

Summary

In September, Ghana's Fix the Country (FtC) movement organized a 3-day protest targeting Jubilee House, which is President Akufo-Addo's residence and office in Accra, drawing hundreds of people. A large police force blocked the crowd and arrested some 50 demonstrators by force. Although the movement mostly advocates for peaceful protesting, several factors suggest that the movement could grow in size and intensity over the coming months, making violent incidents more likely.

Recent events and developments

Between September 21 and 23, 2023, hundreds of protestors demonstrated against the national government in Accra, where they attempted to march on the Jubilee House, which is the residence and office of the President of Ghana, Nana Akufo-Addo. On the first day of the protests, around 50 organizing members of the protest were detained by force, although they were later released. On the two following days, the crowd was stopped by the police in their attempts to reach Jubilee House. The protests were organized by the Democracy Hub, as part of the "Fix the Country" (FtC) movement, which hails from 2021. Earlier FtC demonstrations drew thousands of participants and took place in Accra but also in the Ashanti region, which houses Ghana's second-largest city, Kumasi. During these protests, 2 people died as participants clashed with the military. As a reaction to the force used in the latest protests, organizers announced that they would not shun the use of more violent means of demonstration. Meanwhile, inflation in Ghana has remained above 35% for the past year, making it increasingly difficult for Ghanaians to fulfill their basic needs.

Impact assessment

On September 24, FtC proclaimed that it would hold another round of demonstrations in December. On the 27th of September, however, it alluded that new protests could take place earlier as well. Regardless, multiple signs suggest that the movement could further gain traction in the coming months: multiple Ghanaian celebrities have attached their name to FtC and civilians are increasingly displeased with the rising cost of living, among other fundamental themes. The fact that the movement drew thousands of protestors during earlier iterations further demonstrates its capacity for disruption. Such disturbances are overwhelmingly aimed at government buildings such as Jubilee House, although locations associated with the Electoral Commission are also likely targets. Since these locations are well-protected by security forces, expect disruption in the wide vicinity of government premises during protests. Although protests have been largely peaceful, such events may turn violent with little notice, especially given FtC's warning that they will respond to aggressive tactics in kind.

Advice from Forth Global

- Monitor local news to stay informed about any developments regarding the political situation and planned rallies.
- Advise staff to avoid all kinds of demonstrations and large public gatherings in major cities.
- In case of protests, advise staff to check the accessibility of their destination before departure.
- Make sure contingency and security plans are updated to the current security circumstances and adequately distributed to employees on the ground.

Customized advice

Please contact us for specific advice:

+31 (0) 35 543 04 37

christiaan@forthglobal.com

We provide a wide range of services to prepare your organization and employees for situations like these. More information on our website: www.forthglobal.com

[DISCLAIMER](#)