

Protest

24

AUG

11:34 UTC

Colombia Tactical: CNP to hold nationwide protests, including in Bogota from 10:00 (local time) on August 26; avoid nonessential travel

Please be advised

- According to reports, the Comité Nacional de Paro (CNP) has called for nationwide mobilizations to be held on August 26. The protests are being staged to reject President Ivan Duque's proposed tax reform, as well as to demand the government to implement the CNP's set of legislative proposals filed in Congress on July 20.
- In Bogota, protesters will gather at Parque Nacional at 10:00 (local time) and march towards Plaza de Bolívar.
- Similar protests will be held in Cali, Medellin, and other large cities on the same day.



Assessments

1. Based on previous demonstrations, nationwide protests are liable to witness turnouts ranging in the low-to-mid thousands each, with the demonstration in Bogota likely to be the largest. Moreover, precedent suggests the spontaneous gatherings will also be held in major squares and outside government buildings in Bogota and in other large urban centers throughout August 26.
2. Given the prevailing heightened levels of unrest witnessed in recent months, the events carry an elevated potential for continued clashes between protesters and security forces. With that, security forces are liable to use tear gas, rubber bullets, and water cannons, and conduct mass arrests to disperse protesters. Further, the possibility of police and armed individuals firing shots at protesters cannot be ruled out as evidenced in past protests, particularly in Cali.
3. Significant disruptions to pedestrian and vehicular traffic are likely in the vicinity of the aforementioned locations in Bogota, as well as across capital cities of all departments. Additionally, disruptions to public services, including public transportation, healthcare facilities, and essential businesses are possible during the nationwide protest.

Recommendations

Those operating or residing in Bogota and other major cities in Colombia on August 26 are advised to avoid nonessential travel in the vicinity of all protest locations due to the elevated potential for unrest.