

## MEMO: Analysis of Global Protest Activity (October 18, 2024, 2025)

**Date:** November 8, 2025

**To:** ACLED Data Science and Research Team

**From:** Wuor Bhang

**Re:** Protest Event Trends Analysis (Week of October 18-24, 2025)

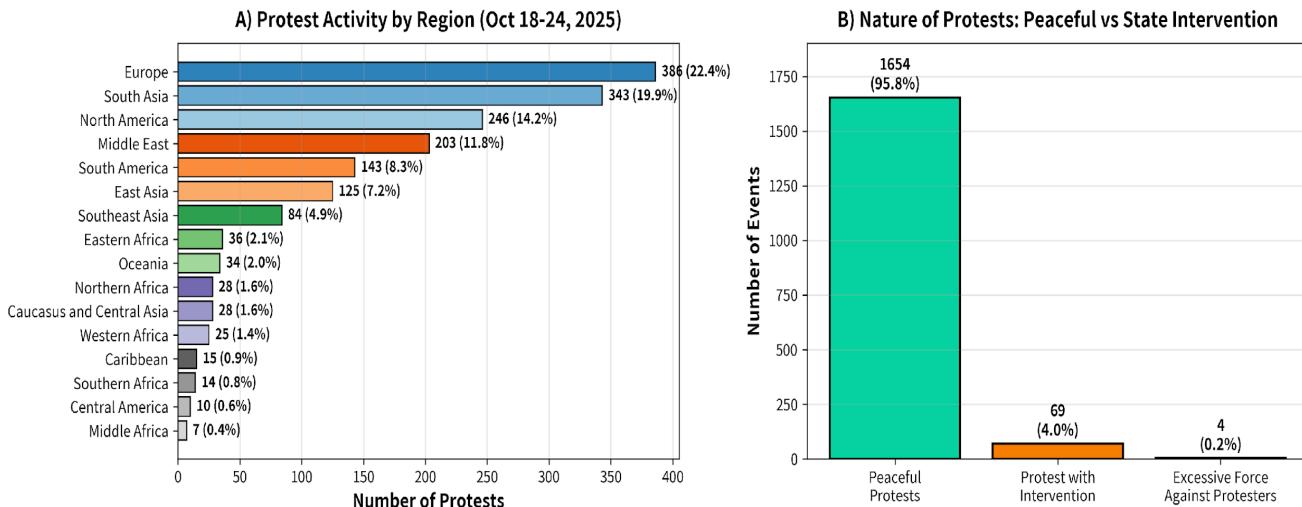
### METHODOLOGY

1. I have examined global protest activity using ACLED event data for the period of October 18–24, 2025. I took the following steps:

- **Data loading and filtering:** I loaded the complete ACLED events dataset ( $n = 5,249$  total events) and filtered it to include only events with `EVENT_TYPE == "Protests"`, yielding 1,727 protest events.
- **Data preparation:** I converted date fields to datetime format and categorized protests by `SUB_EVENT_TYPE` (Peaceful protest, Protest with intervention, Excessive force against protesters).
- **Exploratory analysis:** I aggregated events by region, country, and subtype; calculated daily protest frequencies; and examined geographic distribution across 116 countries and 16 global regions. I also evaluated the nature of protests (peaceful vs. intervention).
- **Visualization:** I created a two-panel visualization showing (A) the regional distribution of protests with count and percentage labels, and (B) the breakdown of protest types by level of state intervention.

### VISUALIZATION

Global Protest Trends: October 18-24, 2025 (n=1,727 events across 116 countries)



## KEY FINDINGS

### Geographic Concentration and Regional Patterns

I found significant geographic clustering of protest activity during October 18–24, 2025:

- Europe led all regions with 386 protest events (22.4% of the global total), followed by South Asia with 343 events (19.9%) and North America with 246 events (14.2%). These three regions together accounted for 56.5% of global protest activity.
- Three countries dominated protest counts: India (209 events), the United States (119 events), and Mexico (96 events), collectively representing 24.5% of worldwide protests. This concentration suggests sustained socio-political tensions or mobilization in these key democracies.
- Although protests occurred across 116 countries on all inhabited continents, the intensity was localized to specific hotspots, indicating that the week's activity was driven by regional or national dynamics rather than a single, global catalyst.

### Predominantly Peaceful Demonstration Character

A crucial finding is the **overwhelmingly peaceful nature** of global protest activity:

- 95.8% of protests (1,654 events) were classified as "Peaceful protest," indicating that the vast majority of demonstrations proceeded without violence or significant confrontation.
- Only 4.2% involved state intervention: Just 69 protests (4.0%) experienced "Protest with intervention," and a mere 4 events (0.2%) involved "Excessive force against protesters."
- This pattern suggests that despite high volumes of protest activity globally, demonstrators and state authorities largely maintained restraint during this period.

## IMPLICATIONS

- 1. Democracy and Civic Engagement:** The high concentration of protests in established democracies (India, US, European nations) indicates active civic engagement and suggests these societies are experiencing policy debates or social movements that mobilize citizens to demonstrate.
- 2. Peaceful Protest as Norm:** The 95.8% peaceful rate demonstrates that contemporary protest movements predominantly operate within non-violent frameworks, challenging narratives that emphasize disorder or violence.
- 3. Regional Context Matters:** The geographic clustering suggests that local and national issues—rather than transnational movements—are the primary drivers of protest activity during this period. Each region's protest patterns likely reflect distinct political, economic, or social concerns.
- 4. Low Intervention Rates:** The minimal state intervention (4.2%) could indicate either effective protest management, strong civil liberties protections in countries where protests occur, or both.
- 5. Monitoring Priorities:** For conflict early warning systems, the concentrated activity in South Asia (particularly India with 209 events) and continued high levels in the Middle East (203 events, 11.8%) warrant continued monitoring, as these regions show sustained demonstration activity that could signal underlying grievances.

**Data Source:** ACLED (Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project)

**Analysis Period:** October 18-24, 2025

**Total Events Analyzed:** 1,727 protest events across 116 countries