



Protest



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MAY

6:49 UTC

Brazil Tactical: Pro-legalization organizations slated to hold ‘Marcha da Maconha’ from Esplanada dos Ministerios in Brasilia from 14:00 (local time) on May 26; allot for disruptions

Current Situation

- Civil society organizations advocating for the legalization of cannabis use are slated to hold a ‘Marcha da Maconha’ (Marijuana March) in Brasilia from 14:00 (local time) on May 26.
- The participants are scheduled to gather at the Ministerio do Desenvolvimento Social e Combate a Fome (Ministry of Social Development and Fight Against Hunger) at the Esplanada dos Ministerios from 14:00 onwards. Participants will begin the march towards the Plana Piloto metro station via Via N1 at 16:20 and then return to the Esplanada along Via S1 by 20:00.
- The march is part of similar marches held nationwide to pressure the Supremo Tribunal Federal (STF, Federal Supreme Court) to decriminalize marijuana use. In addition, the marches are held to denounce a proposed amendment to the Constitution, recently approved by the Senate, that criminalizes the possession of any quantity of marijuana and other drugs.
- Media reports estimate that around 5,000 participants are slated to attend the march.



Assessments & Forecast

1. Given organizers' estimates and the turnout seen in the 2023 Marcha da Maconha in Brasília, the upcoming march is expected to draw a turnout in the low-to-mid thousands.
2. Judging by precedent, the march is likely to transpire peacefully. However, owing to the anticipated turnouts and the presence of various government buildings in the vicinity of the protests, a bolstered security presence can be expected near Esplanada dos Ministérios and the Plano Piloto metro station and along the march route.
3. Meanwhile, significant disruptions to vehicular and pedestrian traffic can be expected near the aforementioned locations as well as along Via N1 and S1 from 14:00 onwards.

Recommendations

Those operating or residing in Brasília on May 26 are advised to allot for disruptions to travel in the vicinity of the Esplanada dos Ministérios and Plano Piloto metro station from 14:00 onwards due to the slated march.