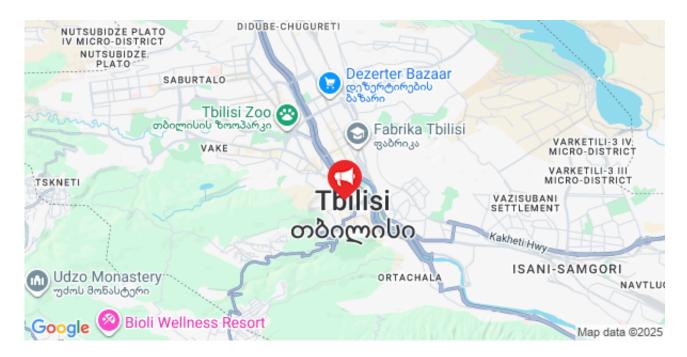


Protest





Georgia Tactical: Anti-GD protests slated in Tbilisi from 12:00 (local time) on October 21; avoid vicinity of protest

Current Situation:

- Protesters are scheduled to hold a protest outside the Ministry of Justice at 11:00 (local time) and outside the Ministry of Finance in Tbilisi at 12:00 on October 21. A separate demonstration will be held outside the Parliament in Tbilisi at 20:00 on October 21.
- The gathering will be part of the daily movement launched against the ruling Georgian Dream (GD)-led administration to denounce alleged undemocratic policies and disproportionate crackdown on opposition figures.



Source: Facebook

Assessments & Forecast:

- 1. The expected turnout at the gathering outside the Ministry of Justice and Finance will likely range in the mid-to-high dozens, while mobilization outside the parliament is expected to range in the high dozens to low hundreds, based on previous participation trends. Increased security measures at demonstration locations, especially in the vicinity of the Parliament, are anticipated and are likely to include the deployment of additional police personnel and the placement of barricades, due to the sensitivity of the location.
- 2. Given the authorities' low tolerance for anti-GD protests, coupled with the precedent of clashes at similar gatherings, there will remain a high likelihood of confrontations between protesters and the security forces on October 21. The police are likely to forcibly disperse crowds through detentions should participants block nearby roads, defy police orders, or use firecrackers/fireworks against law enforcement. The deployment of water cannons or tear gas cannot be ruled out in extreme cases of unrest. Disruptions to pedestrian and vehicular travel are expected in the vicinity of Parliament due to the anticipated turnout and associated security measures on October 21.

Recommendations:

Those operating or residing in Tbilisi on October 21 are advised to avoid nonessential travel in the vicinity of the aforementioned locations due to the slated protest and associated high risk of unrest while allotting for travel disruptions.