



CORPORATE RISK SERVICES

Washington, D.C., Civil Unrest Aftermath

Security Risk Intelligence Assessment

PART FOUR
JAN. 7, 2021





PHOTO CREDIT: JULIO CORTEZ / AP

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This report is the fourth in a series monitoring the security environment leading up to, during and following the U.S. presidential election. It aims to prepare businesses for possible contingencies during the election period and how these contingencies may impact physical security.

OVERVIEW

G4S assesses that there continues to be an elevated security risk posed by civil unrest and terrorism, particularly in Washington, D.C., as well as across state capitals and major cities. This risk will likely continue through at least inauguration day, with a potential for further violence beyond the election period due to individuals and groups who believe in violent means to object to President-Elect Biden's presidency.

On Jan. 6 at approx. 2 p.m. crowds that gathered to support President Trump and protest the U.S. election proceedings clashed with law enforcement, and breached the Capitol where Congress was in session to count and certify election results. Lawmakers were moved to a secure location, and Vice President Pence was evacuated. Law enforcement deployed tear gas, and the building was secured hours later after further security reinforcements arrived. Congress resumed their duties during the evening of Jan. 6, certifying election results and thus confirming Biden.

The FBI confirmed that two suspicious devices were found and rendered safe during the protests. While unconfirmed, these likely refer to two devices (unconfirmed pipe bombs) reported adjacent to the Republican National Committee headquarters and near the Democratic National Committee headquarters building. There are further unconfirmed reports of an explosive device found within the Capitol complex. Two Capitol campus buildings (LoC Madison Building and the Cannon House Offices) were also evacuated due to a pipe bomb threat shortly before 1:30 p.m. This threat was not deemed credible at approximately 1:50 p.m.

The violence that occurred is being labeled by some key political figures as insurrection, terrorism and/or extremism. There are also discussions under way of removing President Trump from office due to what some see as his involvement in instigating yesterday's events.

At least four people died as a result of yesterday's actions (one protestor shot, and three due to unspecified medical emergencies), at least 14 police were reportedly injured and at least 52 people have been arrested. A citywide curfew has been put into effect from 6 p.m. through 6 a.m., and a state of public emergency has been extended for Washington, D.C., through 3 p.m. on Jan. 21. FBI, National Guard, state troopers and police were deployed.

Meanwhile, protests were also reported across state capitals nationwide and some major cities, with many state Capitols closing as a security precaution. While these protests did not approach the violence seen in Washington, D.C., clashes were reported in Los Angeles; Sacramento, Calif.; Albany, N.Y., Columbus, Ohio; and Salem, Ore. Moreover, in Olympia, Wash., protestors broke through the gate at the governor's mansion before being removed from the area approximately 30 minutes later, and protestors also threatened to kill two journalists at the Capitol in the next year. In Phoenix, protestors banged on the locked door of the state Capitol, and broke at least one window.

PHOTO CREDIT: JACQUELYN MARTIN / AP



SECURITY UPDATE

(WASHINGTON, D.C.)

On Jan. 6 at approximately 2 p.m. crowds that gathered to support President Trump and protest against the U.S. election proceedings clashed with law enforcement, fired chemical irritants, threw objects — including bricks and bottles — and breached the Capitol where Congress was in session to count and certify election results. Lawmakers were moved to a secure location, and Vice President Pence was evacuated. Law enforcement deployed tear gas, and the building was secured hours later after further security reinforcements arrived. Congress resumed their duties during the evening of Jan. 6, certifying election results and thus confirming Biden.

The FBI confirmed that two suspicious devices were found and rendered safe during the protests. While unconfirmed, these likely refer to devices (unconfirmed pipe bombs) reported adjacent to the Republican National Committee headquarters and near the Democratic National Committee headquarters. There are further unconfirmed reports of an explosive device found within the capitol complex. Two Capitol campus buildings (LoC Madison Building and the Cannon House Offices) were also evacuated due to a pipe bomb threat shortly before 1:30 p.m. This threat was not deemed credible at approximately 1:50 p.m. Police also seized an unspecified number of firearms during and before the unrest, including finding a pickup truck parked outside the RNC headquarters with a number of rifles, ammunition and shotguns.



Figure 1. Image of Suspected Explosive Device (Photo Credit: ABC News)

The violence that occurred is being labeled by some key political figures as insurrection, terrorism and/or extremism.

At least four people died as a result of yesterday's actions (one protestor was shot, and three died due to unspecified medical emergencies), at least 14 police were reportedly injured and at least 52 people have been arrested. The FBI has requested photos of those involved.

G4S notes that this is considered a relatively low number of arrests, and that a large number of those involved in yesterday's actions may still be in the area. Original plans discussed online by individuals planning on protesting included staying in Washington, D.C., through Inauguration Day on Jan. 20.

A citywide curfew has been put into effect from 6 p.m. through 6 a.m., and a state of public emergency has been extended for Washington, D.C. through 3 p.m. on Jan. 21. This order enables officials to enforce a curfew, reduce the hours of operation for businesses, and expend funds as needed to protect public safety.

FBI, D.C. National Guard, Virginia Guard, Virginia State Troopers and police were deployed, with unconfirmed reports that it was Vice President Pence — not Trump — who deployed the National Guard to respond.

POLITICAL UPDATE

(WASHINGTON, D.C.)

Congress has certified election results, confirming Biden as the next President of the United States. After the Democratic Party also won both senate races in Georgia, Democrats will now also hold both Houses of Congress. Early on Thursday, Jan. 7, President Trump committed to "an orderly transition."

Lawmakers, including members of the Republican Party, are reportedly discussing the possibility of invoking the 25th Amendment or proceeding with the impeachment process to remove President Trump from office due to



what they see as his role in instigating yesterday's violence. Democrats of the House Judiciary Committee have drafted a letter to Vice President Pence, urging him to invoke the 25th Amendment. This was also called for by at least one lobbying group who previously supported the Trump administration, and Democratic Representative Ilhan Omar stated that she is drawing up Articles of Impeachment. If impeached, President Trump would be permanently barred from holding public office again.



Ilhan Omar
@IlhanMN

...

I am drawing up Articles of Impeachment.

Donald J. Trump should be impeached by the House of Representatives & removed from office by the United States Senate.

We can't allow him to remain in office, it's a matter of preserving our Republic and we need to fulfill our oath.

4:38 PM · Jan 6, 2021 · Twitter for iPhone

Figure 2. Tweet by @IlhanMN via Twitter

Trump's speech to protesters before Congress was breached included multiple statements that are seen as having led to the violence. The last couple minutes of Trump's speech included, "And we fight. We fight like Hell and if you don't fight like Hell, you're not going to have a country anymore. [...] So let's walk down Pennsylvania Avenue." Additionally, Trump's personal lawyer, Rudolph W. Giuliani, addressed the crowd prior to Trump, calling for "trial by combat."

Social media, including Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and YouTube, have all taken measures to either temporarily suspend President Trump's accounts and/or remove recent speeches due to breaking their policies and/or the risk of inciting violence.

25TH AMENDMENT

Article 4 of the 25th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution states,

"Whenever the Vice President and a majority of either the principal officers of the executive departments or of such other body as Congress may by law provide, transmit to the President pro tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives their written declaration that the President is unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office, the Vice President shall immediately assume the powers and duties of the office as Acting President."

Democrats of the House Judiciary Committee have submitted a letter to Vice President Pence, calling for him to invoke this amendment, stating, "President Trump revealed that he is not mentally sound."

The 25th Amendment is invoked when the Vice President and a majority of the cabinet declare the current President is unable to perform their duties. They would need to sign a letter to the speakers of the Houses of Representatives and the Senate, declaring that Trump is unfit to govern or incapable, at which point Vice President Pence would automatically assume the Presidency.

President Trump would have the opportunity to challenge this, at which point Congress would need a two-thirds majority vote to remove him from office.

SECURITY UPDATE (NATIONWIDE)

While not as extreme as the events that occurred in Washington, D.C., protests occurred in capitals and major cities nationwide concurrently yesterday. These included, but are not limited to, the following (alphabetized by state):

- **Phoenix:** Several hundred pro-Trump protestors gathered outside the state Capitol, which had been closed, with a group banging on locked doors, and striking a window until the glass broke.
- **Los Angeles:** Clashes occurred between pro-Trump supporters and counter-protestors, resulting in arrests and injuries.
- **Sacramento, Calif.:** Confrontations occurred between pro-Trump supporters (including III%ers, and Proud

PHOTO CREDIT: J SCOTT APPLEWHITE / AP



Boys) and counter-protesters. Protest groups rallied at the state capitol, and police arrested several people carrying pepper spray.

- **Denver:** City agencies were closed early, after approximately 700 demonstrators gathered at the statehouse.
- **Tallahassee, Fla.:** Approximately 150 pro-Trump protesters, including dozens of Proud Boys, rallied outside the State Capitol. No major violence or incident was reported.
- **Atlanta:** Armed protesters gathered outside the state Capitol, causing the legislature and several other government buildings to close as a precaution.
- **Honolulu:** Approximately 100 protesters gathered along the road outside the state Capitol, protesting peacefully.
- **Topeka, Kan.:** Pro-Trump protesters peacefully assembled inside the first floor of the Capitol rotunda, after having obtained a permit to be there.
- **Lansing, Mich.:** Up to 800 pro-Trump protesters rallied outside of the Capitol, protesting peacefully.
- **Minneapolis:** Several hundred protesters gathered outside the Capitol before marching to the governor's residence.
- **St Paul, Minn.:** More than 500 pro-Trump protesters gathered, cheering when the U.S. Capitol breach was announced. Attendees included members of the Ill%ers and Boogaloo Boys.
- **Santa Fe, N.M.:** The State House was evacuated as a precaution, after as many as 500 protesters gathered outside.
- **Albany, N.Y.:** Two people were taken into hospital and one arrested in connection to a stabbing that law enforcement reported was part of a protest under way at the state Capitol.
- **Columbus, Ohio:** Clashes between dozens of pro-Trump supporters (including Proud Boys) and Black Lives Matter counter-protesters in front of the statehouse.
- **Salem, Ore.:** Clashes occurred between pro-Trump supporters (including Proud Boys) and counter-protesters. Clashes included smoke bombs, fireworks and rapid-fire paint guns. Police declared the gathering an unlawful assembly, dispersing the groups. At least one person was arrested. The Capitol was closed as a

precaution throughout the day.

- **Columbia, S.C.:** A peaceful protest in support of Trump occurred, although it had dispersed before the U.S. Capitol was breached in D.C.
- **Austin, Texas:** Hundreds of pro-Trump protesters gathered at the state Capitol, and officials quickly closed down buildings as a precaution.
- **Salt Lake City:** Between 250-400 protestors gathered, mostly peacefully, to protest in support of Trump. A news photographer was sprayed with either mace or pepper spray, apparently for not wearing a mask.
- **Olympia, Wash.:** Protesters at the State Capitol cheered upon hearing of the U.S. Capitol breach, with a participant yelling "It's war now!" Dozens of protestors then moved to the governor's mansion, breaching the gates and gathering on the lawn for approx. 30 minutes before security cleared the area. The governor and his family were at a safe location during this time. Separately, clashes with counter protestors were reported, and two journalists covering the State Capitol protest received death threats, with a protestor telling them: "We're going to shoot you fucking dead in the next year."
- **Madison, Wis.:** Pro-Trump protesters circled the Capitol in cars and trucks adorned flags for several hours Wednesday, blaring their horns.

These protests are considered indicative of the types of protests that may continue over the coming month, and are expected at this or a larger scale on Inauguration Day and if any formal actions are taken to remove Trump from office.

ANALYSIS

G4S assesses that there continues to be an elevated security risk posed by civil unrest and terrorism, particularly in Washington, D.C., as well as across state capitals and major cities.

This risk is assessed as most likely on weekends (particularly on Saturdays), key dates (particularly Inauguration Day), and any major political developments. Major developments

that could dramatically increase this risk further include any formal actions to remove President Trump from office. Further large-scale violence is possible, particularly during these periods.

While some Pro-Trump supporters (both lawmakers and civilians) have begun to distance themselves from President Trump and yesterday's events, there are still a large number of individuals who claim that the U.S. Election has been fraudulent, with some even claiming that yesterday's attack on the Capitol was actually instigated by the "Deep State" or "members of Antifa."



I have just watched the footage of so called "Trump Supporters" breaking barriers and fighting with police to occupy the Capitol Building.

I do not believe they are Trump supporters - they are ANTIFA dressed with Maga hats and American Flags

Prove me wrong!

1:53 PM · Jan 6, 2021 · Twitter for iPhone

Figure 2. Tweet by @IlhanMN via Twitter

This risk will likely continue through at least inauguration day, with a potential for further violence beyond the election period due to individuals and groups who believe in violent means to object to President-Elect Biden's presidency. G4S assesses that the overall risk of domestic terrorism has increased in the U.S., with a risk of isolated acts of violence. There is also a heightened risk of assassination attempts against politicians, and particularly President-Elect Biden.

Finally, G4S notes that most protestors reportedly were not wearing masks or respecting social distancing. As such, there is a risk of COVID-19 rates further spiking over the next month.

ADDITIONAL FACTORS

Security risks will further be significantly impacted by a

number of factors, which could escalate or mitigate the threat. These include, but are not limited to:

- Security Response and Posture
- How Key Political Events Transpire (particularly any formal moves to remove President Trump from power)
- Political Response to Protests
- Statements By Key Political Figures (particularly President Trump, and to a lesser extent Vice President Pence and President-Elect Biden)
- Weather Conditions
- Acts or Attempted Acts of Violence (Including against a political figure, civilians)

RECOMMENDATIONS

While these recommendations particularly relate the coming days, weekends (particularly Saturdays) and Jan. 20, G4S emphasizes that there is an elevated risk throughout the month and particularly if/when any major political developments or statements occur. The security situation should be continually monitored and reassessed as new events occur that could impact the threat level. These recommendations are particularly geared toward businesses with locations near protest sites, federal, and state buildings.

- Businesses within a 0.5 mi radius of State Capitol Buildings that have seen recent protests, or within 0.5 miles of the Washington Monument, Freedom Plaza, Capitol Building or Congress should consider closing their locations starting at 4 p.m. on Jan. 19 through 8 a.m. on Jan. 21 at which point the local security situation can be reassessed.
- Protests can change quickly and companies are urged to monitor local police social media feeds and reach out to the G4S Security Risk Operations Center for situational updates.
- Further protests are likely, particularly in the coming days and on weekends. Local security situations and news coverage should be monitored closely to stay up to date on nearby protests and breaking events.



The default should be to act with extreme caution and leave sooner rather than later.

- A heightened security posture will be needed through the month of Jan. 2021 in downtown Washington, D.C. and in state capitals that have experienced large protests or violence. This should only be relaxed upon completion of an updated security assessment.
- Transportation routes should be reviewed and contingency plans made with alternative backup routes, particularly if the primary route comes near protest sites. This is especially the case if there is a need to move people or goods through these areas.
- All unsecure motor vehicles should be moved ahead of any planned protests in the area. If facilities do not have secure parking (underground garage or fenced in) any vehicles left in open parking lots or on the street should be moved if it is safe to do so.
- Businesses should remove any unattended merchandise or other valuables that are not well secured ahead of any planned protests and either stow them in a non-visible, non-accessible location or move them off-site if possible and if it is safe to do so.
- Companies with business sites near planned protests should assess the outside of their critical infrastructure to see if there are any unsecured objects that could be used by individuals for blockades or projectiles. These items should be removed and secured. If renting, work with the landlord to secure items or mitigate access to them.
- Businesses should review emergency procedures with staff members. Employees who may be working at business sites should not be alone and be prepared with an evacuation plan if needed. Employees should remember that emergency services response times may be impacted in areas where there are protests.
- Businesses should ensure that all smoke detectors are functioning, fire extinguishers are available and exit doors are clear and working and plan for possible delays to emergency response times.
- No employees should be at facilities after dark when there are ongoing protests in the area until the situation appears to be calming down.
- After reviewing protests since May 2020, G4S notes that most acts of violence — clashes with police, clashes among individuals, vandalism, looting and

arson — occurred in the evening and night. If physical presence is absolutely necessary near a protest site, additional security measures should be adopted to ensure employee safety. G4S is able to provide tailored assessments for this purpose.

- Facilities within a 15- to 20-block radius of protests should consider locking doors and covering up large glass windows that face the street.
- Companies may wish to remind employees of the risk associated with political stickers on personal cars parked near busy streets or other highly transited areas that could become easy targets for property damage and vandalism.
- Companies may want to consider the presence of any political signs on their property that could highlight their business as a target for property damage and vandalism.

METHODOLOGY AND SCOPE

This intelligence assessment relies on an analysis of intelligence gathered via open-source networks such as online search engines, media and social media pages. Darknet sources were also reviewed.

This report is analytical and should be viewed as a method for preparing for potential security risks rather than a list of guaranteed outcomes. This report is intended for a wide audience and individual businesses' risks will vary depending on their business type, key leadership and the locations of their assets. G4S is able to provide tailored risk assessments upon request.

This assessment is not intended to examine how different political policies or ideologies may impact businesses, nor is it an assessment of election result validity. This report is limited in scope to a security assessment.

The information cut-off date for this report is Jan. 7, 2021 at 8 a.m. EST.



CORPORATE RISK SERVICES

G4S SECURITY RISK OPERATIONS CENTER

For questions regarding this report or for immediate assistance, please call:

G4S Security Risk Operations Center: (866) 604-1226
Alternate Phone: (866) 943-8892

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