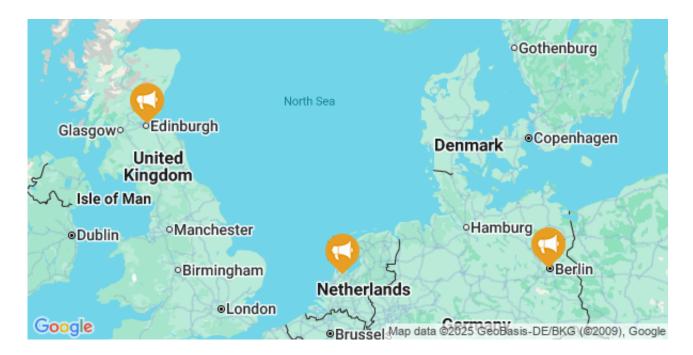


Protest



28 SEP 9:29 UTC Europe Tactical (UPDATE): Protests related to Israel-Hamas conflict to take place in several cities regionwide on September 28-29; maintain heightened vigilance

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Current Situation

• Reports indicate that protests related to the Israel-Hamas conflict will take place in several cities regionwide on September 28-29.

• In Berlin, **Germany**, a pro-Palestinian protest organized by left-wing groups is slated to take place at Berlin Hauptbahnhof at 13:00 (local time) on September 28.

Source: Asanb

- In Amsterdam, the **Netherlands**, a pro-Palestinian protest is slated to take place at Dam Square at 15:00 on September 28.
- The protest is being called to support the Global Sumud Flotilla, which is on course for the Gaza Strip.

Source: <u>Instagram</u>

• In Edinburgh, Scotland, **UK**, a pro-Palestinian protest is slated to take place outside the Scottish Parliament at 17:30 (local time) on September 29.

Source: Facebook

• Separately, on September 27, over 50,000 people took part in a pro-Palestinian protest march in Berlin, Germany.

Source: **Euronews**

• In Turin, **Italy**, violent clashes were reported between pro-Palestinian protesters and police during a protest action near Turin-Caselle Airport (TRN) on September 27. Demonstrators blocked the Turin-Caselle motorway and hurled projectiles, including glass bottles, smoke bombs, flashlights, flagpoles, and firecrackers at officers, who countered using tear gas and water cannons. At least a dozen people were injured. Around 50 protesters managed to reach the perimeter near the airport fence but did not manage to disrupt airport functions.

Source: <u>Lastampa</u>

Assessments & Forecast

- 1. Based on precedent and the mobilizational capabilities of the organizers, the slated protests are likely to attract turnouts in the low hundreds to low thousands, with the protest in Berlin likely to garner the largest turnout.
- 2. In addition to the planned protests, spontaneous protests related to the conflict are likely to occur regionwide in the coming days, given ongoing operations in Gaza City and the current Sumud Flotilla mission. Protests are also expected to intensify, especially in western European cities,

- ahead of the anniversary of the start of the conflict on October 7. Protests are likely to take place near central government buildings, main squares, and Israeli and US diplomatic missions.
- 3. 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, potential counter-protesters, and police. The threat of unrest is especially elevated in countries like Italy, Spain, Germany, and Greece, where notable unrest has been reported in recent weeks.
- 4. 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 deploying tear gas or conducting arrests.
- 5. Significant disruptions to pedestrian and vehicular movement, including road closures and traffic diversions, should be anticipated near the protest locations.
- 6. Separately, the incident in Turin reiterates the elevated risk of unrest associated with pro-Palestinian protest activity in Italy, where demonstrations have increasingly shifted toward violent actions. This is in part due to the involvement of far-left, including anarchist, groups in the Italian pro-Palestinian movement. Indeed, violent unrest was also recorded in cities nationwide on September 22 as part of a nationwide day of action in solidarity with Palestinians.
- 7. **FORECAST:** With pro-Palestinian groups calling for a national protest on October 4 in Rome, there is a high risk for violent unrest at the upcoming protest as well. Protests are also likely to be organized in other Italian cities on October 4, including Milan, Turin, and Naples. Associated labor actions are also likely, which could result in disruptions to travel as well as supply chains.

Recommendations

- 1. Those operating or residing in Europe on September 28-29 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.