

APPENDIX 8

Demonstrations

This check list is not intended to be a blueprint for security. Your own context is the key determining factor. Consider the risks and threats you face, and any vulnerabilities you have in order to supplement and personalise this list.

Lay the foundations:

- Clear purpose of demo – clearly communicate this to all (is there general agreement amongst likely demonstrators? If not reconsider action)
- Identify best place (for impact, for security, etc.)
- Security analysis:
 - What possible opposition or disruption may there be?
 - Can the police be relied upon to deal with any disruptions. If they can't, consider if a demonstration the best way to make your protest

Teamwork:

- Allocate responsibilities, eg:
 - Media strategy (including video footage and social media alerts such as Facebook) and spokespeople
 - Police liaison
 - Supporter liaison (including identifying people who can act as ears to the ground for hints of unrest/opposition to the demonstration)
 - Liaison with any international organisations who may be of help
 - Legal advice – is a lawyer available in case of arrests?
 - Security coordinator (responsible for judgements on overall security – including cancelling the demo if need be – steward training, mapping the area and organising escape routes etc)
 - Message coordinator (banners, flyers, speakers)
 - Medical support (at least knowing the nearest medical facilities)

In advance:

- Gain permission of the authorities (even if you have, have lawyers prepared who know the local steps for appealing a ban which may happen at the last moment)
- Liaise with police as early as possible regarding safety concerns, the plans on both sides, and identify the liaison people
- Get megaphones, microphones etc
- Invite impartial observers to observe the demonstration
- Survey demonstration route
- Train stewards on the route, destination and timetable for demo, any conditions laid down by the authorities, how to disperse participants safely at the end, who to contact in case of critical events (they should not tackle disruptive people themselves), and equip them with communication devices and identification (such as t-shirts or armbands)
- Plan protective clothing – eg leather jacket in case of assault, and shoes you can run in
- Consider organising the demonstrators in groups of 4 – everyone should look out for each other in this group so you can more easily identify later if anyone has been arrested
- Have lookouts overlooking the demo from vantage points to identify any trouble spots to security coordinator
- If you are expecting infiltration from disruptive elements, consider enclosing your demonstrations in a human chain (people on the outside of the mass of demonstrators all link arms to prevent interlopers joining in)

During the demo:

- Communicate to crowd what is happening, when (people can get frustrated if they are waiting a long time or are unsure what is going on)
- Have lookouts on routes towards the demo to alert the security coordinator if disruptive elements emerge
- Do not have all your key people at the demo – the international liaison, legal advisor etc should be situated in a nearby office
- Be prepared to abort the demonstration if circumstances demand this.

Adapted from: *Prides against Prejudice, a toolkit for pride organising in a hostile environment, ILGA-Europe.*]