WHY HAVE STUDENTS IN ALBANIA TAKEN TO THE STREETS?

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Thousands of students and other protesters have joined demonstrations in Tirana, the capital of Albania. They are angry about university costs, poor conditions, limited job opportunities and corruption. The protests began peacefully but became violent, with fires, damaged buildings, clashes with police and many arrests. The movement is also connected to plans for a luxury resort on Albania's southern coast. Critics say the development could damage protected land and allow wealthy investors to gain control over places used by local people. Prime Minister Edi Rama has refused to resign, arguing that governments should be changed through elections rather than street violence. The protests are especially important because Albania spent decades under one of Europe's strictest communist dictatorships before communism collapsed in 1991. Since then, the country has struggled with corruption, poverty and the movement of many young people abroad. The demonstrations show that the past still affects how Albanians view power and government today.

WHY IS THIS INTERESTING?

Protests can begin with one issue and grow into something much larger. In Albania, concerns about education and the environment have become arguments about corruption, democracy and who controls the country's future. The events also show how memories of dictatorship can shape people's attitudes towards authority.

THINK LIKE A HISTORIAN

"Why did a protest about education become a wider challenge to government?"

Source: The Guardian

https://www.theguardian.com/world/2026/oct/14/student-protests-tirana-albania-police-clashes