

## Protest



# 25

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## Pakistan Tactical: PTI announces nationwide protests on September 26-27 to demand former PM Imran Khan's release; maintain heightened vigilance

### Current Situation:

- The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) is scheduled to hold a nationwide protest campaign on September 26-27. As of writing, the specific timings and locations for the protest campaign remains unspecified.
- The nationwide protests will demand the release of former Prime Minister Imran Khan and other political leaders.
- Attendees will also protest the alleged lack of judicial independence in the country.

### Assessments & Forecast:

1. Attendance at the slated protests is likely to vary by location, with major cities like Islamabad and Lahore expected to see higher participation, ranging from the high hundreds to low thousands. High turnout is also anticipated in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, where support for the PTI remains strong. The presence of senior PTI leaders is likely to further boost turnout. Protests are expected to be staged near government buildings and prominent public spaces, such as D-Chowk in Islamabad and Zaman Park in Lahore.
2. The protests are likely to proceed regardless of permission from the authorities. Security near

potential protest sites will be heightened, with additional police forces deployed as a precautionary crowd control measure. There remains a risk of scuffles between law enforcement and protesters, especially should the latter turn disruptive. In that case, the police are expected to use forceful dispersal tactics and detain individuals should the protesters resort to disruptive actions, such as blocking key roads.

3. The authorities are also likely to impose restrictions under the new Peaceful Assembly and Public Order Act 2024, which mandates three years of imprisonment for those participating in “illegal protests.” Such prohibitory measures may also extend to gathering restrictions and the suspension of internet and communication services. Localized travel will be impacted during protest hours.

## **Recommendations:**

Those operating or residing in Pakistan on September 26–27 are advised to maintain heightened vigilance due to the slated nationwide protests and associated security measures.

Source: [X/Twitter](#) , [Arab News](#), [Saama TV](#)