

Protest





Pakistan Tactical: Pro-Palestinian protests scheduled in Karachi, Lahore on June 21-22; maintain vigilance

Current Situation:

• In **Karachi**, a protest rally will be held from the Numaish Chowrangi to the Tibet Centre from 15:00 on June 22.



• In **Lahore**, the Aurat March Collective group will hold a demonstration outside the US Consulate at 17:00 (local time) on June 21.



• The protests will be held in the context of ongoing hostilities between Israel and Hamas in the Gaza Strip, wherein the demonstrators will denounce the US's pro-Israel stance.

Source: X/Twitter, X/Twitter

Assessments & Forecast:

- 1. The turnout at both the protests is expected to range in the high dozens to low hundreds, given the resonance of the issue, overall pro-Palestinian sentiment in the country, and the groups' individual organizing capabilities. The authorities are likely to bolster security measures in the vicinity of the protest locations as a precautionary measure. These measures include the deployment of police personnel and the setting up of barricades in the vicinity of protest sites. Additionally, stringent security protocols are anticipated in the vicinity of the US Consulate in Karachi, given the sensitivity of the location.
- 2. There remains a latent risk of scuffles between the police and protesters, should the latter be perceived as engaging in disruptive behaviors, such as blocking major thoroughfares or attempting to breach security measures. The authorities will likely disperse protesters in such cases, using baton charges and temporary detention. Disruptions to vehicular traffic are anticipated in the vicinity of the protest locations due to the anticipated turnout and associated security measures during the protest hours on June 21-22.

Recommendations:

Those operating or residing in Karachi and Lahore on June 21-22 are advised to maintain vigilance in the vicinity of the protest locations due to the slated protests and associated security measures, while allotting for travel disruptions.