

# PROTESTS AND DEMONSTRATIONS:

## TRAVELER SAFETY AND PREPARATION ADVICE

Protests and demonstrations are among the more common threats travelers could face abroad. Depending on the situation, protests can range from peaceful demonstrations to chaotic and violent events that pose serious risk to travelers. As a result, it's crucial for both travelers and their organizations to understand the risks and how to manage them.

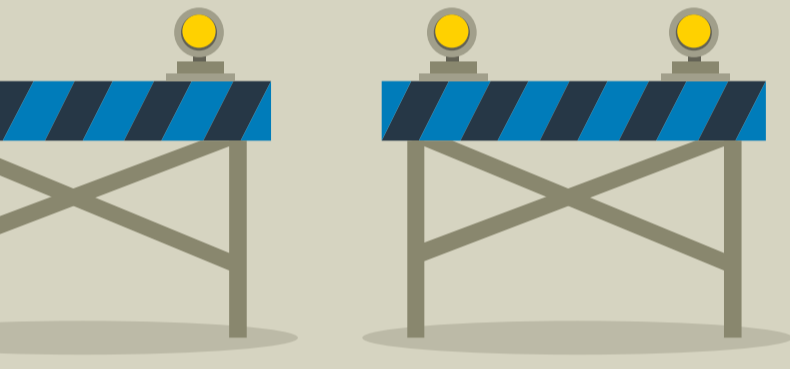
### STANDING ADVICE FOR TRAVELERS AFFECTED BY PROTESTS

If in the immediate vicinity of a demonstration, identify a **safe exit passage and move away from the area.**



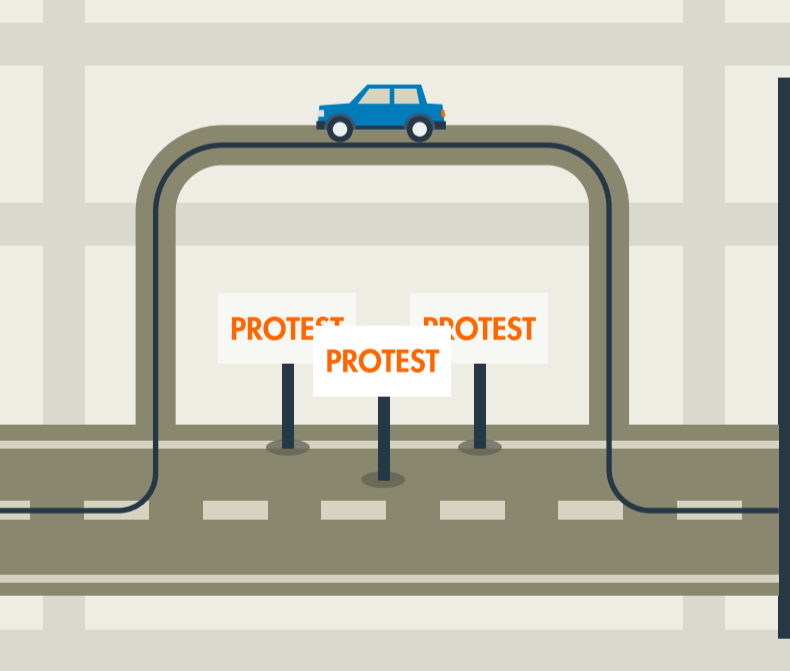
**Be prepared to be treated firmly by the authorities.** Remember, they are trying to control a situation, and cooperation is vital. Provide any readily available identification to ease confusion and potentially help prevent detention by the authorities.

Keep in mind that in many countries, it's considered **illegal** for foreigners to participate in public protests or demonstrations.



Refrain from attempting to **cross any barriers or blockades** set up by demonstrators or the authorities, as this might provoke a violent response.

Be advised that local services, including **communications, medical, security and basic supplies may be disrupted** and potentially difficult to access during major rallies or heightened tensions. Plan for contingency protocols and supplies as necessary.



Liaise with local authorities, contacts and resources to determine a protest's impact on overland travel—particularly major routes—prior to setting out. If possible, **keep travel limited to areas not impacted by protest activity**, and plan routes that will circumvent protest sites or schedules.

Keep abreast of local developments through the news, contacts and resources to ascertain the impact of protest activities on your travel plans. **Be prepared to adjust plans accordingly and on short notice.**



Remember that protests/demonstrations can vary drastically depending on the **number of people participating, the type of group(s) calling for demonstrations, the goals of the protestors and the area of the world the protests are taking place.** It's important that travelers stay informed and understand the specifics of each situation.

Effective protest and demonstration preparation is an important element of a holistic travel risk management program. For more information on travel security, duty of care and traveler pre-trip education, contact us today.

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