



THREATSCAPE

Large-scale protests continue across the US

Issued: 2 June 2020

147/20/TA

DMS6-22-422

SUMMARY

R // ALL

Threat definitions can be found on the last page.

NORTH AMERICA

R // ALL

United States of America

s6(a)

1684 Registered New Zealanders

(R) United States of America: Large-scale protests continue across major cities

1. (R) Large-scale protests, the majority of which are peaceful, continue across the United States (US) following the death of an African-American man named George Floyd, on 25 May 2020 in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Since the 25th, violent attacks have occurred in multiple locations across the US, including widespread looting, arson, vehicle ramming, and the shooting of two law enforcement officers.
2. (R) We assess that several motivating factors contributing to the widespread protests, such as anti-racism, hate crimes, anti-authoritarianism, and the provocation of civil unrest align closely with several streams of Ideologically Motivated Violent Extremism (IMVE), including Anarchists and White Identity Extremists (WIE). There is a realistic possibility IMVE will use the ongoing violent protest to further their ideological goals
3. (R) CTAG notes many of the tactics used for violent protest are usually unsophisticated, however there is a realistic possibility that violent protestors have the capability to make low-sophistication IEDs. We also note the prevalence of military-style assault rifles and the ease of access to firearms across the US.
4. (R) We note recent non-violent protests in the US were linked to COVID-19 restrictions, however we have not sighted any information to suggest this current wave of violent protest is linked to the COVID-19 emergency. CTAG assesses that the deteriorating socio-economic situation in the US amidst the ongoing COVID-19

emergency is likely contributing to anti-government grievances, which may encourage further violent protest across the US.

5. s6(a)

6. s6(a)

Threat to New Zealanders in the United States

7. (R) CTAG notes it is unlikely New Zealanders will be specifically targeted by violent protestors in the US. However, we assess New Zealanders could be incidentally harmed during the widespread violence.

The domestic violent protest and terrorism threat environment

8. (R) CTAG notes peaceful protests took place in Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch on 1 June 2020. We have sighted no intelligence to suggest there is any violent protest activity planned to take place in New Zealand. Protests in New Zealand are usually non-violent, conducted legally and the majority of New Zealand-based activists engage in peaceful protest activity. CTAG assesses most protestors do not support the use of violent or destructive tactics.

9. s6(a)

10. (R) New Zealand's terrorism threat level remains as **MEDIUM**; *a terrorist attack is assessed as feasible and could well occur.*

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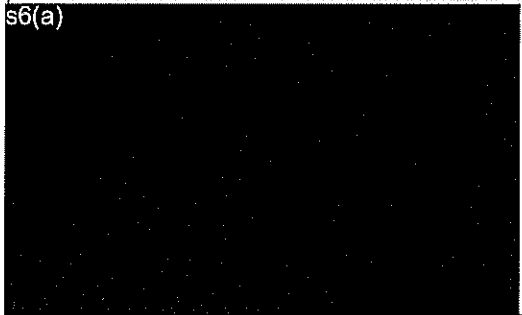
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s6(a)	[Redacted Content]

~~R // AUS CAN GBR NZL USA~~**CTAG THREAT DEFINITIONS**

Threat Level	Definition	Qualitative Statement
Negligible	Terrorist attack, violent protest activity or violent criminal behaviour is assessed as very unlikely	Remote / Highly unlikely
Very Low	Terrorist attack, violent protest activity or violent criminal behaviour is assessed as unlikely	Improbable / Unlikely
Low	Terrorist attack, violent protest activity or violent criminal behaviour is assessed as possible, but is not expected	Realistic possibility
Medium	Terrorist attack, violent protest activity or violent criminal behaviour is assessed as feasible and could well occur	Probable / Likely
High	Terrorist attack, violent protest activity or violent criminal behaviour is assessed as very likely	Very probable / Highly likely
Extreme	Terrorist attack, violent protest activity or violent criminal behaviour is expected imminently	Almost certain
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unless otherwise stated, all threat levels in CTAG's Threat Assessments reflect the country-specific threat level • Numbers of New Zealanders in overseas countries are provided by Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade based on a voluntary registration system. The numbers do not include non-registered New Zealanders • Please advise CTAG of events or developments that relate to our threat warning function 		