

MEMORANDUM TO: All Chiefs of Police and
Commissioner Thomas Carrique
Chairs, Police Service Boards

FROM: Ken Weatherill
Assistant Deputy Minister
Public Safety Division

SUBJECT: **Israel-Hamas Conflict: Enhanced Patrol Measures for
Upcoming Anniversary Events**

DATE OF ISSUE:	October 4, 2024
CLASSIFICATION:	General Information
RETENTION:	Indefinite
INDEX NO.:	24-0061
PRIORITY:	High

As police services are aware, October 7 will mark the one-year anniversary of the attack by the terrorist group Hamas on Israel. Following this attack, Israel declared a state of emergency and war against Hamas and other terrorist groups, including the Iran-backed militant group Hezbollah.

Since October 7, 2023, countless pro-Palestinian and pro-Israeli demonstrations have occurred in Ontario, and across Canada. While events have been mainly peaceful, Ontario has seen instances of tensions, disruptions, and criminality; some of which have been hate-related. In recent days leading up to the one-year anniversary, there has been a surge of planned events, rallies, vigils, and counter-protests promoted online and organized for major cities across the province.

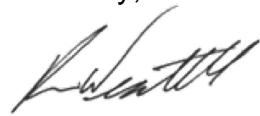
It is possible additional events will be planned or materialize with little or no lead time. Owing to the heightened state of conflict, events may garner a higher number of attendees, incite deep-rooted emotions, and inspire threat actors to mobilize.

The Ministry of the Solicitor General acknowledges the strong relationships that police leaders have forged with religious and other community leaders, which are foundational to community safety and encourages sustained proactive outreach with religious leaders and community partners to promote and maintain public safety during this turbulent time.

In response to community concerns, police services are strongly encouraged to consider enhancing patrols in Jewish communities, as well as cultural centres, synagogues, mosques, schools, and other places of worship and gathering.

Thank you for your urgent consideration and continued efforts to ensure that our communities are protected from hate and intimidation in any form.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ken Weatherill', written in a cursive style.

Ken Weatherill
Assistant Deputy Minister
Public Safety Division

c: Mario Di Tommaso, O.O.M.
Deputy Solicitor General, Community Safety