

### **Mass Anti-Government Protests in Israel**

On June 22, 2024, a major protest against the government took place in Tel Aviv, marking the largest gathering since the Israel - Hamas conflict began. Hofshi Israel, a protest group opposing the government, reported that the event drew over 150,000 participants. The protest highlighted discontent with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's administration and its handling of the Israel-Hamas conflict.

The main focus of the demonstration was to call for elections and address the plight of hostages in Gaza. Demonstrators waved flags and held signs criticizing the government's policies. Slogans like "Crime Minister" and "Stop the War" were prominently displayed to convey calls for change and an end to hostilities.

The protest saw some tension as clashes broke out between protesters and police officers on horseback trying to maintain order along the city's highway. Several arrests were made during these confrontations, underscoring escalating tensions and forceful police responses to dissent.

During his speech at the rally, Yuval Diskin, head of Israel's Shin Bet security agency, delivered a message by denouncing Netanyahu as Israel's "worst prime minister." The statements made by a security official not only heighten the political significance of the demonstration but also have the potential to sway public opinion and impact future protest actions.

The protests are growing, with more participants highlighting public demand for government changes. Additionally, the presence of families of the 120 hostages in Gaza, including those who have passed away, emphasizes the political and strategic significance of these gatherings, increasing the probability of further escalation.

In general, the gathering on June 22, 2024, in Tel Aviv signifies a moment in Israel's political turmoil. The substantial turnout, participation of figures, and specific demands of protesters underscore how these events could shape future regional political developments and security concerns. Businesses and stakeholders should monitor these developments as they carry implications for stability and operational strategies in the areas where the protests are continuing.

Protests were also held in Jerusalem, Tel Aviv amid a 'week of disruption' demanding elections over the government's handling of fighting in the north, and south, and 'failure' to free hostages.