The likelihood of 200 or more protests/riots taking place in Lebanon in a single calendar month has decreased by 23% over the last month.

Economic and political crises in Lebanon have led to an increase in anti-government protests and riots in recent years (CBS News). Additionally, rising food prices have led to riots among citizens as arguments over food and other necessities turned violent (Reuters). Despite a sharp decrease in demonstrations compared to 2021, political violence events – particularly mob violence and armed clashes – increased in Lebanon during the first half of 2022. (ACLED).

INFER Forecast Question: **From April 2022 through March 2023, what will be the highest number of ACLED recorded protests/riots in a single calendar month in Lebanon?**

Based on 207 forecasts by 39 forecasters:

Possible Answer	% Chance	
	25 December 2022	**30 January 2023**
Less than 200	58%	**81% (+23%)**
More than or equal to 200 but less than 400	28%	**13% (-15%)**
More than or equal to 400 but less than 600	9%	**3% (-6%)**
More than or equal to 600 but less than 800	4%	**1% (-3%)**
More than or equal to 800 but less than 1,000	1%	**1% (0%)**
More than or equal to 1,000	0%	**1% (+1%)**

Why was this Alert Report issued?
Here are comments from forecasters who have recently updated their forecast assessments: (See Latest Forecasts and Rationales)

"The various global pressure points have not hit the country as hard as they could have."
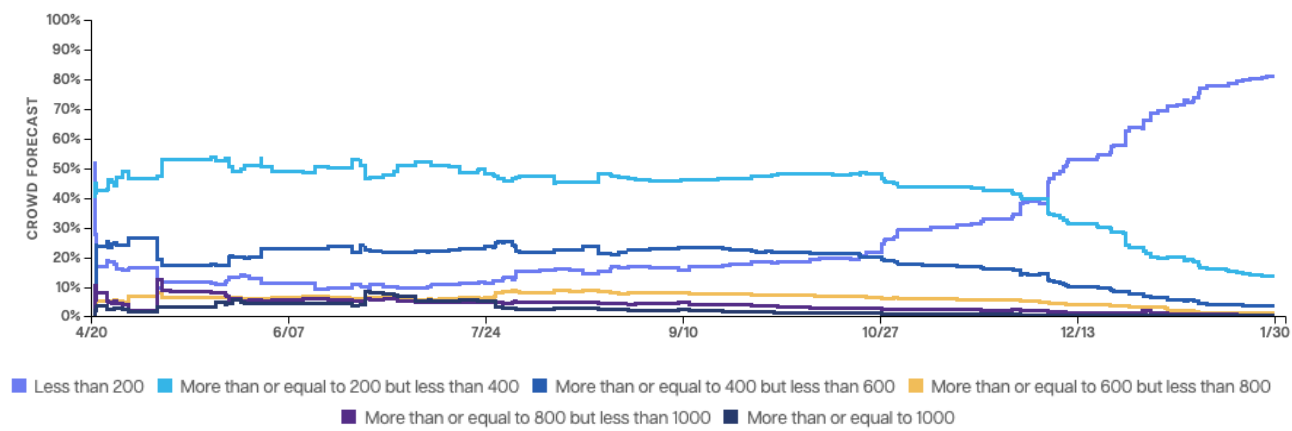
@MCowley
22 January 2023, 8:39 pm ET

"Increasing my prediction of less than 200 due to passage of time and low numbers in December and so far in January."

@thesavage
18 January 2023, 5:04 pm ET

"According to ACLED, there are less and less riots/protests happening–definitely below 200 for the moment."

@JJMLP
08 January 2023, 1:29 pm ET

Consensus Trend

Legend: Less than 200 | More than or equal to 200 but less than 400 | More than or equal to 400 but less than 600 | More than or equal to 600 but less than 800 | More than or equal to 800 but less than 1000 | More than or equal to 1000

INFER, short for INtegrated Forecasting and Estimates of Risk, is a forecasting program designed to generate valuable signals and early warning about the future of critical science and technology trends and events for U.S. Government policymakers. INFER empowers scientists, researchers, analysts, and hobbyists from inside and outside the U.S. Government to have a direct impact on policy and decision-making. The public portion of INFER is one of multiple forecasting sites operating as part of this program. INFER is run by the non-profit Applied Research Laboratory for Intelligence and Security (ARLIS) at the University of Maryland in partnership with Cultivate Labs.

For questions about the project, email infer-public@cultivatelabs.com