



Protest



29

MAY
7:38 UTC

Canada Tactical (UPDATE): Anti-war activists to hold protest against CANSEC arms exhibition in Ottawa, ON at 07:00 (local time) on May 29; maintain heightened vigilance

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Current Situation

- Anti-war activists associated with the Canadian Voice of Women for Peace, the International Migrants Alliance, the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, and World Peace Beyond War, have called for a demonstration in Ottawa, ON, on May 29.
- The protest is planned in front of the EY Center located on 4899 Uplands Drive in Ottawa from 07:00 (local time). The protest coincides with the annual CANSEC defense exhibition on May 29-30, organized by the Canadian Association of Defense and Security Industries (CADSI).
- The demonstration is being called to denounce international arms trade at the CANSEC defense and arms exhibition and to demand government inquiries into allegations of defense companies' involvement in "genocide" amid ongoing Israeli military actions in Gaza.
- Previously, activists gathered in Ottawa on May 31, 2023, to denounce the 2023 edition of the same exhibition.



Assessments & Forecast

1. Based on precedent, coupled with persisting sentiment regarding the Israel-Hamas conflict among anti-war activists, the slated demonstration is likely to witness an attendance in the range of low-to-mid hundreds.
2. While such demonstrations have transpired peacefully in the past, based on heightening sentiment pertaining the Israel-Hamas conflict, the May 29 protest carries a credible potential for an escalation into localized roadblocks and scuffles between protesters and security personnel.
3. Further, isolated incidents including verbal harassment against participants, specifically against personnel working for Israel-based defense manufacturers and organizations, are liable amid protests.
4. Thus, bolstered security measures are expected in the vicinity of the EY Center and Ottawa Macdonald-Cartier International Airport (YOW). Should protests escalate into localized unrest, authorities are anticipated to conduct arrests.
5. Additionally, disruptions to pedestrian and vehicular traffic can be anticipated in the vicinity of the EY Center from the morning hours.

Recommendations

1. Those operating or residing in Ottawa, ON on May 29 are advised to maintain heightened vigilance in the vicinity of the EY Center due to the potential for localized unrest amid the slated protest action.
2. Allot for traffic disruptions in the vicinity.