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**Introducing another week of Future Trends** — *tracking current global news stories that provide insight into the future.*

**Here's what you need to know:** Odesa port reopens after 1.5M people left without power, Nigerian military investigated over involuntary abortion program allegations, killings of social leaders and rights defenders hit a new high in Colombia, maritime sector to be included in the EU's emission trading scheme, US releases the most advanced military aircraft ever, San Francisco pauses police use of robots for deadly force after public outcry.

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## SPECIAL EDITION: UKRAINE

**Odesa port reopens after 1.5M people left without power.** Operations have resumed at the [Ukrainian Black Sea port of Odesa](#), after Russia used Iranian-made drones to hit energy facilities in the city. The strikes had left 1.5 million people and all non-critical infrastructure without power.

**US to send additional \$275M in military aid to Ukraine.** US-supplied ammunition and high-tech systems will be used to [counter and detect drones](#). This aid is smaller than other recent packages since officials are predicting reduced attacks during the winter period.

**Putin says risk of nuclear war is on the rise.** President Putin called Russia's nuclear arsenal a [deterrent in conflicts](#), stopping short of pledging not to be the first to use them. Warning the threat of nuclear war is rising, Putin reiterated that Russia will defend itself and its allies.

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## POLITICS

**Nigerian military investigated over involuntary abortion program allegations.** The Nigerian military is accused of running a secret, [involuntary abortion program](#) on women rescued from Boko Haram by allegedly tricking them into taking pills and injections since at least 2013.

**Peru's president removed from office and charged with rebellion after alleged coup attempt.** Hours before facing an impeachment vote, [Pedro Castillo](#) announced he would close congress and install a government of exception. He's been detained on charges of breaching constitutional order.

**Former Guatemalan President and Vice President sentenced to prison.** After corruption allegations, former President Otto Perez and his vice president Roxana Baldetti were [found guilty](#) of illicit association and customs fraud, and have been sentenced to 16 years in prison each.

**Croatia joins Schengen zone; Bulgaria and Romania blocked by Austria.** From January 2023 Croatia will be part of the [passport-free area](#). Despite joining the EU six years before Croatia, Bulgaria and Romania have had their access request denied. Austria opposed both countries' entry, while the Netherlands opposed Bulgaria's entry.

**European Parliament's Vice President expelled by party amid corruption probe involving Gulf nation.** Eva Kaili, also a Greek MEP, was among those previously arrested in the case. Prosecutors suspect the Gulf state tried to [influence parliament decisions](#) with donations of money or gifts.

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## CONFLICT

**Colombia: Killing of social leaders, rights defenders hits new high.** There have been 199 killings of social leaders and human rights defenders this year, the highest level recorded, due to attacks by illegal armed groups in areas tied to the [drug trade](#).

**Dozens killed in clashes between Islamic State and al Qaeda in Mali.** Dozens of civilians have been killed and hundreds displaced due to several days of heavy fighting between rival Islamist groups in Mali's east. The fighting erupted between [Islamic State and al Qaeda](#) affiliates.

**M23 rebels massacre at least 131 civilians in eastern Congo: UN.** M23 rebels are reportedly responsible for the [massacre of 131 civilians](#), arbitrary shootings, rapes and abductions in two villages in Rutshuru territory, Congo.

**Serbian leader holds security talks over Kosovo unrest.** President Aleksandar Vučić has met with his national security council as [tensions rise in Kosovo](#) between the authorities and ethnic Serbs. A stun grenade was thrown at EU police in north Kosovo, and local police exchanged fire with unknown groups.

**Iran hangs second protester for attacks on security forces.** At least 10 people are now on [death row](#) in the Islamic republic, after a crackdown on nationwide demonstrations. The swift judicial proceedings have stoked concerns that more protesters face execution.

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## DEVELOPMENT

**US releases the most advanced military aircraft ever.** The US Air Force has unveiled its latest killer weapon. The [B-21 Raider](#) stealth bomber flies unmanned, can't be detected, and can use nuclear and conventional weapons.

**UK, European neighbours agree to curb illegal immigration.** Ministers from Britain, Belgium, France, Germany and the Netherlands agreed plans to step up co-operation to tackle [irregular immigration](#) and try to stop people smugglers working in the English Channel.

**Japanese company ispace launches world's first commercial moon lander.** The start-up has launched a [spacecraft to the moon](#), a first for a private company. The ispace craft aims to put a small NASA satellite into lunar orbit to search for water deposits before touching down in the Atlas Crater.

**Lack of copper could slow the transition to renewable energy.** According to a 2021 report by Goldman Sachs, renewable energy sources like wind, battery and solar will drive [copper demand](#) up nearly 600%, or 5.4 million mega tonnes, by 2030.

**North Korean cyber spies' new tactic: trick foreign experts into writing research for them.** This [tactic](#) can be quicker than hacking an account and wading through emails, bypasses traditional technical security programmes, and allows the spies direct access to the experts' thinking.

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## ECONOMICS

**Maritime sector to be included in the EU's emission trading scheme.** EU legislators agreed to include maritime transport in their [emissions trading scheme](#). Globally, the maritime sector is responsible for around 3% of greenhouse gas emissions.

**Israel's incoming finance minister brings religion to the front of economic strategy.** Bezalel Smotrich predicts adhering to religious beliefs laid out in the Torah will help the country prosper, and suggested the incoming government's spending priorities include increased budget for [religious studies](#).

**Argentina to introduce income tax relief in January.** Argentina's government will raise the floor for [income taxes](#) in January, amid union demands to ease the burden on workers. No worker who earns less than \$2,378 per month will pay tax.

**China counters US influence in Middle East with strategic energy deals.** Xi Jinping vowed to [import more oil and natural gas from Gulf Arab states](#), while not interfering in their affairs. China urged the use of the yuan over the US dollar for the contracts, and offered to set up a joint nuclear training facility.

**UN expects Haiti sanctions regime to be running by January.** Haitian gangs have expanded their territory since the 2021 assassination of President Jovenel Moise. The [resulting violence](#) has left much of the country off-limits to the government, and has led to routine gun battles with police.

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## SOCIAL

**San Francisco pauses police use of robots for deadly force after public outcry.** The city has put the brakes on a controversial policy allowing police to use robots for deadly force after its approval sparked a [fierce backlash](#) and warnings about the militarisation and automation of policing.

**Italy aging faster than EU peers, population drops below 59M.** The country is aging at a much faster rate than its EU peers. A [shrinking and aging population](#) is a major worry for a stagnant economy like Italy; as it's linked to falling productivity, less innovation and higher welfare bills.

**Researchers use ultrasound waves to move objects hands-free.** This new method is expected to open doors to non-contact manipulation. The movement of objects using ultrasonic waves is expected to find application in industries such as [robotics and manufacturing](#).

**French farmer wins \$11,700 in Bayer pesticide fumes case.** Germany's Bayer has been ordered to pay compensation of \$11,700 to a French farmer who [inhaled fumes from a weedkiller](#), ending a 15-year legal battle. The company faces thousands of similar claims in the US.

**Researchers propose new structures to harvest untapped sources of fresh water.** A new study suggests investing in infrastructure capable of [harvesting oceanic water vapour](#), as a solution to limited supplies of fresh water in several places worldwide.

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## PEACEBUILDING

The [Carter Center](#), which serves as the Independent Observer of the implementation of Mali's 2015 peace agreement, has released a [new report](#) focused on the reconciliation, justice, and humanitarian issues laid out in the agreement. The Observer encourages the Malian parties to continue their new dynamic of dialogue and revival of activities for implementing the agreement. The report recognizes developments in reconciliation and transitional justice and the strengthening of traditional authorities, but notes that other aspects, notably support for victims seeking justice, have "not received the same consideration."

**Cure Violence GlobalTM and the [American Arbitration Association – International Centre for Dispute Resolution Foundation](#) are [partnering to develop the next generation of trainings](#) for community-based violence intervention.** The partnership aims to use the expertise and lived experience of its training staff and partner network to produce training that makes violence prevention programs more effective, more sustainable and safer for violence prevention workers.

The website [iNaturalist](#) encourages strangers to come together to identify the correct scientific classification for the living things people photograph in the wild or the backyard. Some participants think [their model](#) of discussion with its explicit aim of collaboration and consensus to establish "nano-agreements" may be translatable to larger and more charged topics. The website is a not-for-profit initiative of the [California Academy of Sciences](#) and the [National Geographic Society](#) that aims to connect people to nature through technology.

**Long-time US environmental activist Bill McKibben has founded [Third Act](#) to mobilize people over 60 to work to defend our climate and democracy.** [McKibben told PBS](#) that he started organizing the NGO because of the power US seniors have: First, "there's a lot of us" -- 70 million people over the age of 60. Second, we "punch way above our numbers politically, because we all vote." Third, "fair or not, we ended up with most of the money" -- about 70 percent of America's financial assets.