

Protest



05 oct 10:16 UTC Morocco Tactical (UPDATE): GENZ212 movement calls for protests across Morocco between 18:00-21:00 on October 5; avoid nonessential travel to vicinity of protests

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Current Situation:

- The GENZ212 movement has issued protest calls across several cities in Morocco from 18:00 (local time) until 21:00 on October 5.
- In Rabat, a demonstration will be held in front of the Parliament.
- In Casablanca, a protest will take place in Derb Sultan's Sraghna Square.
- In Marrakesh, a demonstration will take place in the vicinity of Bab Doukkala.
- Protests will also be held in Fez, Marrakech, Tangier, Agadir, Kenitra, Meknes, and other large cities.
- The statement called for peaceful demonstrations, stressing "no to violence."

Source: GENZ212

Assessments & Forecast:

- 1. This follows recurrent protests by the GENZ212 movement since last week. The protest movement aims to pressure the government to accept its <u>anti-corruption demands</u>, including the dismissal of Prime Minister Aziz Akhannouch, as well as the guarantee of equality, economic opportunities, and freedom of expression.
- 2. The statement's emphasis on peaceful protest aligns with the group's efforts to promote non-violent mobilization, particularly following the killing of three protesters in Souss-Massa's Lqliaa by Moroccan security forces on October 1-2. In this context, it highlights the movement's efforts to sustain public support while avoiding confrontations and violence, which aligns with the pattern of the most recent protest activities in the country.
- 3. **FORECAST:** Given the growing popularity of the protest movement, turnout at the scheduled protests is expected to be significant, with hundreds of participants anticipated in major cities, including Rabat. While the most recent demonstrations have largely transpired peacefully, and despite the organizers' advocacy for non-violence, the deaths and widespread detentions recorded in previous protests are still liable to fuel some unrest. This will increase the likelihood of clashes with security forces, particularly in flashpoints that have previously witnessed violence, such as Agadir, Inzegane, and Oujda. Authorities are liable to impose some movement restrictions or respond with crowd-control measures should the protesters behave in an unruly manner. A bolstered security presence can be expected in the vicinity of sensitive sites such as Rabat's Parliament, and travel disruptions are anticipated in areas surrounding protest activity.

Recommendations:

Those operating or residing in Morocco on October 5 and over the coming days are advised to avoid all travel to the vicinity of protest sites due to the associated risk of unrest, violence, and detention.