

Protest



08

MAR
5:25 UTC

Georgia Tactical: Multiple anti-government protests slated in Tbilisi from 17:00 (local time) onwards on March 8; avoid vicinity of rallies

Current Situation:

- Multiple anti-government protests are slated in Tbilisi on March 8 to denounce the Georgian Dream (GD) government over the alleged anti-government policies, such as the suspension of negotiations with the EU in 2024, the arrests of key opposition lawmakers, and renew the calls for fresh parliamentary elections.
- A rally is slated at the Beisiki Square in Tbilisi at 17:00 (local time). Separately, a gathering is slated outside the Public Broadcaster Building in Tbilisi at 19:00.
- A protest will also take place at the Republic Square in Tbilisi at 19:30.
- A gathering is also slated outside the Parliament in Tbilisi at 20:00.



Source: [Facebook](#)

Assessments & Forecast:

1. The turnout at the slated gatherings is likely to range in the high dozens to low hundreds, based on the participation trends witnessed across previous anti-GD protests in the capital in the past. The attendance at protests slated outside Parliament, the Public Broadcaster Building, and Republic Square is likely to witness slightly higher attendance, given the prominence of the locations as major focal points of ongoing demonstrations. As per the standard security protocol, the authorities will likely implement heightened security measures in the vicinity of the protest locations. These measures are likely to include riot police deployment and barricade placement.
2. The risk of clashes between the police and the protesters remains high, based on the authorities' perceived low tolerance for anti-government demonstrations. The riot police will likely use measures such as detention of protesters should the demonstrators engage in disruptive tactics such as blocking major thoroughfares. Should the unrest escalate, the police will likely use measures like deploying water cannons and tear gas shelling. Regardless, significant travel disruptions are expected in the vicinity of the aforementioned locations during the protest hours on March 8 due to the anticipated turnout and associated security measures.

Recommendations:

Those operating or residing in Tbilisi on March 8 are advised to avoid nonessential travel in the vicinity of the aforementioned locations due to the slated protests and associated high risk of unrest while allotting for travel disruptions.