

Security Concerns Surrounding The 2024 Paris Olympic

Paris is scheduled to host the Summer Olympics for the third time in the Stade de France in Saint-Denis, the country's largest stadium with a capacity of more than 80,000, from 26 Jul to 11 Aug. The high-profile event is expected to draw millions of visitors to the French capital. The Summer Olympic Games will be a tempting target for extremists and cybercrime groups, particularly amid high terrorism threat alerts and security challenges like protest activities amid rising geopolitical tensions worldwide.

The high-profile nature of the event could motivate unions and protests movements to organise industrial actions and demonstrations, potentially leading to transport disruptions, property damage, and occasional violence. France has a well-documented history of strikes and mass protests over socio-economic issues, with such demonstrations, large public gatherings, and other forms of protest being particularly common in Paris.

A wide range of malicious cyber activities are expected to increase during the Paris Olympics. The ongoing tensions across the globe may lead to disruptions in the form of cyberattacks from state-sponsored actors to cybercriminals or unethical hacker groups.

The threat of small-scale attacks by extremist cells and lone wolves remains a concern for the Summer Olympics, given the long standing hostility of Islamist extremists towards France, especially in light of heightened tensions from Israel-Hamas conflict. While Paris is generally regarded as a safe destination for travellers, the influx of large crowds during the Olympics will likely heighten the risk of opportunistic and other types of petty crimes, taking advantage of the situation.

France is implementing an unprecedented security arrangement to mitigate the risks and significantly reduce the likelihood of major incidents. Nevertheless, travellers and businesses in and around Paris should stay vigilant regarding potential threats and their implications, as well as anticipate transportation disruptions and logistical challenges due to heightened security measures.