

Protest



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Europe Tactical (UPDATE): Protests related to Israel-Hamas conflict to take place in cities regionwide on October 7-11; avoid nonessential travel

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Current Situation

- Reports indicate that protests related to the Israel-Hamas conflict will take place in several cities on October 7-11.
- On October 7, several protests marking the second anniversary of the October 7, 2023, terrorist attacks on Israel will occur in multiple cities.

• In Graz, **Austria**, a pro-Palestinian protest is slated to be held at Hauptbahnhof/ Europaplatz at 14:00 (local time) on October 11.

Source: palaestinasolidaritaet.at

 In Copenhagen, Denmark, a pro-Palestinian protest march is slated to be held from Norrebrogade at 14:00 on October 11. Thereafter, the protest will proceed via Faelledvej, concluding at Sankt Hans Torv.
Source: Organizer's website
• In Paris, France , a pro-Palestinian protest is slated to be held at Fontaine des Innocents from 17:00 on October 7.
Source: X/Twitter
• In Paris, France , a pro-Palestinian protest is slated to be held at Place de la Republique from 18:30 on October 8.
Source: X/Twitter
• In Berlin, Germany , an anti-semitism vigil is slated to be held at Bebelplatz from 18:00 on October 7.
Source: Morgenpost
• In Heraklio, Greece , a pro-Palestinian protest is slated to be held at Eleftherias Square from 18:00 on October 7.
Source: kinimatorama
• In Oslo, Norway , a pro-Palestinian protest is slated to be held at Eidsvolls plass from 18:00 on

October 7.

Source: Instagram

• In Stockholm, **Sweden**, a pro-Palestinian protest is slated to be held at Sergels Torg at 18:00 on October 7.

Source: Instagram

• In Glasgow, **UK**, a pro-Palestinian protest is slated to be held at Glasgow Central Station from 17:30 on October 7.

Source: Organizer's website

- In London, **UK**, nearly ten pro-Palestinian events including vigils, rallies, and debates are reportedly planned on or near university campuses on October 7. Additionally, students from various London universities have announced an "inter-university" protest march in central London, slated to begin at 14:00 from the Strand Campus of King's College London. The march will proceed via the London School of Economics (LSE) and University College London (UCL) before concluding at Malet Street outside the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS).
- On October 6, UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer urged students not to join pro-Palestinian protests marking the second anniversary of the October 7 Hamas attack on Israel, warning of "rising antisemitism on our streets." He called such demonstrations "un-British,". Furthermore, he cited the October 2 terrorist attack on a synagogue in Manchester and heightened security for lewish communities.

Source: **BBC**

Assessments & Forecast

- 1. Based on precedent and the mobilizational capabilities of the organizers, the slated protests are likely to attract turnouts in the mid-hundreds to mid-to-high tens of thousands each. Given growing calls for mobilization, the October 7 protests in major cities across Europe are expected to attract the largest turnouts.
- 2. In addition to the planned protests, spontaneous protests related to the conflict are likely to occur regionwide in the coming days, given ongoing ceasefire negotiations. Protests are also expected to intensify, especially in Western European cities, both on the anniversary of the start of the Israel-

- Hamas conflict on October 7 and in the days following. Such events 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 risk remains especially high during the October 7 protests in major urban centers in Western Europe, including Berlin, Paris, and London.
- 4. Given the reports of violence at previous protests in Berlin, including in recent weeks and at the 2024 anniversary of October 7, the vigil at Bebelplatz in Berlin carries a high risk for unrest, including sudden violent escalation. This is especially so as it coincides with a pro-Palestinian protest slated to take place at Alexanderplatz from 18:00 on October 7. Reports indicating that 1,400 additional police will be deployed in the city further support this assessment, as police are reportedly anticipating widespread unrest. Unrest will likely manifest as clashes between police and protesters and counter-protesters. Protesters are also likely to target police officers with projectiles, including incendiary devices, glass bottles, and stones. Instances of vandalism as well as arson are likely if unrest escalates.
- 5. Similarly, in the UK, PM Keir Starmer's statement reflects heightened concerns over the risk of widespread unrest during the pro-Palestinian student protests as well as rising anti-Semitic sentiment. The October 4 arrests of nearly 500 demonstrators in London for supporting the proscribed group Palestine Action suggest that further confrontations on October 7 remain highly likely. Authorities are expected to enforce a low threshold for intervention, potentially restricting or relocating protests and arresting individuals displaying support for banned organizations under the expanded Public Order Act.
- 6. Moreover, given precedent, there is a heightened threat of verbal and physical assault of Jewish and Israeli individuals on the sidelines of the slated protests, including those wearing traditional attire or speaking Hebrew in public, as they are more likely to be targeted.
- 7. 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.
- 8. Significant disruptions to pedestrian and vehicular movement, including road closures and traffic diversions, should be anticipated near the protest locations.

Recommendations

- 1. Those operating or residing in Berlin, Paris, and London on October 7 are advised to avoid nonessential travel in the vicinity of the above-mentioned protests due to the high risk of violent unrest
- 2. Those operating or residing in the aforementioned cities on October 7-11 are advised to maintain heightened vigilance near protests related to the Israel-Hamas conflict due to the elevated potential for unrest.
- 3. Jewish and Israeli travelers are advised to consider keeping a low profile and limiting the wearing or presentation of overt signs or symbols associated with Judaism or Israel. This includes the traditional Jewish head covering (kippah), the Star of David, or the Israeli flag.
- 4. Those who wear the kippah are advised to consider wearing an additional head covering, such as a baseball cap.
- 5. Allot for travel-related disruptions in the vicinity of the protest locations.