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Force Protection Advisory for Civil Gatherings



Force Protection Advisory: 15-03

03 December 2015

1. (U) **Seoul City Hall Plaza:** On 05 December 2015 the Korean National Police Veterans Association will conduct an approved, registered civil gathering at the Seoul City Hall Plaza from 1400-1800 hrs in support of ROK government's plan to re-write the state history textbooks. Approximately 2,000 participants are expected to gather. The Korean Confederation of Trade Unions (KCTU) is expected to conduct a large scale, unregistered civil gathering, protest march and candlelight vigil at the same location from 1500-1900 hrs to condemn ROK government's labor reform, assert non-regular workers' rights and to pray for the recovery of the farmer injured during the 14 November protests. Although denied permission by the Korean National Police to hold the demonstration, the KCTU has indicated that they will assemble without permission. Approximately 20,000 participants are expected. This event is expect to be violent based on the outcome of the previous protest conducted by this group on 14 November 2015 at which an estimated 68,000 protesters gathered. The risk level for this event is **HIGH**.

Seoul City Hall Plaza and Seoul National University Hospital: Also on 5 December 2015, two additional organizations, the BAEK, Nam-gi Countermeasure Committee and the Korean Peasants League consisting of a total of 17,000 participants, requested and were denied permission by the Korean National Police to hold a demonstration from 1200-2100 condemning the Korean police's treatment of protesters and to pray for a complete recovery of the farmer injured in the 14 November protests. These groups were expected to gather at the Seoul City Hall Plaza at approximately 1200hrs and, at 1300hrs, march to the Seoul National University Hospital. The risk level for this event is **HIGH**. Confrontations between Korean police and protesters are highly possible.

Seoul Train station Plaza: A third, registered civil gathering for 5 December 2015 by the Korean Disabled Veterans Association by Agent Orange in the Vietnam War is scheduled to take place at the Seoul Train Station Plaza from 1400-1800 hrs. Approximately 5,000 participants are expected to gather in support of ROK government's plan to re-write the state history textbooks.. Although the risk for violence for this civil gathering is **LOW**, it is expected to cause traffic congestion in the vicinity of this major transportation hub.

2. (U) All US personnel are advised to avoid these areas at the times indicated, including mass transit facilities which lead to or near these areas. Expect delays due to security cordons in the areas. As always, USFK personnel should also be aware of their surroundings and avoid encounters with event participants in order to prevent

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media attention and ensure personal safety. If you see a civil gathering, stay away and report the location to the USFK PMO at DSN: 738-8070/6374 or CIV: 05033-38-8070/6374.

3. (U) Recommend all DoD civilian employees, USFK invited and technical representatives, and all USFK family members adhere to this advisory.
4. (U) To obtain updated information regarding civil gatherings, visit the USFK website at <http://www.usfk.mil/Resources.aspx> and click on the Civil Gatherings tab, the USFK Twitter feed <http://twitter.com/usfkpao>, the USFK Facebook page <http://www.facebook.com/myusfk>, listen to AFN-Korea Radio/Television, or contact the USFK PMO at DSN: 738-8070/6374 or CIV: 05033-38-8070/6374.
5. (U) You can obtain further AT/FP information or support from your Component and Base Cluster ATOs.
6. (U) Ensure widest dissemination of this advisory for commands, units, and personnel. This Force Protection Advisory should be posted at all installation access control points for personnel awareness.

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U.S. Embassy

S Seoul City Hall Plaza

Jogy

Susong-dong

Doryeom-dong

Cheongjin-dong

Jong-ro 1-ga

Seorin-dong

Mugyo-dong

Da-dong

Eulji-ro 1-ga

Lotte Hotel Seoul

Sogong-dong



PROVOST MARSHAL CIVIL GATHERING INITIAL REPORT



NOTIFICATION REPORT CJPM 151201-001

Group Name: Korean National Police Veterans Association

What: Registered Civil Gathering, 2,000 Participants

Where: Seoul City Hall Plaza (U.S. Embassy Area), Seoul

When: 1400 to 1800 hrs, 05 DEC 15

Why: To support the State History Textbook

How: Participants are expected to gather at the Seoul City Hall plaza (U.S. Embassy Area) displaying signs and banners while chanting slogans.

Risk: High- This permitted demonstration is in the immediate area where unpermitted demonstration activity is projected to occur. Due to this fact, there are expectations of violence in the area.

Protective Response Actions/Measures: All agencies should coordinate with installation force protection and law enforcement activities in preparation for the appropriate level of security response. To obtain updated information regarding this civil gathering contact the USFK PMO at DSN: 738-8070, 6374 or CIV: 0505-738-8070, 6374.

Remarks: This event is expected to be peaceful.

Information received: 01 DEC 2015, 2040 hrs.

This information was obtained from Seoul KNP.