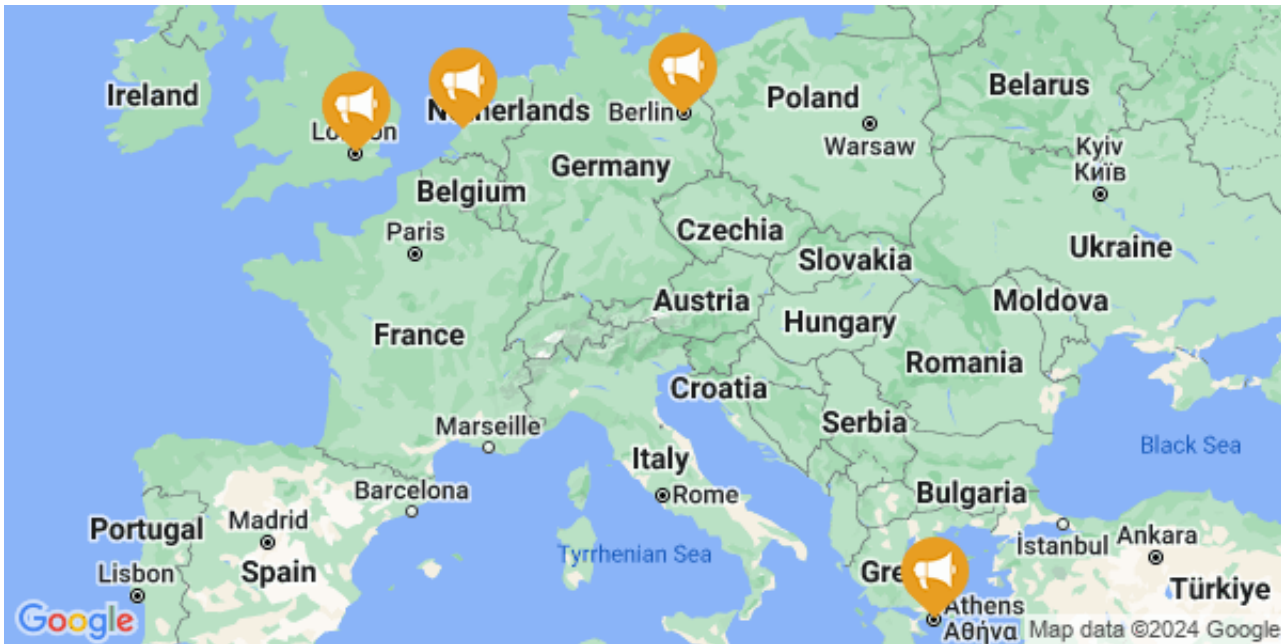




Protest



28
MAY
10:42 UTC

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

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Current Situation

- Reports indicate that protests related to the Israel-Hamas conflict will be held in multiple cities across Europe on May 28.
- In Berlin, **Germany**, a pro-Palestinian demonstration is slated at Reichpietschufer 20 from 17:00 (local time) on May 28.
- Post the initial gathering, the protesters will march toward Oranienplatz. , where another left-wing pro-Palestinian protest is slated to take place from 19:00.

- In Athens, **Greece**, a pro-Palestinian rally will be held at Omonoia Square from 18:00 on May 28.
- In The Hague, the **Netherlands**, a pro-Palestinian protest will be staged outside the Binnenhof, the Dutch parliament, from 18:00 on May 28.
- In London, **UK**, pro-Palestinian activists associated with the Palestine Solidarity Campaign (PSC) will stage a protest opposite Downing Street at 18:00 on May 28.
- On May 27, spontaneous demonstrations denouncing the alleged Israeli bombing of a refugee camp in Rafah, Gaza Strip, were held in multiple cities in Europe, including Berlin, London, and Paris.
- In Paris, **France**, authorities reported that at least 10,000 pro-Palestinian protesters participated in multiple demonstrations in central parts of the city, including Place de la Republique. Police also deployed tear gas to disperse violent protesters attempting to break through barricades.
- In Berlin, **Germany**, unrest was recorded during a pro-Palestinian protest on Sonnenallee in Berlin-Neukolln during the early morning hours of May 28. During the protest, primarily involving left-wing activists, individuals set fire to garbage cans and caused property damage. Meanwhile, an earlier spontaneous demonstration on Alexanderplatz that garnered around hundreds of pro-Palestinian activists, recorded anti-Israel slogans. Additionally, isolated pro-Muslim chants calling for the immediate establishment of a “Caliphate” were also reported.
- In Amsterdam, the **Netherlands**, authorities arrested 73 pro-Palestinian protesters at Kalverstraat on May 27 for engaging in violent unrest, including aggression targeting law enforcement personnel and causing public property damage, including throwing fireworks. The protesters reportedly intended to interrupt a pro-Israel demonstration on Dam Square.
- Furthermore, around a thousand pro-Palestinian activists staged an associated protest outside Downing Street during the evening hours in London, the **UK**.
- Separately, in Copenhagen, **Denmark**, police arrested three pro-Palestinian protesters for attempting to vandalize the Embassy of Israel with water balloons containing red paint on May 27.

Assessments & Forecast

1. Based on precedent and social media estimates, the slated protests are likely to witness turnouts ranging from the mid-hundreds to the mid-thousands, with the protests in The Hague and London expected to witness the largest turnouts.
2. In addition to the aforementioned protests, the possibility of spontaneous pro-Palestinian and pro-Israel protests remains elevated regionwide. Indeed, the May 27-28 protests highlight the potential for spontaneous demonstrations to be announced following major incidents associated with the Israel-Hamas conflict, such as the alleged strike on Rafah. Meanwhile, there remains an elevated potential for pro-Israel protests to be organized in Ireland, Norway, and Spain, given that these countries recently expressed their intention to recognize a separate Palestinian state.
3. If spontaneous protests do take place, they are likely to occur near central government buildings, Israeli and US diplomatic missions, Jewish and Muslim establishments, and prominent public places in major urban centers across Europe. Moreover, pro-Palestinian student activists are expected to continue staging protests and occupying buildings at prominent university campuses in multiple cities across Europe, as seen in recent weeks.
4. Amid heightened sentiments surrounding the protest issue, any planned and spontaneous demonstrations carry an elevated potential for unrest. The risk is likely to increase in the event of counter-protests by pro-Palestinian and pro-Israel groups, as witnessed in Amsterdam on May 27. Incidents of unrest are likely to manifest in the form of clashes between protesters and the police, as well as with counter-protesters, should such demonstrations manifest. Incidents of vandalism targeting Jewish and pro-Israel establishments also cannot be ruled out, as evidenced by the incidents in Berlin and Copenhagen.
5. Authorities are likely to deploy a bolstered security presence near protest locations to monitor proceedings. In the event of escalating unrest, police are liable to use forcible crowd dispersal methods, including deploying tear gas and conducting mass arrests.
6. Significant disruptions to pedestrian and vehicular movement, including road closures and traffic diversions, should be anticipated near the protest locations. Further, given that protesters have used road blockades as a protest tactic in the past, the risk of the same remains. If this takes place, this will further increase the scale of disruptions.

Recommendations

1. Those operating or residing in the aforementioned cities in Europe on May 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.