

Semi-Weekly MLP Data Update

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PUBLISHED
June 7, 2023

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Introduction

We have updated data and forecasts for El Salvador, Guatemala, Jamaica, Nicaragua, Kyrgyzstan, Mali, and Zambia. We are forecasting significant events for Guatemala, Nicaragua, Kyrgyzstan, and Zambia.

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 no longer 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.

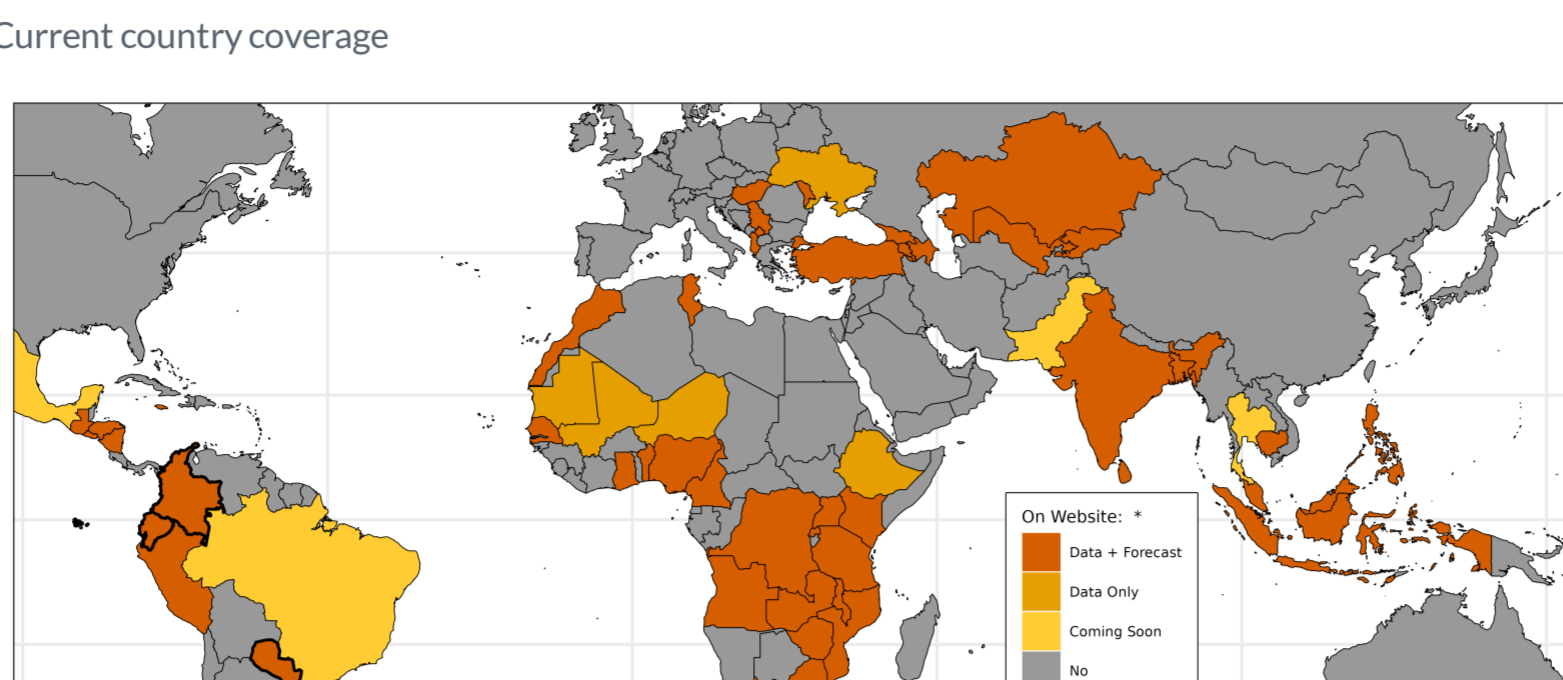
We encourage you to visit the MLP website to explore all of our data, forecasts, and recent pipeline updates.

MLP Website: [here](#)

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

Dashboards and Pipeline Updates: [here](#)

Current country coverage



El Salvador Update

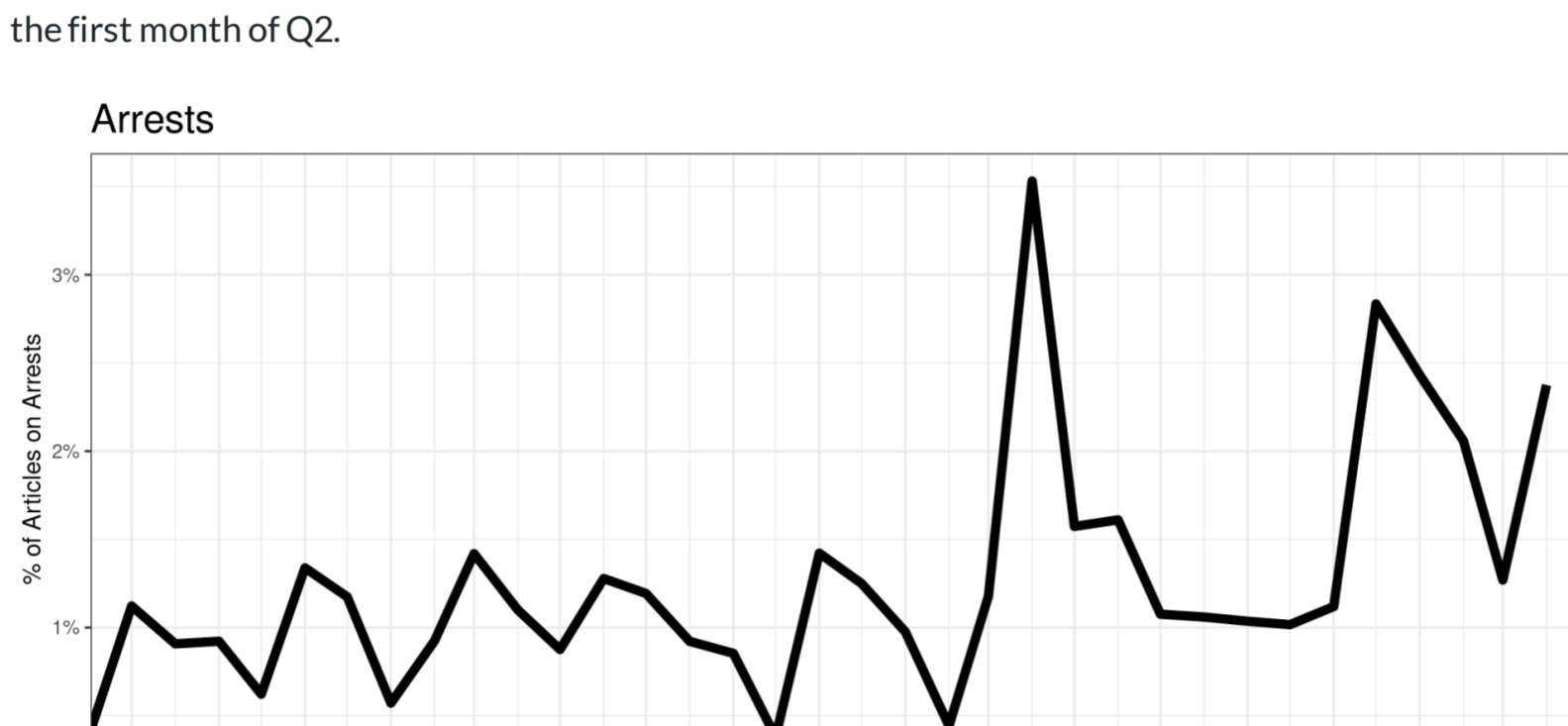
For El Salvador, our data includes coverage through the end of April 2023. Since the data was last updated through January, we saw increases in reporting on:

- Legal Actions, Corruption in March: A number of legal actions related to corruption proceeded against public officials.
- Censorship in April: The newspaper El Faro changed relocated to Costa Rica in response to government harassment. A cartoonist was threatened with legal actions after publishing an explicit cartoon depicting an Arena part deputy. President Bukele blocked the release of the IMF's Annual Report on El Salvador Economy.
- Election Irregularities in April: Left-wing organizations jointly criticized the government's implementation of election laws in advance of the 2024 elections.
- Arrests in April: An FMLN deputy was held in detention despite a court order ordering his release and several mass arrests of gang members were conducted.

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 February, our models predicted a shock to Arrests at the end of Q1. We did see a shock to Arrests in the first month of Q2.



Guatemala Update

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

- Election Activity in February–April: Campaigning and administrative activities began in preparation for the June 2023 elections.
- Political Threats in March: Workers at the Universidad de San Carlos de Guatemala threatened a strike. Two parties were reprimanded by the Supreme Court for campaign activities that could prompt violence. A district representative threatened a mayor of Nuevo San Carlos during an altercation.
- Legal Actions, Protests in March: A Judge authorized an investigation of journalists at el Periódico, which was widely condemned by civil society groups. A variety of protests took place in the country, including health workers protesting non-payment of wages, military veterans engaging in nationwide protests, protest against censorship and persecution of journalists, and a council of 48 Cantons blocking roads in the Totonicapán region.
- Political Cooperation in April: Negotiations took place between central government agencies and local authorities and leaders in two regions over infrastructure concerns. A large group of political parties signed a pledge to conduct electoral processes without violence.

Forecasts

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

Jamaica Update

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

- Legal Actions in March: An opposition group filed a lawsuit challenging the Government's repeated use of states of public emergency to fight crime.
- Lethal Violence in March–April: There was an increase in reporting on criminal violence, including clashes between gangs and security forces and the murder of a prominent blogger.
- Legal Changes in April: There was an increase in reporting on activities of the Constitutional Reform Committee.
- Civic Activism in April: A case challenging Jamaica's anti-sodomy law by a gay rights activist was delayed; activists in favor and opposed to expanding gay rights engaged in advocacy work.

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.

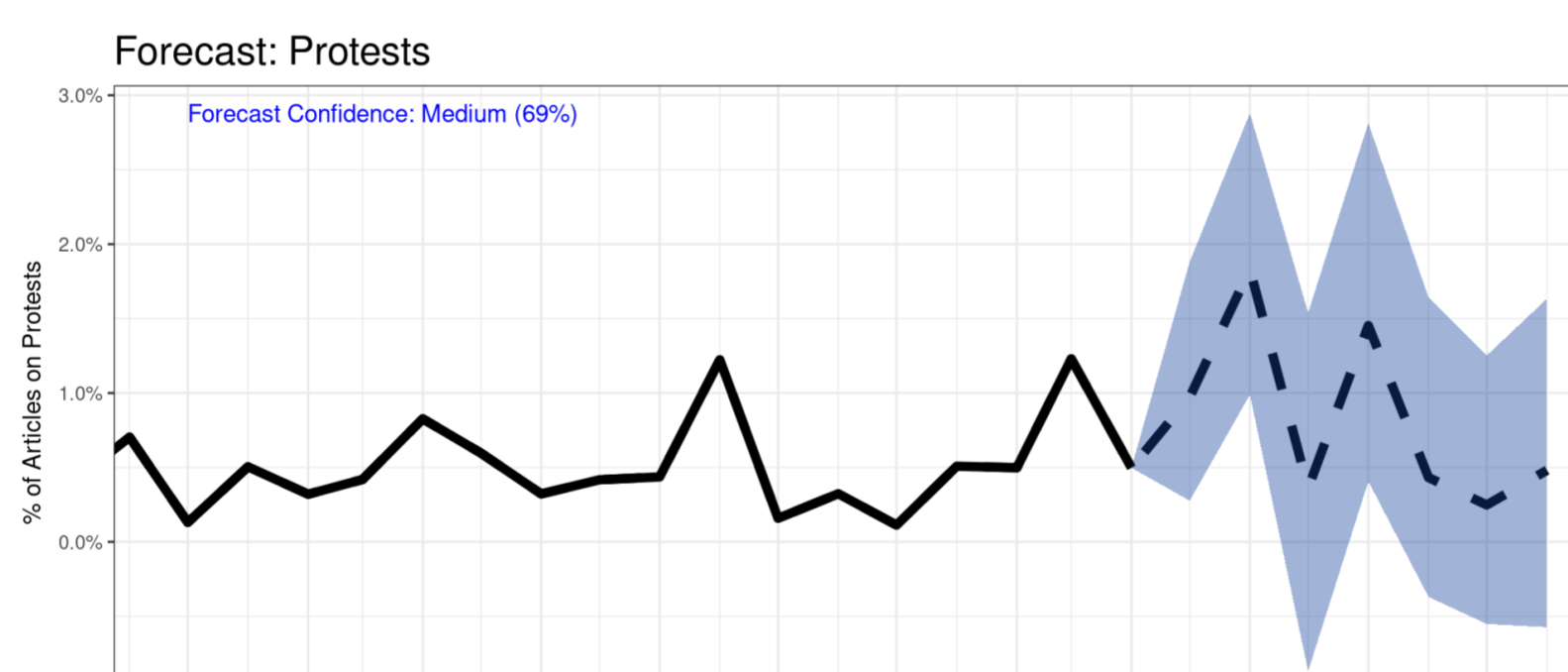
Nicaragua Update

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

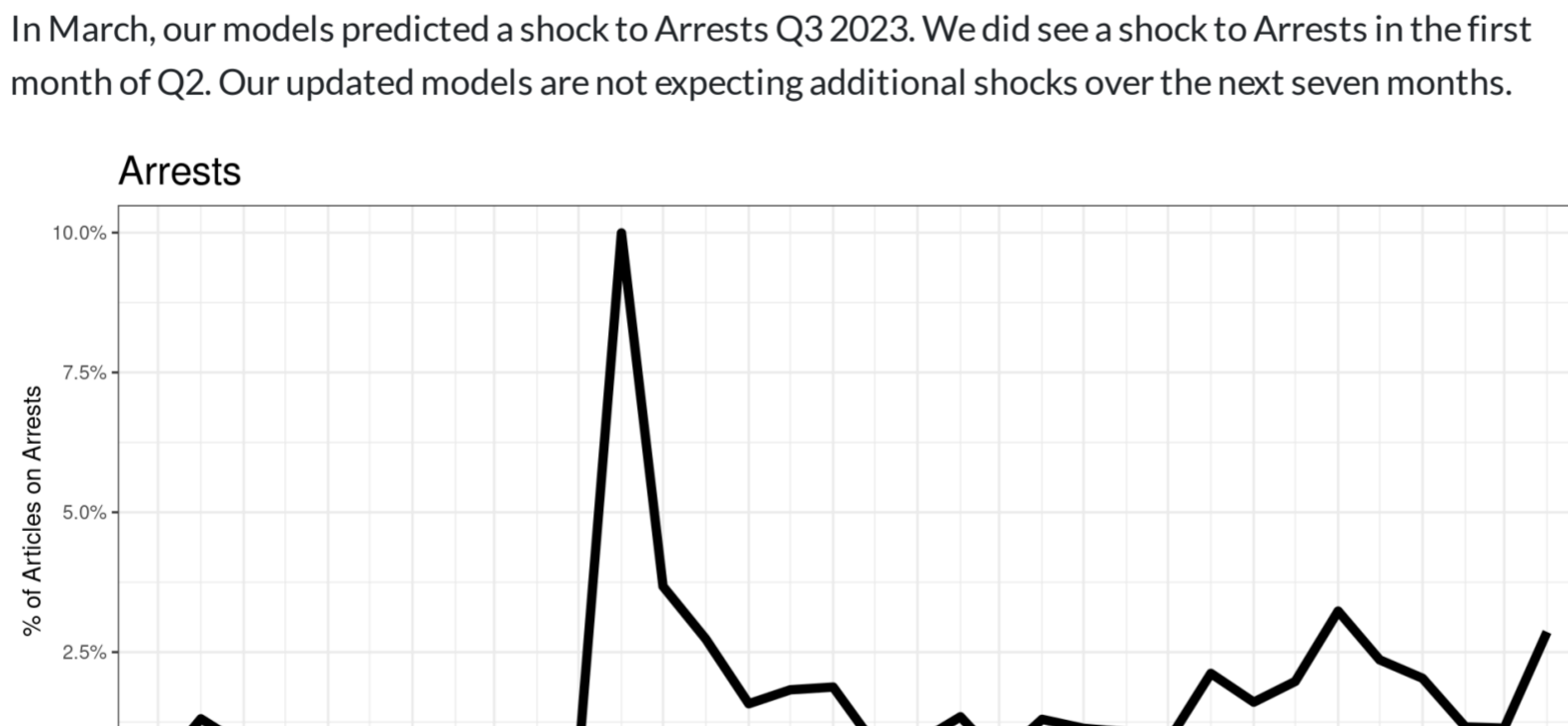
- Protests in March: Activists marched to demand transparent elections in the face of fears of fraud and rejected the candidacy of a daughter of a former dictator.
- Arrests in April: Dozens of political activists, most of them members of the Catholic Church, were arrested on the anniversary of the 2018 civic rebellion.

Forecasts

Our standard models are predicting a small increase in Protests in Q2 2023. Our shock models are not predicting any major events over the next seven months.



In March, our models predicted a shock to Arrests Q3 2023. We did see a shock to Arrests in the first month of Q2. Our updated models are not expecting additional shocks over the next seven months.



Kyrgyzstan Update

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

- Purge/Replace in April: The President dismissed several prominent officials, including two governors and the head of the Development Bank.
- Corruption in April: There were developments in several corruption cases against government officials, including the uncovering of a corruption scheme in the Health Ministry, the arrest of 10 Inspectors of State Tax Service, the trial of the former Minister of Culture, and the arrest of the former head of the Suzak Ayil Okmotu arrest for land fraud.

Forecasts

In March, our models predicted shocks to Arrests in late-Q1 2023 and Corruption in Q2 2023. We did not see a shock to Arrests in Q1 or the first month of Q2. We did see a shock to Corruption in the first month of Q2.



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

Mali Update

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

- Defamation Cases in February: The Loulo Company, a mining firm, filed a complaint against Africable Television for defamation, which was criticized by civil society as an attack on freedom of expression.
- Election Irregularities and Legal Changes in March: A referendum on a new constitution scheduled for March was delayed by the transitional authority, raising doubts about non-compliance with electoral timetable. A draft constitution was released by the transitional government.

Forecasts

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

Zambia Update

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

- Disaster in March: Severe floods caused several fatalities.
- Non-lethal Violence in April: There were reports of several instances of election violence in advance of by-elections scheduled for May, including an attack on a journalist.

Forecasts

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