

## Protest





Europe Tactical (UPDATE): Protests related to Israel-Hamas conflict to be held in multiple cities regionwide on November 27-28; maintain heightened vigilance

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## **Current Situation**

- Reports indicate that protests relating to the Israel-Hamas conflict are scheduled in France and the UK on November 27-28.
- In Strasbourg, France, activists associated with several pro-Palestinian organizations as well as French unions will hold a protest at the European Parliament at 12:30 (local time) on November 27.

Source: FPSA

- In London, **UK** activists associated with the Palestine Solidarity Campaign (PSC) will hold a protest at the UK Parliament at 14:00 on November 27.
- The protest is being called to denounce parliament members' alleged inaction in supporting Palestine.

Source: PSC

- Additionally, in London, the group Books Against Borders is calling for a rally at the Department for Business and Trade at Admiralty Place. The group will gather at the statue of Captain James Cook near the building at 08:30 on November 28.
- The protest is being called to denounce the Department of Business and Trade's granting of licenses to arms companies that export weapons to Israel and demand a full arms embargo.

Source: X/Twitter

• Separately, in London, activists associated with the University and College Workers for Palestine group will hold a protest at Malet Street from 13:00 on November 28.

Source: X/Twitter

 In Sweden, on November 21 pro-Palestinian activists vandalized the office of the liberal Liberalerna party in Eksiltuna. Activists posted videos on social media of them spray-painting the building with red paint. Swedish Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson stated in a social media post on November 21 that if the perpetrators are found to not be Swedish citizens, they should be prosecuted and "deported."

Source: X/Twitter

## **Assessments & Forecast**

- 1. Based on precedent and the mobilizational capabilities of the organizers, these protests are likely to attract turnout in the mid hundreds to mid thousands, with the PSC protest in London likely to attract the largest turnout.
- 2. Based on precedent, any planned or spontaneous demonstrations carry a heightened potential for

unrest, particularly if protests attract counterprotests by pro-Israel, pro-Palestinian, and/or far-right groups.

- 3. Additionally, protests with high student involvement or participation of left-wing groups have a heightened risk of unrest, as these entities are liable to engage in disruptive tactics, such as blocking transportation or damaging property. As such, the protest at Malet Street in the UK poses a heightened risk of clashes with law enforcement, considering the involvement of left-wing and student groups.
- 4. Given this, a bolstered security presence is expected near protest locations to monitor proceedings. In the case of escalating unrest, police are liable to use forcible dispersal methods, including conducting mass arrests.
- 5. Significant disruptions to pedestrian and vehicular movement, including road closures, disruptions to public transportation, and traffic diversions, should be anticipated near the protest locations.
- 6. Additionally, the vandalism incident reported in Eksiltuna reiterates the continued elevated threat of property damage associated with pro-Palestinian activism in Europe. Based on precedent, establishments associated with the Jewish community or viewed as in support of Israel also remain vulnerable to arson attacks, vandalism, and property damage.

## Recommendations

- 1. Those operating or residing in Europe on November 27-28 are advised to maintain heightened vigilance near protests related to the Israel-Hamas conflict due to the elevated potential for unrest.
- 2. Allot for travel-related disruptions in the vicinity of the protest locations.