

## **Protest**





Asia Tactical: Multiple pro-Palestinian protests slated in Dhaka, Seoul, Wellington on August 29-30; maintain vigilance

## **Current Situation:**

- Multiple pro-Palestinian protests are slated in Bangladesh, New
  Zealand and South Korea on August 29-30 in the context of the ongoing armed conflict between Israel and Hamas in the Gaza Strip.
- In **Bangladesh**, a rally is scheduled near the Baitul Mukarram National Mosque in Dhaka following Friday afternoon prayers (local time) on August 29.

Source: X/Twitter

• In **New Zealand**, members of the Falastin Tea Collective group will hold a protest rally from Glover Park to Cuba Mall in Wellington from 13:00 to 14:00 on August 30.

Source: <u>Instagram</u>

• In **South Korea**, Members associated with the People in Solidarity with Palestinians group are scheduled to hold a rally at Yeollin Songhyeon Green Park near Anguk Station Exit 1 in Seoul at 16:00 on August 30.

Source: Instagram

## **Assessments & Forecast:**

- 1. Participation at the slated rally in Dhaka is likely to range between the low-to-mid hundreds, given the resonance of the issue. Participation in Wellington is likely to range between the mid-to-high dozens, and turnout in Seoul will range between low-to-mid dozens, in line with participation trends. The authorities are expected to bolster security measures in the vicinity of the aforementioned locations as part of standard security protocols. This is particularly for the vicinity of the National Mosque in Dhaka, given its proximity to the Bangladesh Secretariat. These measures are likely to include the deployment of police personnel and the placement of barricades to monitor proceedings.
- 2. There remains a risk of scuffles between the police and protesters in Dhaka in case participants breach security protocols and in Wellington in case participants engage in antisemitic sloganeering. The presence of Jewish/Israeli protesters in the vicinity of the protest sites in Wellington is liable to heighten the risk of clashes between the opposing sides. The police are liable to quell any unrest in Dhaka and Wellington through the temporal detention of protesters. Meanwhile, the protest rally in Seoul is anticipated to transpire peacefully, based on precedent. Disruptions to pedestrian and vehicular travel are anticipated in the vicinity of the aforementioned locations due to the expected turnout and related security measures during the protest hours on August 29-30.

## **Recommendations:**

Those operating or residing in Bangladesh, South Korea and New Zealand on August 29-30 are advised to maintain vigilance in the vicinity of the aforementioned locations due to the slated protests and related risk of unrest, while allotting for travel disruptions.