

Saakashvili says he won't resign

by UPI

TBILISI, Georgia -- Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili said Friday he would not bow to opposition demands that he resign.

Protesters assembled again in Tbilisi, a day after they called for Saakashvili to step down, Russian news agency RIA Novosti reported.

Saakashvili said he understood Georgians' frustrations with the country's economic and political situation, and called for unity among all parties.

"I understand that the poverty in the country was exacerbated by the war (with Russia last August)," he said during a news conference. "People have become angry. I am also angry with all these problems, but resolving them requires the unity of all the citizens and political groups."

Opposition leaders, critical of Saakashvili's style of governing, had said they would decide how to proceed once the president responded to their demand for his resignation.

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