

## **Protest**





Europe Tactical (UPDATE): Protests related to Israel-Hamas conflict to take place regionwide on May 10-12; 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 May 10-12. Details are as follows:
- In Vienna, **Austria**, a pro-Palestinian protest is slated to be held at Votivpark at 17:00 (local time) on May 10. The event includes an open-air concert as part of the start of "Nakba Week".
- Nakba is a Palestinian term for events in 1948, with the 77th annual "Nakba Day" scheduled on May 15.

Source: Facebook

• In Brussels, **Belgium**, a pro-Palestinian protest is slated to take place at Gare du Noord station at 14:00 on May 11. The protest is also organized to commemorate the Nakba.

Source: Facebook

- In Oslo, **Norway**, pro-Israel activists are slated to protest at Eidsvolls plass outside the Stortinget, the Norwegian Parliament building, at 15:30 on May 11.
- The protest is organized by the Med Israel For Fred (MIFF) group to commemorate Israel's Independence Day.

Source: Organizer's website

• Also in Oslo, **Norway**, a pro-Palestinian counter-demonstration to the MIFF protest will be held at Spikersuppa, adjacent to Eidsvolls plass, at 15:00 on May 11.

**Source**: Instagram

- In Madrid, **Spain**, a pro-Palestinian protest march to commemorate the Nakba will begin outside Atocha at 12:00 on May 10. After the initial gathering, participants will march through central Madrid via an unannounced route.
- The protest is organized by the pro-Palestinian collective Red Solidaria Contra la Ocupacion de Palestina (RESCOP) and supported by Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions (BDS) Madrid.

**Source**: Organizer's website

• In London, **UK**, a pro-Palestinian protest is slated to be held outside the Egyptian Embassy at 12:00 on May 10

**Source**: X/Twitter

• Also in London, a pro-Palestinian protest will be held outside the Royal Courts of Justice, Strand at 08:30 on May 12. The protest is held to demand an end to arms sales to Israel.

**Source**: Instagram

## **Assessments & Forecast**

- 1. Based on precedent and the mobilizational capabilities of the organizers, protests related to the Israel-Hamas conflict are likely to attract turnouts ranging from the mid-hundreds to high thousands each, with the protests in Brussels, London, and Madrid likely attracting the largest turnouts
- 2. In addition to the planned protests, spontaneous pro-Palestinian and pro-Israel demonstrations are likely to occur regionwide in the near-to-medium term. The risk of protests is particularly high between May 10 and 17 due to "Nakba Day" on May 15. 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 demonstrations related to the Israel-Hamas conflict carry a heightened potential for unrest in the form of clashes between protesters and police. Further, the potential for counter-protests by both pro-Israel and pro-Palestinian groups also remains, increasing the risk of clashes between opposing groups.
- 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 using tear gas or conducting arrests.
- 5. Significant disruptions to pedestrian and vehicular movement, including road closures, disruptions to public transportation, and traffic diversions, should be anticipated near the protest locations.

## Recommendations

- 1. Those operating or residing in Europe on May 10-12 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.