

'Flamingo Revolution' protestors clash with police

6th July 2026



Thousands of protestors in Albania have clashed with police over the planned construction of a luxury resort on a nature reserve. Police have responded with tear gas and water cannon. The proposed development is

backed by Donald Trump's son-in-law, Jared Kushner. The protests are part of daily rallies that are being dubbed the 'flamingo revolution'. This is because the planned resort is on a pristine wildlife area that is home to thousands of flamingos. Demonstrators say the project would destroy habitats used by migratory birds. Many of those taking to the streets are calling for the resignation of Prime Minister Edi Rama. They want him to reverse his decision to allow the resort to go ahead.

The land at the heart of the demonstrations is at the Narta Lagoon on the coast of Albania's Adriatic Sea. Even though planning permission has not been granted and an environmental impact assessment has not been conducted, work has gone ahead. There are many bulldozers on the site and large areas have been fenced off. Protestors report that woodland has been cut down and sand dunes have been cleared. A 7 km-long road has also been constructed along a peninsula. Albania's government said the resort was necessary to help transform the country's economy. However, the European Union has warned the resort could hinder Albania's EU membership.

Sources: theguardian.com / ksy.com / bbc.com

Writing

The world has enough luxury resorts. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

protestors / police / construction / luxury resort / tear gas / flamingos / revolution / demonstrations / the coast / environmental / bulldozers / woodland / sand dunes

True / False

- 1) Thousands of people joined police in protests in Albania. T / F
- 2) Police fired watery gas at the protestors. T / F
- 3) The protests in Albania are taking place once a week. T / F
- 4) The protestors want the prime minister of Albania to resign. T / F
- 5) The proposed resort does not have planning permission. T / F
- 6) Work on the proposed resort has planning permission. T / F
- 7) Albania's government said the resort would hell change the economy. T / F
- 8) The resort could stop Albania from joining the EU. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| 1. protestors | a. given |
| 2. reserve | b. nicknamed |
| 3. rallies | c. do a U-turn on |
| 4. dubbed | d. built |
| 5. reverse | e. natural park |
| 6. granted | f. hamper |
| 7. conducted | g. marches |
| 8. gone ahead | h. progressed |
| 9. constructed | i. demonstrators |
| 10. hinder | j. carried out |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you know about flamingos?
- b) What do you think of luxury resorts?
- c) Should we stop building on land where there is wildlife?
- d) What is the nicest resort you have ever stayed in?
- e) What would make you protest in the streets?
- f) What do you think of the term 'predatory capitalist'?
- g) How do you want this story to end?
- h) What advice do you have for the protestors?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|--|---------------------------|
| 1. of protestors in Albania have clashed | a. birds |
| 2. the planned construction of a luxury resort | b. pristine wildlife area |
| 3. The protests are part of daily | c. assessment |
| 4. the planned resort is on a | d. EU membership |
| 5. destroy habitats used by migratory | e. with police |
| 6. The land at the heart | f. fenced off |
| 7. an environmental impact | g. rallies |
| 8. large areas have been | h. have been cleared |
| 9. sand dunes | i. on a nature reserve |
| 10. the resort could hinder Albania's | j. of the demonstrations |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- What do you think of revolutions?
- Are there enough luxury resorts in the world?
- Should overseas investors be banned from development projects?
- What are the advantages of building the resort?
- What do you think developers think about wildlife?
- How do you think this story will end?
- What questions would you like to ask the developers?

Spelling

- tear gas and water ncaonn
- the protests are part of daily airlrlse
- a iprnesit wildlife area
- the project would destroy shaatitb
- used by ogmyratir birds
- calling for the iinagsentor
- planning iiormepssn
- There are many eblsuzoldr on the site
- large areas have been ecdefn off
- sand unsde
- constructed along a ipnauenls
- ernihd Albania's EU membership

Answers – Synonym Match

1. i	2. e	3. g	4. b	5. c
6. a	7. j	8. h	9. d	10. f

Comprehension Questions

Listen to / read the news article. Answer these questions. (Answers are on p. 27 of the 27-page PDF.)

1.	What might the proposed resort be built on?
2.	What did police use against the protestors besides tear gas?
3.	How often are the protests taking place?
4.	What birds' habitat might be destroyed?
5.	Who do the protestors want to reverse a decision?
6.	What does the article say has not been granted?
7.	What kind of machinery is on the site of the proposed resort?
8.	Where has a road been built?
9.	What did the Albanian government say the resort could reform?
10.	What could the resort hinder for Albania?

Speaking – Protests

Rank these with your partner. Put the things that would most make you protest at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| • Environmental damage | • Corrupt leaders |
| • Better pay | • Price rises |
| • Union rights | • War |
| • Immigration | • Equal rights |

Answers – True False

1	F	2	F	3	F	4	T	5	T	6	F	7	T	8	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.