

### Protest





Europe Tactical (UPDATE): Protests related to Israel-Hamas conflict to be held in multiple cities regionwide on September 29-October 1; maintain heightened vigilance

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# **Current Situation**

- Reports indicate that protests related to the Israel-Hamas conflict and Israel-Hezbollah escalation are scheduled in multiple cities in Europe from September 29 to October 1.
- In Brussels, **Belgium**, a pro-Palestinian protest is slated to take place at Place de Brouckere at 17:00 (local time) on September 30. The protest is organized by multiple pro-Palestinian and pro-Lebanese groups to denounce Israeli airstrikes in Lebanon.

#### Source: <u>Twitter</u>

• In Marseille, **France**, a pro-Palestinian protest organized by Association France Palestine Solidarite (AFPS) is slated to take place at Porte d'Aix at 14:00 on September 29.

Source: Facebook

• In Berlin-Wedding, **Germany**, a "Hands off Lebanon" protest will take place at Leopoldplatz at 18:00 on October 1. The protest is being organized by multiple pro-Palestinian and pro-Lebanese groups to denounce NATO support of Israel and Israeli strikes in the Gaza Strip and Lebanon.

Source: Radar Squat

• In Malmo, **Sweden**, a pro-Palestinian protest will be held will take place at Gustav Adolfs torg at 14:30 on September 29.

Source: Facebook

• An additional pro-Palestinian protest in Malmo will be held outside a weapons manufacturer's headquarters at 15 Jagershillgatan at 17:30 on September 30. The protest is being held to demand that the company end sales to Israeli entities.

Source: Facebook

• In the London Borough of Tower Hamlets, **UK**, a pro-Palestinian protest will be held outside the Town Hall at 160 Whitechapel Road at 17:30 on September 30. The protest is being held to demand that the Tower Hamlets pension fund divest from Israeli-linked companies and fossil fuels. The protest is supported by multiple pro-Palestinian groups and union organizations.

Source: <u>Twitter</u>

• Multiple pro-Palestinian organizations have called for a regionwide "Strike for Palestine and Lebanon" on October 1 to denounce Israeli airstrikes in the Gaza Strip and Lebanon and to demand that companies divest from Israeli entities. The group Pick Up for Gaza has called for students to leave classes and for individuals to abstain from shopping or spending. Additional pro-Palestinian groups are supporting the strike.

Source: PalActions

## **Assessments & Forecast**

- 1. Based on precedent, coupled with heightened sentiments regarding Israeli airstrikes on Lebanon, the slated protests are likely to witness turnouts ranging from the mid-hundreds to low thousands, with the protest in Brussels expected to attract the largest turnout.
- 2. In addition to the planned protests, spontaneous pro-Palestinian and Lebanon solidarity protests are liable to occur regionwide. Such protests are likely to occur near central government buildings, main squares, Israeli and US diplomatic missions, or Jewish community spaces. Moreover, on October 1, protests at universities and other educational intuitions are likely, given calls for students to leave class.
- 3. Based on precedent, any planned or spontaneous demonstrations carry a heightened potential for unrest, particularly if protests attract counterprotests by pro-Israel, pro-Palestinian, pro-Lebanese, and/or far-right groups. Incidents of unrest are likely to manifest in the form of clashes between protesters and the police, as well as with counter-protesters, should additional such demonstrations manifest. Further, the protests carry a continued risk of unrest, which poses a heightened danger to bystanders near rallies and protests.
- 4. A bolstered 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 conducting mass arrests.
- 5. Significant disruptions to pedestrian and vehicular movement, including road closures and traffic diversions, should be anticipated near the protest locations.
- 6. Additionally, disruptions to campuses and other services should be anticipated regionwide due to the strike called by the pro-Palestinian groups on October 1.

### Recommendations

- 1. Those operating or residing in Europe from September 29 to October 1 are advised to maintain heightened vigilance near protests related to the Israel-Hamas conflict due to the elevated potential for unrest.
- 2. Allot for travel-related disruptions in the vicinity of the protest locations.