

Georgia police end 5-day Tbilisi protest

by UPI

TBILISI, Georgia -- Georgian police used tear gas Wednesday to break up an anti-government protest in the capital in its fifth day, Russian media reported. A police spokesman said officers chose to move in at 8 a.m., when the number of protesters was at its lowest, the Novosti news agency reported. Local television station showed about 150 police backed by garbage trucks converging on the throng and confiscating cameras, the report said. After four hours, the demonstration in front of the parliament building had been dispersed, Itar-Tass reported. The demonstrators are demanding the resignation of Georgian President Mikhail Saakashvili, the restoration of elections to next April, electoral reform and the release of alleged political prisoners. In a nationally televised address Monday, Saakashvili said he had moved the election back to next autumn as a cost-cutting measure.

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