



Protest



02

DEC

11:23 UTC

USA Tactical: Activist groups announce student walkout from NYU, protest at Washington Square Park, New York City, NY at 14:00 (local time) on December 2; maintain heightened vigilance

Current Situation

- Multiple activist groups, including the Sudanese Resistance Front (SuRF), have called for a student walkout from New York University (NYU) and an associated protest gathering at the Garibaldi Statue in Washington Square Park in Manhattan, New York City, NY at 14:00 (local time) on December 2.
- Reports also indicate that pro-Palestine activist groups like the Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP) will also participate in the protest.
- The protest action aims to call for NYU'S divestment from organizations that are allegedly involved in UAE's reported military actions in Sudan and advocate for the resolution of the ongoing Sudan crisis.



Source: [Sudanese Resistance Front](#)

Assessments & Forecast

1. The SuRF had previously organized protests on this issue in NY on April 18 and September 28, both of which had witnessed a turnout in the low hundreds and had transpired largely peacefully. Moreover, NYU students and faculty had also held a vigil in April 2023 on university premises over the Sudanese crisis.
2. **FORECAST:** Given precedent, the upcoming call for walkout from NYU is likely to be adhered to with the subsequent protests witnessing student turnouts in the low to mid hundreds. A slightly higher turnout remains possible considering the participation of various pro-Palestinian groups. Additionally, social media queries from alleged non-students indicate a likely attendance of civilians sympathetic to the organizers' cause.
3. **FORECAST:** Both the planned student walkout from NYU and the protest gathering at Garibaldi Statue are expected to be largely peaceful. However, there nevertheless remains the potential for sloganeering, localized scuffles between protestors and police personnel, or verbal assault against security personnel considering the elevated sentiments over the issue as well as due to the presence of pro-Palestinian groups that have been involved in similar localized unrest at the park in recent months. That said, a bolstered security presence is expected in the vicinity of the aforementioned locations from the afternoon hours onwards to monitor proceedings and immediately stop any unrest. In addition, localized disruptions to pedestrian and vehicular travel in the vicinity of NYU and Washington Park can be expected during the afternoon hours.

Recommendations

1. Those operating or residing in Manhattan, New York City on December 2 are advised to maintain heightened vigilance in the vicinity of the protest location due to the potential for localized and small-scale unrest.
2. Allot for travel disruptions in the vicinity of the aforementioned locations from the afternoon hours onwards on account of the planned student walkout and associated protest gathering.

