

## Protest

**19**DEC  
5:17 UTC

## Georgia Tactical: Protests slated at Rustaveli Avenue, Parliament in Tbilisi on December 19-20; avoid vicinity of rallies

### Current Situation:

- A protest is scheduled at Shota Rustaveli Avenue in Tbilisi from 20:00 (local time) on December 19.  
Another protest rally is slated to take place from the Philharmonic hotel to Parliament in Tbilisi from 19:00 on December 20.
- The protests will be held to denounce the ruling Georgian Dream (GD) party's perceived undemocratic and anti-EU policies and disproportionate crackdown on anti-government protesters.
- Additionally, the protests will also condemn the alleged use of bromobenzyl cyanide, a toxic chemical warfare tear gas agent, in water cannons against protesters in the 2024 anti-government demonstrations.



Source: [Facebook](#), [Facebook](#)

## Assessments & Forecast:

1. The turnout at the December 19 protest is expected to range in the low to mid hundreds based on the mounting frustrations among the public against the GD-led government. Participation at the December 20 protest march is likely to range in the mid to high dozens based on the the GD's persistent crackdown on anti-GD protesters. The attendance at both demonstrations is likely to be boosted further, given the GD-led government's December 17 decision to ban overseas voting and scrap the Anti-Corruption Bureau in Georgia. Anticipating this, heightened security measures will likely be maintained in the vicinity of the aforementioned locations, as part of the standard security protocols. These measures will likely include erecting security barricades and deploying riot police personnel to monitor the crowd and pre-empt travel disruptions.
2. High risk of clashes between the protesters and security forces is likely to persist, considering the authorities' low tolerance toward anti-GD demonstrations. As such, should the protesters be perceived as resorting to any form of disruptive behaviour, such as blocking major thoroughfares, pedestrian zones, engaging in provocative sloganeering, or launching pyrotechnics against security forces, the authorities are expected to deploy forcible crowd dispersal tactics. These measures will likely include forced removal of protesters from sites, detention, and baton charges. Should unrest escalate, the authorities will likely resort to heavy-handed measures such as deploying water cannons or tear gas shelling. Pedestrian and vehicular travel disruptions are expected in the vicinity of the aforementioned locations due to the anticipated turnout and related security measures during the protest hours on December 19-20.

## Recommendations:

Those operating or residing in Tbilisi on December 19-20 are advised to avoid nonessential travel in the vicinity of the aforementioned locations due to the slated demonstrations and associated high risk of unrest, while allotting for travel disruptions.

