

Protest



O9MAR

15:34 UTC

Belgium Tactical: Congolese diaspora slated to protest at Archimedesstraat 1 in Brussels at 12:00 (local time) on March 10; maintain heightened vigilance

Current Situation

- On March 10, Congolese diaspora activists are slated to hold a protest outside the EU exhibition center on Archimedesstraat 1 in Brussels at 12:00 (local time) on March 10.
- The organizers have announced that another protest will be held in Brussels on Lombardstraat 69 at 18:00 on March 14.
- The protests are being held to denounce ongoing violence in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).



Source: Instagram

Assessments & Forecast

- 1. Based on precedent and social media estimates, the protest on March 10 is likely to attract a turnout ranging between the low to mid-hundreds.
- 2. Given precedent, combined with heightened sentiments surrounding the protest issue, the demonstration carries an elevated potential for unrest in the form of clashes between protesters in police, as seen during the Congolese diaspora protest in Brussels on February 4.
- 3. As such, a bolstered security presence is expected to be deployed in the vicinity of the protest as a precaution and to monitor proceedings. Police will likely deploy forcible dispersal methods in the event of unrest, including arrests, baton charges, and tear gas.
- 4. Disruptions to both pedestrian and vehicular movement are expected near the slated protest from the early afternoon hours onwards.

Recommendations

Those operating or residing in Brussels on March 10 are advised to maintain heightened vigilance near Archimedesstraat due to the slated protest from the early afternoon hours onwards.