Future security challenges in the management of political demonstrations and public events

Dr. Otto M.J. Adang
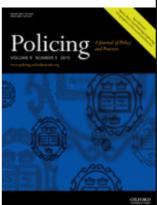
Fachtagung Kundgebungen und Demonstrationen
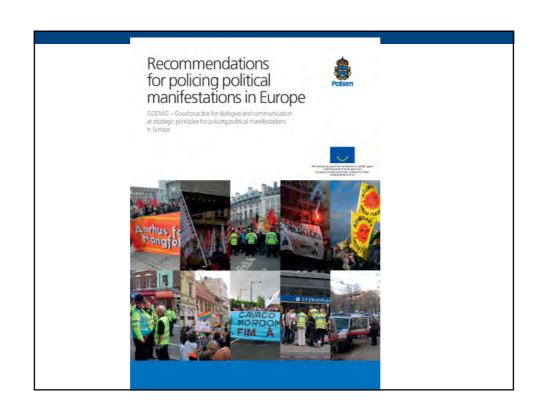
30. Oktober 2015, Bern

Knowledge-Based Public Order Policing: Principles and Practice

**Stephen Reicher, Clifford Stott, John Drury,
Otto Adang, Patrick Cronin and Andrew Livingston**

Policing, 2007, 1, 4, 403-415

Recommendations for policing political manifestations in Europe

GODIAC – Good practice for dialogue and communication as strategic principles for policing political manifestations in Europe

OSCE/ODIHR

report of December 2014 says undue restrictions to freedom of assembly persist

osce ODIHR

Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights

United Nations

Resolution 25/38 adopted by the Human Rights Council, March 28, 2014

The promotion and protection of human rights in the context of peaceful protests

To prepare a compilation of practical recommendations for the proper management of assemblies based on best practices and lessons learned

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99% of protests are without violence

GOAL

Police can do a lot to prevent violence, but little to stop it
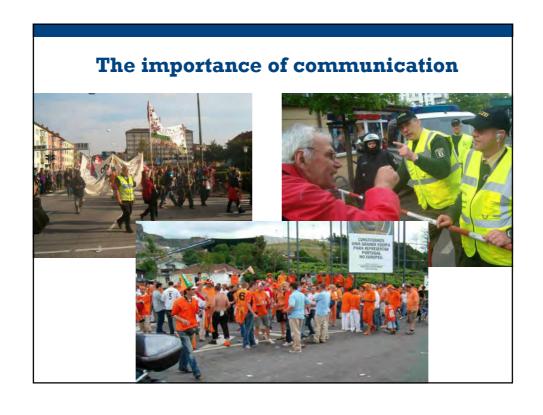
Initiation/ escalation model

- **initiation of violence:**
  - "frictions"
  - "young male syndrome"
- **escalation of violence:**
  - opportunity/ perception of risk
  - ingroup/ outgroup mechanisms (`us vs. them`)

- **normal social mechanisms are operating, but influence of alcohol and drugs**

Practical implications

- need to observe (possible frictions, early signals)
- need to communicate (avoid frictions)
- need to build rapport/ relationship (avoid frictions, increase perception of risk, early signals)
- need to differentiate (avoid us vs them)
- need for focused, timely interventions

Conflict reducing principles for public order management

- Education & Information
  - Facilitation
- Communication
  - Differentiation

The importance of communication

Friendly and firm low-profile approach

Public order management vs riot control

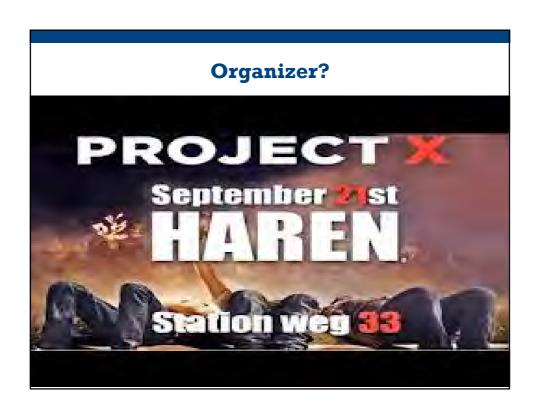| PUBLIC ORDER MANAGEMENT	RIOT CONTROL
•Emphasis on *order* •In cooperation with safety partners •Communication and interaction •**Facilitating** legitimate intentions •Interventions based on *behaviour* •Low profile, friendly and firm •Setting boundaries with focused, timely interventions	•Emphasis on disorder and crime •Police main actor •**Distance** from public •Us versus them •Little or no differentiation •High profile, show of force •Reactive •Constant push for more/new less-lethal weapons

Some challenges/ trends

- **Using available knowledge**
- **Organizer?**
- **Duration**
- **Social media**
- **Third dimension**
- **Public order/ crowd management vs riot control**
- **Learning**

Organizer?

Duration

Migration and refugees

The global neighbourhood

The social media dimension
Arab spring mobilisation

The social media dimension
London riots

The social media dimension
Youtube

The third dimension

The learning dimension
Learning is usually:

- isolated from other events and from partners
- under pressure
- not transparant
- confused with accountability
- with little analysis
- more focused on past than on future

- Result: lessons often not implemented in practice

The peer review evaluation system for learning from major events

Comparison Germany, Netherlands, UK, Sweden

- Need for better understanding and use of existing legislation and powers, NOT new legislation
- No need of new weaponry
- Equipment need for better protection of officers, communication within police and with participants, information and evidence gathering, helps increase flexibility
- Increase in flexibility
- Enhance quality of arrests
- Friendly and firm, conflict reducing principles
- Intelligence <> Crowd dynamics

- `The main challenge is to consistently apply knowledge in practice`

Trends in public order management

- **more knowledge-based**
  - search for and exchangen of good practices
  - practice and training more informed by more practically useful research
- **from riot control to facilitation and communication**
- **use of technology/ innovations to aid this trend**
- **online and offline are intermingled, not separate**
- **policing the global neighbourhood**