
Current Intelligence Report Circular

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Report Topic: Popular Unrest in Kazakhstan
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Protests begin in Aktau, Kazakhstan over concerns about low wages

Protestors gathered in Aktau, Kazakhstan, on 07 FEB after employees of the state-owned nuclear company, Kazatomprom, requested a pay raise that would double their income. Their demand was rejected by company representatives, who told employees that the company cannot afford the pay hike. Company representatives offered a separate deal of a 30% raise for all staff except managers, as well as bonuses for public holidays. Workers rejected this proposal and walked out in protest. Protests have since spread across multiple cities in Kazakhstan, as members of other professions have begun requesting “livable wages”. Protestors sent a direct appeal to President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, suggesting that they cannot live on their current salaries due to the high inflation rates. After the appeal, President Tokayev acknowledged that Kazakhstan “is set to stabilize the economy and reduce inflation.” END

CMCD Note

With the recent protests that occurred in early January, it is highly likely that tensions will continue to rise throughout Kazakhstan. One key point from the earlier protests was that protestors demanded a higher salary, and the demands were not met. Kazatomprom employees, as well as employees from other career fields, began demanding higher salaries and going on strike. We can assess with high confidence that the number of demonstrations and employees going on strike will continue to rise until the demands are met or the economy stabilizes, whichever comes first.

Sources

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