

Protest





Germany Tactical: Anti-far-right protests to be held in multiple cities on February 7-8; maintain heightened vigilance

Current Situation

- Reports indicate that protests against far-right groups and political parties are scheduled in multiple cities nationwide on February 7 and 8.
- The protests are being organized by anti-right-wing and climate groups such as Omas Gegen Rechts, Fridays for Future, BUND Jugend, and Gegen Rechts Bunt statt Braun.
- Protesters are denouncing the alleged growing influence of the far-right Alternative fur Deutschland (AfD) party and far-right ideologies in Germany, as well as the alleged erosion of democratic principles

• In **Bielefeld**, North Rhine-Westphalia (NRW), Extinction Rebellion (XR) will stage a protest at Jahnplatz from 17:00 (local time) on February 7.

Source: Extinction Rebellion

• On February 7, two protests are scheduled to be held in **Potsdam**, Brandenburg. The first protest is slated at Peter-und-Paul-Kirche from 11:00 onwards. The second protest will take place at the Alten Markt at 14:00.

Source: <u>Tagesspiegel</u>

• In **Hanover**, Lower Saxony, protesters will gather to form a human chain at Ernst-August-Platz at 12:00, followed by a rally at Opernplatz on February 8.

Source: X/Twitter

• In Munich, Bavaria, a protest will be held at Theresienwiese from 14:00 onwards on February 8.

Source: X/Twitter

• In **Stuttgart**, Baden-Wurttemberg, protesters will initially gather at Marktplatz from 17:00 and will proceed to march towards the State Parliament, located on Konrad-Adenauer-Strasse, on February 8.

Source: Facebook

Assessments & Forecast

- 1. Based on precedent, the slated protests are likely to witness varying turnouts ranging from the mid-thousands to the low tens of thousands, with Stuttgart likely to witness the highest turnout. Similar protests are also likely in other cities nationwide in the coming days. Such protests are liable to take place in prominent squares, outside government buildings, and outside AfD and Christlich Demokratische Union Deutschlands (CDU) party offices.
- 2. Given the heightened sentiments over the protest issue, the protests carry an elevated potential for unrest. The risk of unrest will increase if the protests attract counter-protests by AfD supporters or other far-right elements. Incidents of unrest are likely to manifest in the form of clashes between protesters, potential counter-protesters, and police personnel.
- 3. As such, a bolstered security presence is likely in the vicinity of the protest locations to monitor

- the proceedings as a precautionary measure. In the event of escalating unrest, authorities are likely to use forcible crowd control measures, including conducting mass arrests.
- 4. Significant disruptions to pedestrian and vehicular movement, including possible road closures and scheduled changes to public transport services, can be anticipated in the vicinity of these protest locations during the slated timings.

Recommendations

- 1. Those operating or residing in Germany on February 7-8 are advised to maintain heightened vigilance in the vicinity of all protests related to recent political developments due to the elevated potential for unrest.
- 2. Allot for travel-related disruptions during the slated timings.