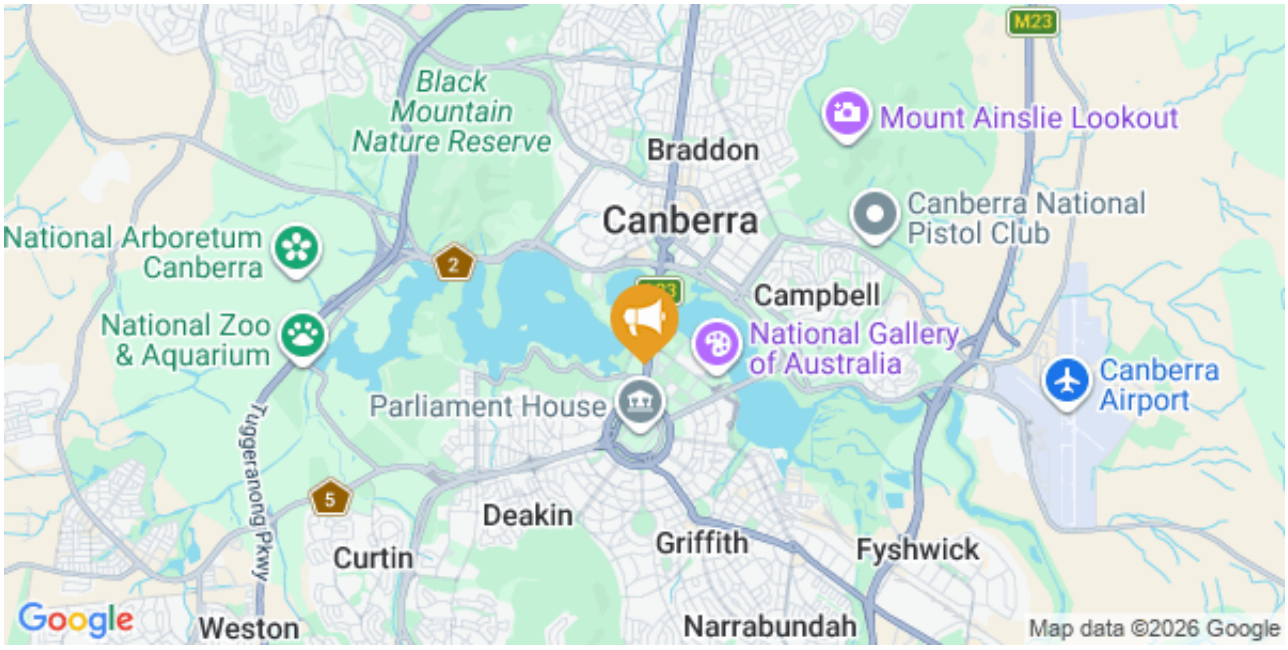
Protest

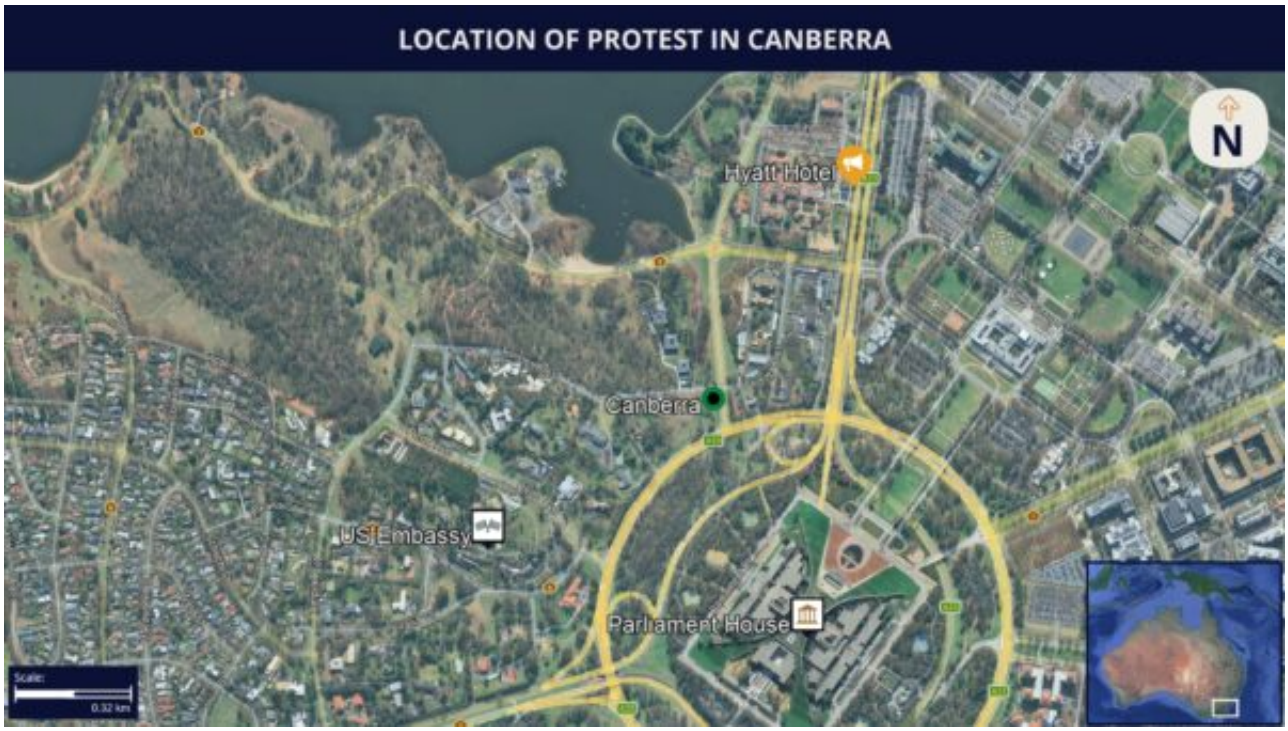


17
FEB
4:17 UTC

Australia Tactical: Pro-Palestinian protest slated outside Hyatt Hotel in Canberra at 16:30 (local time) on February 18; maintain vigilance

Current Situation:

- The Students and Staff Against War–Australia National University, and the Independent and Peaceful Australia Network (IPAN) groups will hold a protest outside the Hyatt Hotel, located on 120 Commonwealth Avenue in Yarralumla of Canberra, at 16:30 (local time) on February 18.
- The protesters will denounce the Australian Defense Magazine (ADM) Congress slated at the hotel on February 18, alleging that it is sponsored by arms companies supporting Israel amid its ongoing conflict with Hamas. The groups will also call on the government to sanction Israel and remove restrictions on pro-Palestinian protests.



Source: [Facebook]

Assessments & Forecast:

1. Participation in the protest will likely range between the mid-to-high dozens, based on the resonance of the issues in Canberra. The groups will likely seek to mobilize greater participation given the high visibility of the ADM Congress, slated to be attended by multiple government officials. As a precaution, enhanced security measures are expected in the vicinity of the Hyatt Hotel. The measures are likely to include the deployment of police personnel and installation of barricades to manage the gathering.
2. There remains a risk of localized scuffles between the police and protesters, given the sensitivities associated with the issues. The police are likely to exhibit a lower tolerance for disruptive activities due to the presence of several dignitaries at the event. Considering this, the use of pepper spray or forced removal from site remains likely should the protesters block major roads, entry-exit points of the hotel, or engage in antisemitic sloganeering. Additionally, there remains an elevated risk of inter-group scuffles, in case pro-Israel or Jewish bystanders engage in ad-hoc counter-protests. Localized pedestrian and vehicular travel disruptions are expected in the vicinity of the Hyatt Hotel in Canberra due to the protest on February 18.

Recommendations:

Those operating or residing in Canberra on February 18 are advised to maintain vigilance in the vicinity of the Hyatt Hotel due to the slated protest and associated risk of localized scuffles, while allotting for travel disruptions.