

## Protest



# 06

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**Europe Tactical (UPDATE): Protests related to Israel-Hamas conflict to be held in multiple cities on June 6-8; maintain heightened vigilance**

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## Current Situation

- Protests related to the Israel-Hamas conflict will take place in multiple cities across Europe on June 6-8. Details are as follows:
- In Copenhagen, **Denmark**, a pro-Palestinian protest will be held at Israels Plads at 14:00 (local time) on June 8.

- In Paris, **France**, activists associated with multiple pro-Palestinian groups, including Urgence Palestine and Euro Palestine, will hold a protest at Thomas Jefferson Square in the 16th arrondissement in front of the Egyptian Embassy at 18:00 on June 7.
- In Paris, **France**, a pro-Palestinian protest will be held at Place de la Republique at 18:00 on June 8.
- In Berlin, **Germany**, a pro-Palestinian protest will be held at Werderscher Markt at 17:00 on June 7.
- In Berlin, **Germany**, a pro-Palestinian protest will be held at the eastern entrance of the Internationale Luft- und Raumfahrttausstellung (ILA) Berlin Air Show at ExpoCenter Airport in Schönefeld at 12:00 on June 8.
- In Stuttgart, **Germany**, a pro-Palestinian protest will take place at Schlossplatz at 15:00 on June 8.
- In Madrid, **Spain**, activists associated with the trade union Confederation Generale du Travail (CGT) will hold a pro-Palestinian solidarity protest at Pozuelo de Alarcón at 13:00 on June 6.
- In Geneva, **Switzerland**, a pro-Palestinian protest will be held at Place de la Navigation at 16:30 on June 8.

- In London, **UK**, a pro-Palestinian protest will take place at Swiss Cottage in the London Borough of Camden at 17:00 on June 7.
- In London, **UK**, climate activists associated with multiple groups, including Extinction Rebellion (XR), will hold a solidarity protest for Palestine at Thornhaugh Street in Westminster at 11:45 on June 8.
- In London, **UK**, activists associated with multiple pro-Palestinian groups, including Palestine Solidarity Campaign (PSC), Friends of Al-Aqsa, and Stop the War Coalition, will hold a protest march from Russell Square to Whitehall starting at 12:30 on June 8.
- Meanwhile, on June 4, Rachel Keker, a deputy of La France Insoumise (LFI), displayed a Palestinian flag on the hemicycle of the National Assembly in **France**. As a result, she was promptly sanctioned by Yael Braun-Pivet, the President of the Hemicycle.
- According to June 4 reports, **German** police have initiated an investigation against activists associated with the climate group Fridays For Future (FFF), who are alleged to have chanted anti-Semitic slogans and attacked officials during a protest in Hanover on May 31.
- Separately, on June 5, pro-Palestinian student activists vandalized Radboud University at Nijmegen in the **Netherlands**, setting up barricades, spraying graffiti on walls and windows, and opening fire hoses. The protesters demanded that the university cut ties with Israeli institutions.
- On June 4, anti-Israel activists attacked an employee of a US restaurant chain's branch on Mariahilferstrasse in Vienna., **Austria**

## Assessments & Forecast

1. Based on precedent and social media estimates, the slated protests are likely to witness turnouts ranging from the mid-hundreds to tens of thousands, with the protests in London and Paris likely to see the largest turnout.
2. In addition to the aforementioned protests, the potential of spontaneous pro-Palestinian and pro-Israel protests remains elevated regionwide. Such protests are likely to occur near central government buildings, Israeli and US diplomatic missions, Jewish and Muslim establishments, and prominent public places in major urban centers across Europe. Moreover, pro-Palestinian student activists are expected to continue staging protests and occupying buildings at prominent university campuses in multiple cities across Europe, as evidenced by the occupation of Radboud University.
3. Given heightened sentiments surrounding the protest issue, any planned or spontaneous demonstrations carry an elevated potential for unrest. This is particularly true if the protests attract counterprotests by pro-Israel, pro-Palestinian, 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 such demonstrations manifest. Moreover, pro-Palestinian activists are liable to continue engaging in vandalism targeting Israeli entities as well as entities considered pro-Israel.

4. Authorities are expected to deploy a bolstered security presence near protest locations to monitor proceedings. In the event of escalating unrest, police are liable to use forcible crowd dispersal methods, including deploying tear gas and conducting mass arrests.
5. Significant disruptions to pedestrian and vehicular movement, including road closures and traffic diversions, should be anticipated near the protest locations. Further, given that protesters have used road blockades as a protest tactic in the past, the risk of the same remains. If this takes place, this will further increase the scale of disruptions.
6. The investigation opened into the climate activists in Germany underscores the continued crackdown by German authorities on pro-Palestinian protest groups amid growing concerns regarding anti-Semitism and extremism. This is supported by several bans enacted on groups such as Samidoun.
7. **FORECAST:** Amid the protracted Israel-Hamas conflict, similar anti-Semitic incidents are likely to continue, especially in Western European countries with significant Jewish populations. Such attacks are likely to manifest as arson, vandalism, and property damage. Additionally, the risk of physical and verbal abuse targeting Jewish or Israeli individuals also remains elevated.

## Recommendations

1. Those operating or residing in the aforementioned cities in Europe on June 6-8 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.