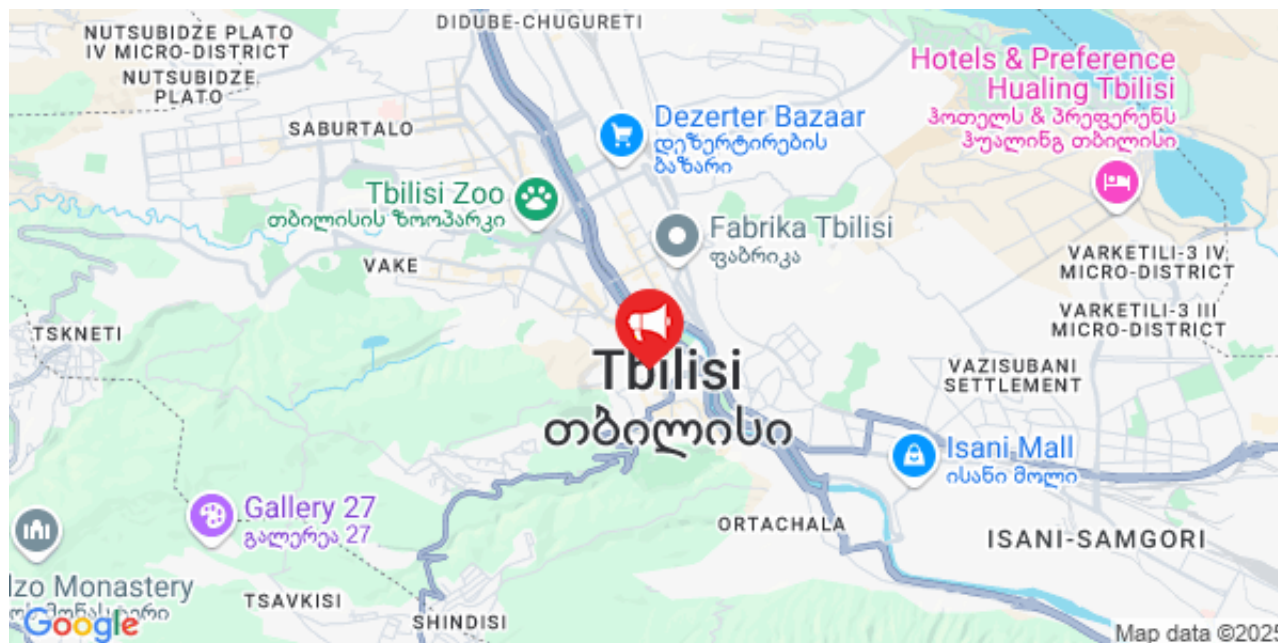


Protest



16

MAY
4:51 UTC

Georgia Tactical: Multiple anti-government protests slated in Tbilisi on May 16; avoid vicinity of rallies

Current Situation:

- Multiple anti-government protests are slated in Tbilisi, including outside the Tbilisi City Court from 11:00 (local time) to 16:00, the Public Broadcaster building at 19:00, and Parliament at 20:00 on May 16.
- It will mark the 170th day of continuous protests in the city against the ruling Georgian Dream (GD) party, which is perceived as anti-democratic by the demonstrators.



Source: [Facebook](#)

Assessments & Forecast:

1. The turnout at the slated protests outside the City Court is likely to be in the range of mid-to-high dozens, whereas the turnout at the protests in front of the Parliament and the Public Broadcaster building is likely to range between high dozens to low hundreds. This is based on estimates from previous gatherings. A slightly bolstered attendance is expected due to the government's recent passing of laws perceived to stifle dissent, independent media, and civil society. The authorities are liable to bolster security measures in the vicinity of the aforementioned locations, given their sensitive nature as government buildings. These measures will include the deployment of security personnel, police buses, and the placement of barricades to manage the crowds.
2. A high risk of clashes between the police and protesters remains, given the anti-government sentiments involved in these demonstrations. The authorities are liable to deploy forcible dispersal measures in case the protesters are deemed to be behaving in an unruly manner, including the use of pyrotechnics, breaching security protocols, or blocking major thoroughfares. Heavy-handed response is expected in case of baton charges, detention of protesters, and water cannons in extreme situations. Significant travel disruptions to pedestrian and vehicular traffic are anticipated in the vicinity of the aforementioned locations, including Rustaveli Avenue, on May 16.

Recommendations:

Those operating or residing in Tbilisi on May 16 are advised to avoid the vicinity of protests in the aforementioned locations due to the slated protests and associated risk of unrest while allotting for travel disruptions.