

PROTESTS IN ROMANIA



PEOPLE POWER

"This [is] not just a movement against corruption. It's a fight in defence of democracy."



Recent days have seen the largest protests in Romania since the historic movement that ousted the Communist regime in 1989



± 500,000 protesters nationwide

± 250,000 protesters in Bucharest



THE ISSUES...

- A hastily-imposed government decree decriminalising 'abuse-of-office' offenses by corrupt government officials
- A draft law to pardon some prisoners serving sentences shorter than five years

Prime minister argued that changes were needed to align some laws with the constitution and to reduce prison overcrowding



FIGHTING CORRUPTION IN ROMANIA

Since joining the EU in 2007, steady progress in fight to eliminate corruption

In the past two years...

SUSPECTED MOTIVATIONS...

Possible attempt to allow allies of Prime Minister Grindeanu (caught in the country's anti-corruption efforts) to escape punishment

President of the ruling party could benefit - currently blocked from becoming prime minister due to previous conviction on election fraud and current corruption charges



1,000 placed on trial



Attempts to recover over



€1 billion

Ranked 4th most corrupt country in EU at end of 2016



"I teach my children it is not right to steal or to lie. What kind of example does this kind of decree show them?"

FROM A CHRISTIAN PERSPECTIVE

Adrian Petrice, a protesting Romanian Christian with a PhD in Political Science and one of the founding members of the Christian Democratic Union of Romania, said the following:

"Christians cannot be salt and light by being absent... I strongly believe that every legitimate human activity can be redeemed by the power of the Gospel, and that we should have enough faith to include politics, in spite of being deemed as one of the most corrupt area in our society."

