

3,000 Rally in Tbilisi

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TBILISI, Georgia — About 3,000 anti-government protesters in Georgia have demanded President Mikheil Saakashvili's resignation and will try to block a military parade in the capital Thursday.

The rally's organizers have permission to remain at Tbilisi's Freedom Square until midnight Wednesday — 10 hours before the parade is scheduled to pass through there. Prominent opposition leader Nino Burdzhaneladze called on the demonstrators to remain on the square beyond midnight.

Irakli Okruashvili, a former Georgian defense minister living in asylum in France, canceled a planned visit to join protesters because of a disagreement among opposition groups, Burzhanadze said.

(AP, Bloomberg)

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