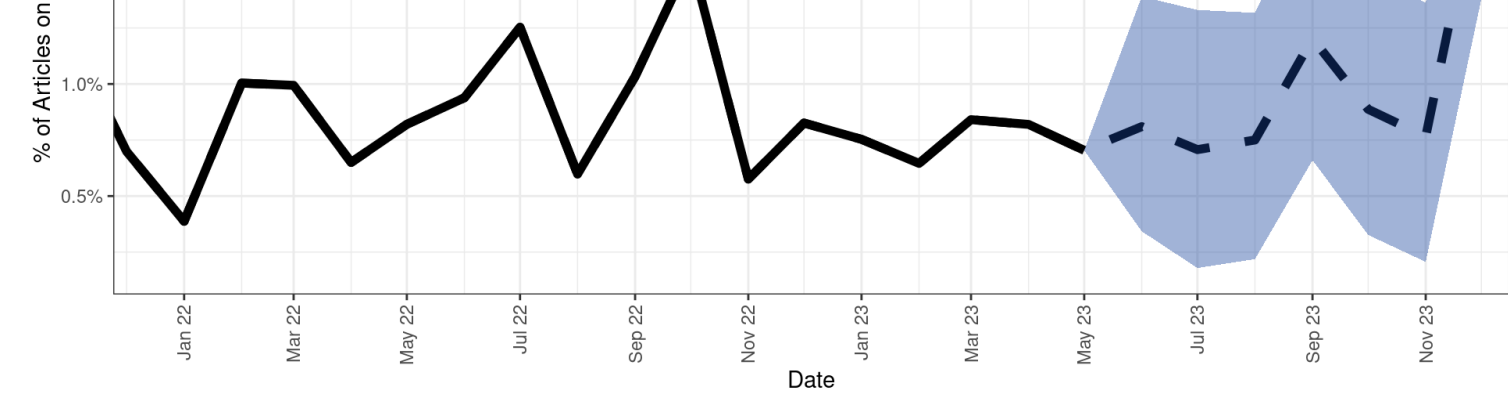
For Albania, our data includes coverage through the end of May 2023. Since the data was last updated through February, we saw increases in reporting on:

- Defamation cases in May: The Mayor of Tirana filed a lawsuit against former Prime Minister Sali Berisha on the charge of defamation after being accused of ties with Iran.
- Lethal Violence in March: One person was killed and 6 injured in an assassination attempt on a business owner.
- Election activity, Election irregularities in May: Albanian local elections of 2023 were held on May 14th. A total of 54 electoral crimes were recorded in the election month, including the awarding of gifts, the use of public office for political or electoral activities, passive corruption in elections, and violations of the right to vote. The "Together We Win" coalition requested the Complaints and Sanctions Commission to recount the voters in the municipality of Krogzolina.
- Political threats in May: Prime minister Edi Rama was accused of threatening opposition municipalities with budget cuts. FRPD activists were threatened by organised crime group members while they were distributing leaflets in support of a candidate in Igli Cara municipality for the upcoming elections.

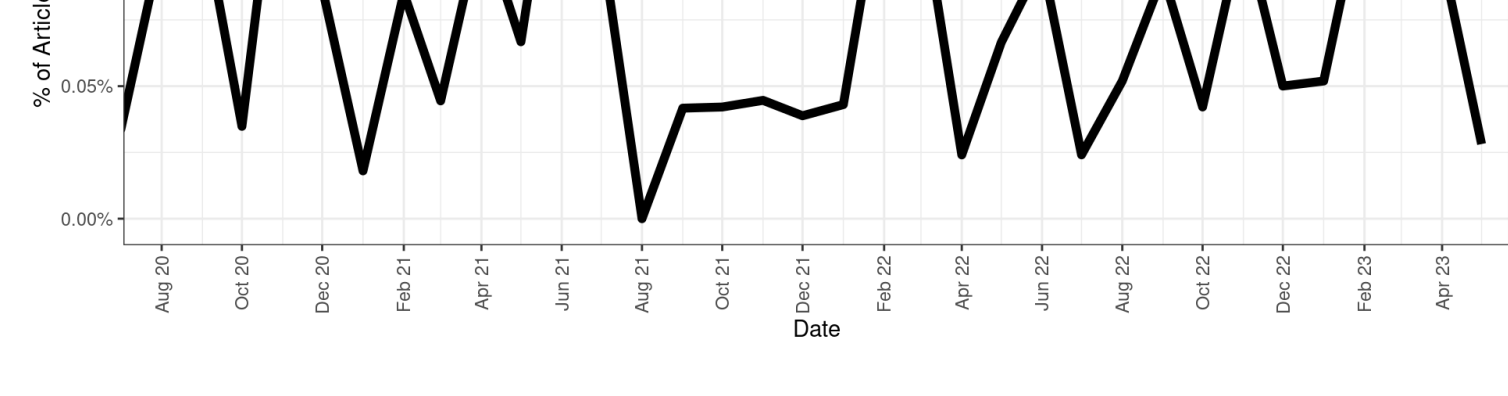
## Forecasts

Our standard models are not predicting any major events over the next seven months. Our shock models are predicting a spike in Lethal Violence in Q3 2023.

In our standard civic space forecasts from February, we predicted an increase Legal Changes later in Q2 2023. Our updated forecasting models are no longer predicting this increase in Legal Changes to occur.



In our shock civic space forecasts from February, we predicted a shock to civic activism in Q2 2023. Over the first two months of Q2, we have not observed this shock to civic activism. Our updated models are no longer expecting a shock to activism over the next seven months.



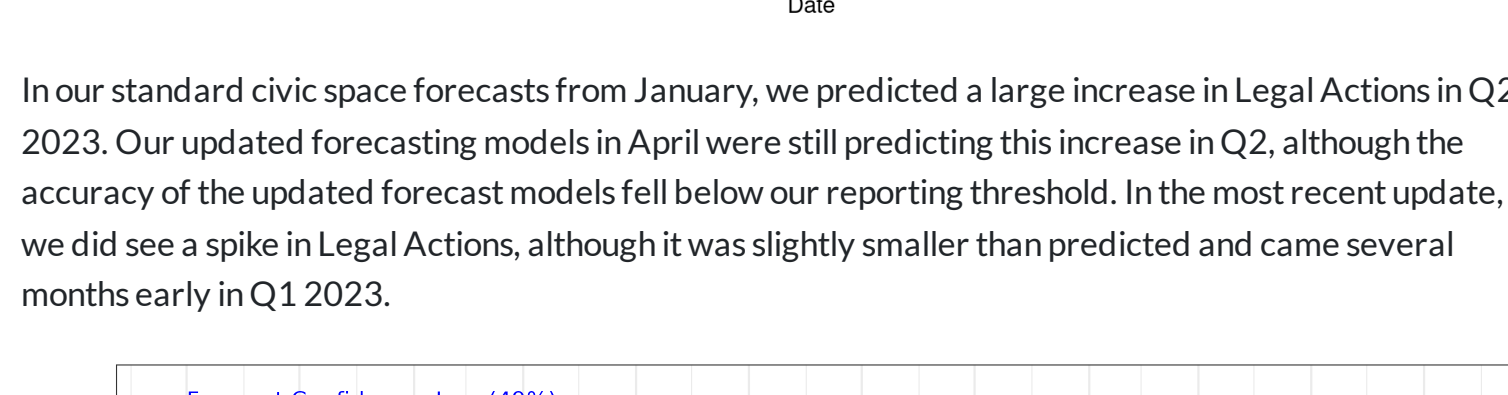
## Cambodia Update

For Cambodia, 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 March: Former opposition leader Kem Sokha was sentenced to 27 years in prison on charges of treason for conspiring with foreign powers to overthrow the government.
- Civic activism in April: Multiple NGOs organised campaigns regarding parenting strategy, plastic waste, heatstroke, extension of maternity leave, and proper nourishment of children.

## Forecasts

Our shock 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 Q2 2023, our standard models are predicting a spike in Protest activity.



In our standard civic space forecasts from January, we predicted a large increase in Legal Actions in Q2 2023. Our updated forecasting models in April were still predicting this increase in Q2, although the accuracy of the updated forecast models fell below our reporting threshold. In the most recent update, we did see a spike in Legal Actions, although it was slightly smaller than predicted and came several months early in Q1 2023.



## Malaysia Update

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

- Protests in April: Thirteen civil society groups came together to hold a May Day rally to highlight the daily struggles of low-income workers. Approximately 8,000 doctors participated in a three-day strike organised by Mogok Doktor Malaysia for better treatment of contract doctors.

## 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.

## Philippines Update

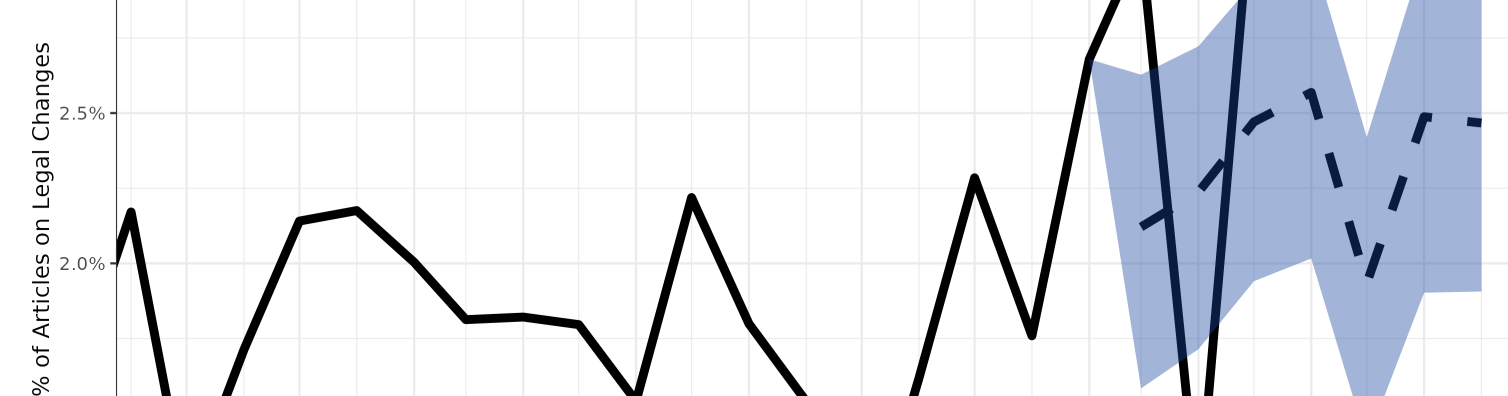
For Philippines, our data includes coverage through the end of May 2023. Since the data was last updated through February, we saw increases in reporting on:

- Protests in March: A weeklong strike was held by the Transportation Group Mindanao to protest the impending phaseout under the government's public utility vehicle (PUV) modernization program. Small-scale fishermen in Zambales province called for reforms in the fishery sector and protested the reclamation projects in the country. Thousands participated in rallies in Negros Island to denounce NPA atrocities.
- Arrests in April: Two youth activists were arrested for protesting in front of the US Embassy against the Balikatan military exercises between the Philippines and American troops.
- Troop Mobilization in April: Nearly 60,000 police officers were deployed nationwide to ensure public safety on Labor Day. Hundreds of police officers were deployed during the public observance of the Holy Week and Quezon shrine pilgrimage.
- Non-lethal violence in April: Multiple unrelated instances of shootings were noted. Two soldiers and a minor were wounded in an explosion near a public elementary school.
- Legal actions in May: 43 Kidapawan farmers, charged with assaulting policemen during their 2016 mass demonstration asking the government for food due to severe drought, were acquitted. Former Bureau of Corrections Deputy Director General for Administration was charged with grave coercion. A Senate probe was launched in response to a fire at a Manila Post Office.
- Legal changes in May: The Bureau of Immigration Modernization Act came into effect in May.

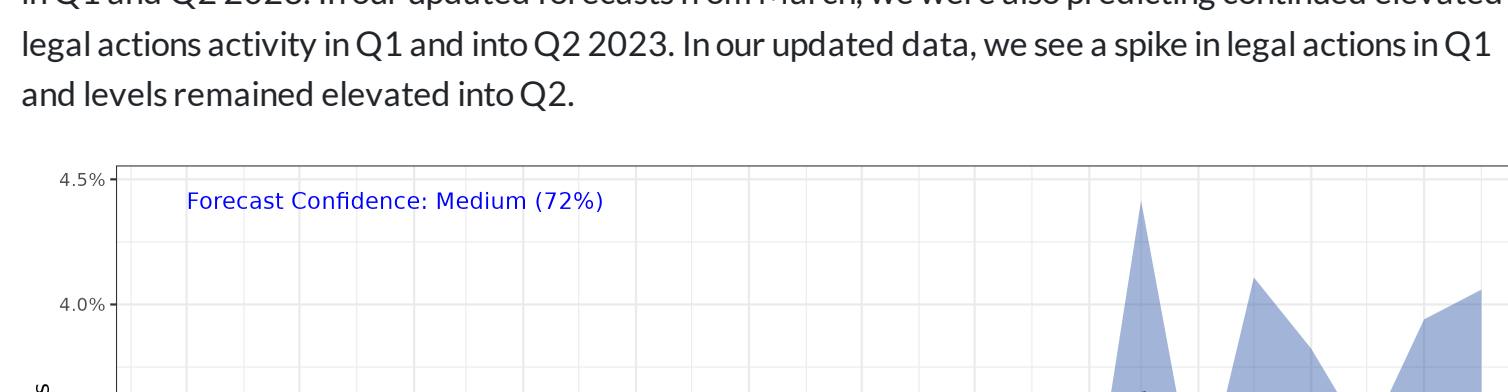
## Forecasts

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.

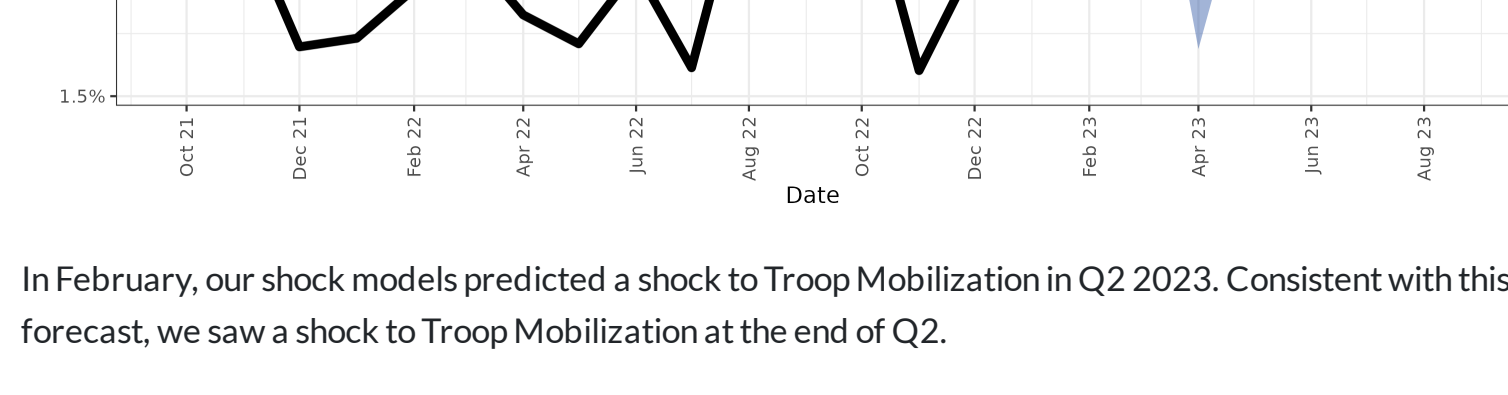
In our standard civic space forecasts from November, we predicted an increase in protest activity in Q2 2023. In our updated forecasts from March, we were also predicting elevated protest activity in Q2 2023, although the accuracy of the updated forecast models fell below our reporting threshold. In our updated data, we observed a huge spike in protest activity in Q2.



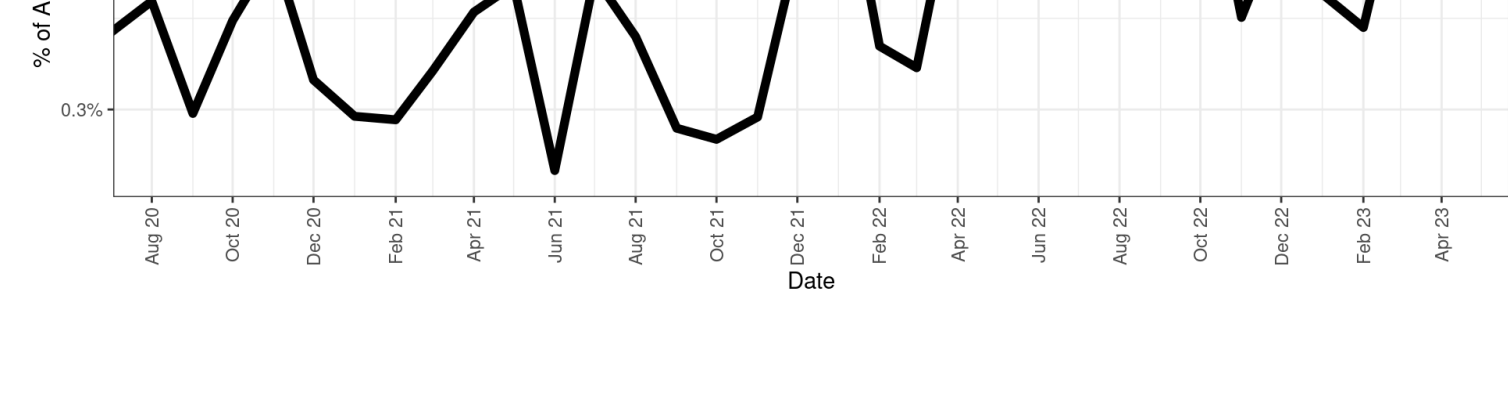
In our standard civic space forecasts from November, we predicted elevated legal changes activity in Q1 and Q2 2023. In our updated forecasts from March, we were also predicting elevated legal change activity in Q1 and Q2 2023, although the accuracy of the updated forecast models fell below our reporting threshold. Consistent with these forecasts, we observed a spike in legal change activity in Q1 and again in Q2.



In our standard civic space forecasts from November, we predicted a massive increase in legal actions in Q1 and Q2 2023. In our updated forecasts from March, we were also predicting continued elevated legal actions activity in Q1 and into Q2 2023. In our updated data, we see a spike in legal actions in Q1 and levels remained elevated into Q2.



In February, our shock models predicted a shock to Troop Mobilization in Q2 2023. Consistent with this forecast, we saw a shock to Troop Mobilization at the end of Q2.



## Serbia Update

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

- Protests in May: "Serbia Against Violence" protests were seen across the country after two mass shootings. Serbian farmers blocked roads and held protests demanding higher subsidies.
- Lethal violence and Non-lethal violence in May: Two mass shootings occurred in the first week of May. Eight pupils and a security worker were shot dead at a Belgrade school by another pupil. A 21-year-old killed 8 people and wounded another 13. 7 primary schools were evacuated over reports about bombs. A reporter was injured during conflict between the Serbian community and KFOR soldiers.

## 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.

## South Africa Update

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

- Censorship in May: State witnesses in the murder trial of a former soccer star fought several court cases to prevent the media from airing their testimony.
- Raids and Corruption in March: Police raided the offices of an ANC boss over a hospital tender scandal and the offices of a Cape Town municipal committee member over fraud allegations. Several other government officials were convicted of corruption and forced to resign.
- Purge: President Ramaphosa reshuffled his cabinet, including appointing a new minister for electricity amid the nation's worst electricity crisis in decades.
- Protests and Troop Mobilization in March: The left-wing Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) orchestrated a national shutdown to protest the ruling ANC's performance and demand the resignation of President Ramaphosa. Security forces were deployed to maintain law and order during the shutdown.

## Forecasts

Our standard models are not predicting any major events over the next seven months. Our shock models are predicting a spike in Arrests in Q3 2023.

## Sri Lanka Update

For Sri Lanka, 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 changes in March: A court ruled that the Right to Information Act applied to Members of Parliament, and Parliament considered major legislation ensuring Central Bank independence.
- Civic activism in March: The Centre for Policy Alternatives (CPA) filed a Fundamental Rights petition asking the Supreme Court to investigate government agencies for deliberately hindering local government elections.
- Disaster in May: Floods affected several parts of the country.
- Troop mobilization in May: Security forces were deployed around Colombo in response to intelligence suggesting a planned gathering of the Inter University Students' Federation and the potential for unrest.

## Forecasts

Our standard models are not predicting any major events over the next seven months. Our shock models are predicting a spike in Arrests in Q3 2023.

## Turkey Update

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

- Purges in March–April: Several political parties, including the Victory Party and the GOOD Party, experienced a wave of resignations over disputes among their leadership.
- Election activity and Election irregularities in May: Turkey held general elections in May, with several opposition parties and civil society groups alleging fraud.

## Forecasts

Our standard models are predicting increases in Lethal Violence, Defamation Cases, and the Civic Space Index in Q3 and Q4. Our shock models are also predicting a spike in Defamation Cases in Q3 2023.



## Ukraine Update

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

- Arrests in March: Multiple Russian informants operating in Ukraine were arrested.
- Legal actions in March: An MP was convicted of making false statements by the Anti-Corruption Court. An Archdeacon was charged for interference with journalism by the Kyiv city prosecutor after preventing journalists from filming a documentary and damaging their equipment.
- Non-lethal violence in May: There was a particularly high level of Russian drone and missile attacks on civilian targets.

## Forecasts

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