

## **Protest**



**O7**AUG
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Europe Tactical (UPDATE): Protests related to Israel-Hamas conflict to take place regionwide on August 7-12; maintain heightened vigilance

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## **Current Situation**

• Reports indicate that protests related to the Israel-Hamas conflict will take place in multiple cities in Europe on August 7-12.

• In Brussels, **Belgium**, a pro-Palestinian protest will take place at Boulevard de l'Empereur 13 from 16:00 on August 8.

Source: Instagram

• In Paris, <b>France</b> , a pro-Palestinian protest will take place at Barbes-Rochechouart from 18:30 on August 7.
Source: X/Twitter
• In Berlin, <b>Germany</b> , a pro-Palestinian protest will take place at Check Point Charlie from 15:00 on August 9.
Source: X/Twitter
• In Barcelona, Spain, a pro-Palestinian protest march will take place at Placa del Catalonia from 18:00 on August 9. As of writing, the final point of location has not been revealed.
Source: CGT
• In Madrid, <b>Spain,</b> a pro-Palestinian protest march will take place from Monumento Alfonso XII to Estanque Parque del Retiro on August 9.
Source: Facebook
<ul> <li>In London, UK, a pro-Palestinian protest march will take place from Russell Square at 12:00 to Downing Street on August 9.</li> </ul>
Source: X/Twitter
• In Castledawson, Northern Ireland (NI), UK, a pro-Palestinian protest will take place at 4-8 Curran Road, outside the offices of an engineering company, from 19:00 on August 12.

Source: X/Twitter

• Separately, in Paris, **France**, the office of Israel's national airline, El Al, was vandalized with red paint and tagged with pro-Palestinian, anti-Israel graffiti on August 6.

Source: The Times of Israel

• In Milan, **Italy**, pro-Palestinian activists threw paint at the Egyptian Consulate to demand that Egyptian authorities open the Egypt-Gaza border on August 5.

Source: Milano Today

## **Assessments & Forecast**

- 1. Based on precedent and the mobilizational capabilities of the organizers, the above protests are likely to garner turnouts ranging from the high dozens to high thousands, with the protest in London likely to see the highest turnout.
- 2. In addition to the planned protests, spontaneous protests and demonstrations related to the ongoing conflict are likely to occur regionwide in the coming days, especially given heightened tensions over escalations in the fighting between Israel and Hamas in recent weeks, including alleged plans by the Israeli government to initiate a full-scale occupation of Gaza as of August 7 reports. Moreover, elevated pro-Palestinian protest activity is expected regionwide on August 9 due to calls for a global "Day of Action."
- 3. Protests are likely to take place near central government buildings, main squares, and Israeli and US diplomatic missions. Protesters are also likely to engage in deliberately disruptive measures, including sit-ins, road blockades, and public transportation blockades. Additionally, the risk for pro-Palestinian protesters engaging in vandalism targeting Israeli entities, entities perceived as linked to Israel, and diplomatic missions of countries alleged to support Israel or perceived as complicit in military actions and blockades in Gaza, is elevated. This is evidenced by the August 5-6 incidents in Milan and Paris.
- 4. Based on precedent, any planned or spontaneous demonstration related to the Israel-Hamas conflict carries a heightened potential for unrest in the form of clashes between protesters and police.
- 5. Given this, a reinforced security presence is expected near protest locations to monitor proceedings. In the case of escalating unrest, police are liable to use forcible dispersal methods, including tear gas or conducting mass arrests.
- 6. Significant disruptions to pedestrian and vehicular movement, including road closures and traffic diversions, should be anticipated near the protest locations.

## Recommendations

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