Committee: United Nations Educational, Scientific

and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

Topic: Violent Protests and Their Repercussions

on the Economy and Cultural Sites

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I. INTRODUCTION

The United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) is a specialized agency of the United Nations that aims to promote peace, sustainable development and intercultural dialogue through international cooperation in education, science, culture and communication. It was founded on November 16, 1945 in the United Kingdom, to promote peace and security with international collaboration and education, science, and culture.

The United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) is currently discussing the following topics:

- Artificial intelligence in education
- AI in journalism
- AI spreading misinformation
- Raise awareness in the importance of science
- Glacier preservation (Environmental topic)
- Importance of national languages

The United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) faculties are:

- Promoting equality and education for all
- Sustainable development with help of science
- Peace and ethical societies
- Protect cultural and tradition
- Support freedom of expression and access to digital information

In relation to the topic, it refers to violent protests, large public gatherings that turn into violence. These protests can lead to fights with police, damage to buildings, and in some cases, attacks on important cultural places. Also, violent protests can cause problems for a country, damage the economy, and put cultural sites at risk. Violent protests and social unrest have been a problem around the world for many years, but this protest have become more common in the last 10 - 15 years, according to the International monetary fund, the number of riots, strikes, and anti government demonstrations increased by 244% from 2011 to 2019, the problem is expected to continue increasing because the significant growing of inequality, political problems and other social and economic conflicts

The main reasons for this topic that make it relevant are:

- They can make whole regions unstable, causing people to get out of their countries and lead to creating problems across borders.
- When the economy of a country is affected, it can also affect global trade and supply chains.
- Damaging cultural sites means losing important parts of the history of a country and their identities.
- International groups and governments have to intervene in order to try to make peace, or support affected people.

The countries that have the most violent protest are:

Country	Effects on economy and cultural sites
Republic of The Sudan	The civil war has forced millions to leave their homes, destroyed roads and buildings, and put a lot of ancient cities at risk.
Democratic Republic of The Congo	Rebel attacks have driven people from their homes, causing key areas economies to collapse, and damage historical cities like goma
Federal Republic of Nigeria	The END SARS protests led to lots of property damage, businesses and shops shutting down, and scared investors, hurting cultural and public places

Ukraine	The war caused the number of attacks to go up, hurt the economy in a big way, and destroyed historical places
Republic of South Africa	In 20211, riots caused big money losses, many stores were robbed and businesses had to stop, also old and new buildings were damaged

Violent protests bring many serious problems, they hurt the economy by scaring off investors, closing businesses and raising prices. They can also damage important cultural places, such as museums and historical places. This event also creates a humanitarian crisis since millions of people lose their homes. Nevertheless, the UN addresses the impact of violent protests through a variety of techniques. This is through emphasizing human rights, peacebuilding and sustainable development. While the UN does not intervene directly in protests. However, it focuses more on working in these areas in order to prevent violence, protect human rights during protest and mitigate the economic and cultural damage that can result from these movements. More than anything else, they seek to emphasize the right to peaceful assembly and freedom of expression, which for obvious reasons are shown to be "essential" to peaceful protest. They also work to ensure respect for these rights during protests, including the right to life, freedom of association, privacy and protection against arbitrary arrest and detention.

There are associations that are already working on conflict prevention, economic impacts, effects on culture and peace building. For example, the UN's Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (DPPA) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). These institutions seek to address the issue at its root, namely situations such as inequality, lack of opportunities and political exclusion, which can motivate the respective protests. They also support national institutions in strengthening their capacity to prevent and manage conflicts peacefully. Speaking of the economy, the UNDP program seeks to collaborate with countries to strengthen resilience and promote inclusive growth, which can help moderate the economic consequences of unrest. Last but not least, The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) is working to protect cultural sites and promote respect for cultural diversity, affording the topic through awareness-raising programmes and capacity-building initiatives.

This topic has been previously discussed by UNESCO, although not explicitly under that title, it has sought to address these issues through various initiatives and publications related to conflict, cultural

heritage and the safety of journalists covering the protests themselves. Recalling that UNESCO promotes a culture of peace as a principle, it has expressed its deep concern about the impact of conflict on cultural heritage, particularly in the Gaza Strip, and has emphasized the need to adhere to international law and protect cultural property. Much reference is made to the importance of safeguarding culture in times of crisis and therefore the organization itself has sought ways to address the challenges of protecting intangible cultural heritage in conflict zones. It also monitors the situation of press freedom and the safety of journalists, including those covering protests, and has produced reports on these issues. Although UNESCO does not have an economic protection purpose as such, it has indirectly done so by emphasizing that violent conflict can lead to the collapse of economic and social programs. In addition, research indicates that protests can increase costs for businesses and reduce productivity.

II. HISTORY OF THE CONFLICT

The main concern with the issue is the amount of significant and lasting damage, both the great impact it is causing to economic stability and cultural heritage. Mentioning the affectation of daily life, including infrastructural damage and recalling possible destruction of places of historical or cultural importance. Within all this, violent protests can be responsible for business closures, reduced tourism, increased security costs, vandalism, looting and even the destruction of cultural sites such as historic buildings, museums and religious centers, generating a climate of fear and instability, thus eroding confidence in the authorities and exacerbating social divisions. With this we conclude that culture, the economy and political and social instability can also be the effect of these protests.

As previously mentioned, this topic as such has not been discussed under that title. However, it can be said that it refers to the broader challenges UNESCO faces in addressing violence and its impact on cultural heritage and development, particularly in conflict zones. UNESCO seeks to focus more on protecting cultural heritage, promoting education, dialogue and addressing the root causes of violence. There is no date as such for the initiation of this conflict, as it is not a singular event, it has several examples and sadly the problem is still ongoing.

On the other hand, they often arise from a combination of factors, such as economic inequality, political grievances and social divisions. When peaceful means of expressing dissent are perceived to be ineffective, or when state institutions are weak and unable to address public concerns, protests can escalate into violence. Economic disruptions and resulting cultural changes can further exacerbate existing tensions, leading to a cycle of conflict. Understanding these factors is crucial to addressing the root causes of conflict and finding peaceful solutions.

This conflict has escalated due to several factors, such as social inequality, the suppression of non-violent means of expression, the loss of trust between citizens and the government, among others. For obvious reasons, this has negatively impacted the economy, through constant interruptions in business and commerce, a much reduced productivity and adjusted by the time, a great loss of confidence by the companies themselves to investors, etc. Likewise, not leaving culture aside, it has been part of the foundation of this movement of vandalism and destruction, as well as loss of tourism due to insecurity or loss of cultural identity.

Turning now to the main dates when relevant events occurred are the following:

- 1960s Civil Rights Movement: "American civil rights movement, a mass protest
 movement against racial segregation and discrimination in the southern United States that
 rose to national prominence in the mid-1950s. This movement has its roots in the
 centuries-old efforts of enslaved Africans and their descendants to resist racial oppression
 and abolish the institution of slavery." (Carson & Clayborne, 2025)
- Late 20th and Early 21st Centuries: "Native American life in the late twentieth and early twenty-first centuries is of interest because of the continuities and differences from the trajectories of previous centuries. One of the most striking continuities is the strong complexity of Native American ethnic and political identities. In 2000, more than 600 Indian bands or tribes were officially recognized by the Canadian Dominion government, and some 560 more bands or tribes were officially recognized by the U.S. government. These numbers were slowly increasing as other groups embarked on the difficult process of gaining official recognition." (Pauls & Prine, 2025)
- 1968 The assassination of Martin Luther King Jr: "Responses to King's death varied. Black Americans were devastated, pained, and angered. Violence erupted in more than 125 American cities across 29 states. Nearly 50,000 federal troops occupied America's urban areas. Thirty-nine people were killed and 3,500 injured. These uprisings produced more property damage, arrests, and injuries than any other uprising of the 1960s." (Mourning The Death Of Martin Luther King Jr., s. f.)
- 2003 Large-scale anti-war protests: "On February 15, in hundreds of cities around the world, millions of people took to the streets to demonstrate peacefully against the impending war with Iraq. Only in one city were they denied the right to march: New

York. Photos and videos show demonstrators from all over the world marching peacefully and freely in well-identified groups. But not in New York." (NYCLU, 2007)

- #Blacklivesmatter 2013 movement: "In the summer of 2013, three community organizers Alicia Garza, a domestic workers' rights organizer in Oakland, California; Patrisse Cullors, an anti-police violence organizer in Los Angeles, California; and Opal Tometi, an immigrant rights organizer in Phoenix, Arizona, founded the Black Lives Matter movement in cyberspace as a sociopolitical media forum, giving it the hashtag #BlackLivesMatter. The idea came about when the three, who met through Black Organizing for Leadership & Dignity (BOLD), a national organization that trains community organizers, responded similarly to the July 2013 acquittal of neighborhood watch coordinator George Zimmerman by a Sanford, Florida jury for the murder of seventeen-year-old Trayvon Martin." (Ruffin, 2024)
- 2019-2022: "A wave of social unrest in many countries: "Cities have been deeply affected by the numerous problems caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. These circumstances have become a focus of numerous manifestations of social unrest and new social mobilizations have emerged, channeling the population's criticisms of the health management of the crisis or expressing specific demands related to the social and economic problems caused by the pandemic. However, there are also other demonstrations, which are a continuation of pre-existing protests that have intensified as a result of the deterioration of the material conditions that gave rise to them after the pandemic." (Pandemic And Social Protests: Cities As Flashpoints In The COVID-19 Era, s. f.)
- 2021 Protests at Colombia: "During the 2021 National Strike, Colombia witnessed
 massive demonstrations throughout the country. The protests made visible the historical
 demands of the country's marginalized populations. Inequality, racism, violence and the
 consequences of the internal armed conflict were key structural causes of the social
 outburst.

The protesters' demands reflect broad social grievances based on the failure of the State to guarantee basic economic and social rights such as education and health, as well as the failure

of the State to implement measures to mitigate the effects of the pandemic, in one of the most unequal countries in the region.

Instead of listening to the demands of the thousands of people who demonstrated, the government of Iván Duque responded with repression and violence to discourage peaceful protests and ultimately punish those who demanded change in the country." (Amnesty International, 2023)

Currently, there are several situations in the world that are negatively affecting this movement. For example:

- Mining of critical minerals in recent years, there has been a significant increase in violent protests and incidents related to the extraction of critical minerals such as copper, cobalt, lithium and nickel, often in emerging economies. Some countries affected have been Philippines, Indonesia, Australia, Latin America, etc.
- Protests over public service delivery show how in South Africa, violent protests related to service delivery have led to damage to infrastructure, injuries and a decline in trust between communities and authorities.
- Protests in the United States have occurred more frequently over a variety of issues, including abortion, the environment, and gun control, some of which have involved violence and riots.

Furthermore, the principle protests are primarily fighting over resources, services, territories, rights, the environment in general, politics or violence per se. It can be said that there is violence because at first people are not listened to, or simply because of a total lack of organization.

These protests have affected the economy, because they cause a social divide whereby violent confrontations can exacerbate existing social divisions and create new ones, affecting community cohesion and trust. Finally, it is important to mention the psychological trauma this entails; witnessing or experiencing violence during protests can lead to increased rates of depression, post-traumatic stress disorder and other mental health problems, particularly among those living near protest sites.

These protests have affected cultural sites. Initially, there is significant disruption to business and commerce because protests, especially those involving blockades or vandalism, can significantly disrupt business operations, resulting in lost revenue and potential supply chain problems. Subsequently due to violence, damage can be caused to buildings, transportation systems and other infrastructure, requiring

costly repairs and hampering economic activity. As a result, there is a reduction in tourism and investment due to political instability, negatively impacting local economies. Finally there is a significant increase in costs for businesses themselves, strikes and other forms of protest can directly increase costs for businesses due to reduced productivity and potential damages.

Focusing on the Chile protest, which took place in 2019, and this protest has a background. Everything happened because the Chilean government, in October 2019, announced that they were going to increase the metro fare by 30 pesos. Millions of people who cannot afford a car travel by metro daily, and although it seems like a small amount, for someone who takes the metro three to four times a day, every day, it adds up a lot. So, this small fare increase was the last straw that triggered millions of problems in a country full of social inequality.

This caused students to start fare evasion as a form of protest, and what the students began was continued by the rest of the population, and finally, the entire Chilean society joined in. This protest was violent because, at the moment of increasing the metro fare by 30 pesos, the discontent among Chilean society was deep, since people do not have much money, pensions are low, healthcare and education are expensive, and wages are unfair. Chile is a country full of social inequality, violence, gender issues, fires, looting, clashes with the police, and excessive use of force. The damage to monuments or public places was significant: statues were damaged, metro stations were vandalized. One of the most damaged statues was that of General Baquedano in Santiago. Museums were closed for security reasons because citizens were becoming very aggressive, and many murals throughout the city of Santiago, which is the capital, were also damaged; historical murals were painted over and, in some cases, burned.

Turning now to the economic affectations around the world, in the prolonged protests in France, the United States, Lebanon, or South Africa, economic losses of millions of dollars were recorded during key weeks of the year. This is because protests can disrupt the economy through supply chain interruptions, business closures, damage to public infrastructure, and increased economic uncertainty. As a result, people start to act based on their fear.

Something else that happens is a decrease in foreign direct investment, an increase in temporary unemployment due to business closures caused by insecurity, and an increase in public spending for repairs, security, and riot control. What usually happens during these protests is that the stock market tends to drop in affected areas, the currency also declines and can become devalued. All of this is due to the perceived risk involved.

The main countries that faced economic crises, which were worsened and caused by violent protests within them, include Iraq, Ecuador, and Colombia. What happened is that the demonstrations paralyzed the economy for weeks. Later, in Sri Lanka in 2022, the disturbances triggered an economic collapse that led to massive protests, forcing people to occupy places and resulting in the fall of the government. One of the strongest protests occurred on two occasions: 2019 and 2023, in Sudan. These protests, caused by inflation and lack of services, led to violent political changes, that is, they resulted in very violent political upheavals.

Most of the violent protests common in countries tend to have a strong connection to economic inequality. This severely affects inflation and unemployment, which in turn greatly impacts the economy of the country or city. What happens is that when inflation is high, the prices of food and fuel skyrocket. So, in places like Iran, Haiti, and Kazakhstan, inflation arises due to protests caused by these issues and economic inequalities. And speaking of unemployment, usually when a protest becomes too violent, mass unemployment can occur in the areas near where the protest is taking place. For example, after the COVID-19 pandemic in many countries around the world, people's desperation from lockdowns escalated into violence, which led to increased unemployment.

Also, the destruction of monuments on protests has affected the economy. Usually, society and people, as well as citizens, do not fully realize the economic damage that can be caused by the destruction of monuments and public places. And although it may seem very small, damaged monuments during protests cause a significant immediate loss in tourism value. This causes the number of tourists to drop after the violent protest, which in turn lowers the economy; therefore, a domino effect is generated throughout society due to the loss of tourism value. Obviously, the high restoration costs are greatly affected because the country has to recover its infrastructure to improve tourism value and thus boost the tourism economy. In countries with cultural tourism, such as France, Egypt, and India, this directly affects the tourism GDP, since they are among the most tourist-heavy countries in the world.

Cultural heritage is the set of assets, traditions, expressions, and knowledge that a community which can be a city or a country inherits from its past, values in the present, and transmits to future generations. This cultural heritage is considered fundamental to the identity of peoples and can be divided into two main types: tangible cultural heritage and intangible cultural heritage.

The tangible heritage includes objects and constructions, such as monuments, buildings, museums, archaeological sites, works of art, documents, and ancient objects. Intangible cultural heritage

includes traditions, languages, songs, rituals, festivals, oral expressions, dances, ancestral knowledge, traditional healing practices, and knowledge that were part of the place's past.

Having established what cultural heritage is, violent protests often cause significant loss of cultural heritage by damaging public spaces. During riots, monuments, museums, and religious sites are very vulnerable to looting, fires, or symbolic vandalism, for example, the toppling of historic statues, which happens frequently. In Latin America, for example, on March 8th, women, as a form of protest, paint the centers of several capitals in the region. All these actions imply a great loss of national identity and collective memory, since some things can be rebuilt while others are lost forever.

Furthermore, around the world, there are large protests in countries that are not particularly known for their culture, but there are certain countries like France, the United States, Venezuela, Myanmar, and Ethiopia that experience frequent protests, and their cultural heritage is often affected. In France, frequent riots involve the destruction of urban art, statues, and public furniture. In contrast, in the United States, it is very common for historical statues to be toppled during violent protests, which usually occur in the context of racial protests. In Venezuela, Myanmar, and Ethiopia, prolonged violent protests lead to the loss of cultural centers and the closure of public spaces.

Another important point is cultural repression. It is the act of prohibiting, limiting, or punishing the expression of a human culture, identity, or social group by an authority or a dominant group. These can be violent groups, such as the Nazis or groups existing in Iraq and Iran. This repression can severely affect languages, clothing styles, religions, traditions, art, music, or anything else through which people can culturally and traditionally express themselves. Usually, authoritarian governments respond to violent protests with cultural repression as a form of control. This causes cultural outlets, such as theaters, radios, etc., to be shut down. Another action taken by governments is the prohibition of cultural or religious symbols, which suppresses cultures. They also destroy spaces considered rebellious and attack citizens as a form of "defense" of the place's cultural heritage.

For example during the violent protests, museums or religious places have been affected since they often become targets because of their symbolic value in society, cultural heritage, and tourism. Places of worship, such as churches or temples, are also attacked. These are usually set on fire or closed as a political or religious reaction to violent protests.

Some examples of this are Egypt, in 2011, during the Arab Spring, the Cairo Museum was looted; very valuable objects were stolen, and obviously, the museum was damaged, including the mummies. Also in Sudan, in 2023, amid a conflict between the army and several military groups, the mosques and

churches—famous for their cultural and tourist heritage in Khartoum—were bombed or set on fire. Many of these were tied to religious memories of the culture. Finally, in Iraq, in 2003 and the years before, during a conflict between the government and military groups due to the United States invasion, the National Museum of Baghdad was completely looted; more than 15,000 archaeological pieces, some very valuable and thousands of years old, were lost. Mosques and Sunni sites were also destroyed in sectarian reprisals.

Because violent protests usually take place in large, important locations in the city (to get a response to their protest goals), they obviously have a severe impact on tourism and cause an immediate drop in international tourism across the country. Additionally, embassies of various countries located in the affected country issue alerts, and travelers begin to cancel flights, tours, trips, plans, excursions, etc. Cultural sites often close for the safety of citizens or become too damaged and must wait for repairs. All of this impacts the local economy and the country's international reputation, and obviously, the tourism sector.

For example in France, from 2018 to 2019, during the Yellow Vest protests, Paris experienced a 10% drop in tourism during the Christmas period of 2018, as many tourists canceled reservations and tours out of fear of violence in places like the Champs-Élysées or the Arc de Triomphe, which was severely vandalized. Also in Hong Kong, in 2019, protests triggered cancellations directed at the government, leading to massive flight cancellations and a drop in hotel bookings, as well as the closure of cultural sites, which severely reduced tourism. This also had repercussions on the tourism economy, as the industry lost millions of dollars and the city's reputation as a safe destination was permanently damaged.

III. CURRENT HAPPENINGS

Currently, there are several situations in the world that are negatively affecting this movement. For example:

- Mining of critical minerals in recent years, there has been a significant increase in violent protests and incidents related to the extraction of critical minerals such as copper, cobalt, lithium and nickel, often in emerging economies. Some countries affected have been Philippines, Indonesia, Australia, Latin America, etc.
- Protests over public service delivery show how in South Africa, violent protests related to service delivery have led to damage to infrastructure, injuries and a decline in trust between communities and authorities.

 Protests in the United States have occurred more frequently over a variety of issues, including abortion, the environment, and gun control, some of which have involved violence and riots.

Nevertheless, there are organizations that have brought aid to the countries affected by the conflict. For example:

- International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC): By providing primary support to people affected by these conflicts, as well as medical assistance, food, water and some household items.
- International Rescue Committee (IRC): It focuses more on crisis situations, for example places where conflicts are being mediated.
- UNHCR (The UN Refugee Agency): Protects life in general, but focuses primarily on the lives of people who are refugees due to the effects of war. Providing them with basic services.
- IOM (International Organization for Migration): It also focuses on the lives of refugees, but more specifically by migration causes.
- United Nations agencies: Such as UNICEF or the World Food Programme WFP.
- Humanitarian NGOs: Such as Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch and other organizations work to protect human rights and provide assistance.

Also, some of the current violent protests occurring nowadays that are damaging cultural sites are:

- Ukraine war: By damaging several historical monuments, as well as buildings important to the history of the country itself.
- Problem between the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria: This has led to the destruction of cultural heritage and the worst thing is that it is within supposedly "controlled" areas.
- War in Gaza, Israel damaged or destroyed more than 100 heritage sites.

The violent demonstrations were followed by serious economic problems. Losing investor confidence is one of the key issues. Countries where demonstrations are a frequent occurrence are considered unsafe and risky. In addition, businesses closed, unemployment rose, tourism declined, and high public costs were incurred to repair damaged buildings, roads, monuments, and transportation systems. Because many people are unable to work during the protests, productivity, trade, and transportation suffer—further damaging the economy. Product shortages or economic uncertainty often lead to price increases, and the value of the national currency may also decline.

In addition, violent protests have really shaken up public safety, deepening the divides among citizens and creating a growing mistrust of governments. There's a lot of conflict brewing between different social groups, and many folks are feeling unsafe in their own neighborhoods. In places that have been hit the hardest, violent events like clashes with the police or damage to public spaces have left lasting psychological scars. In the economic topic, we can mention some consequences that include a fall in the value of the currency, a collapse in tourism, an increase in unemployment rates, a decrease in foreign investment, and astronomical financial losses amounting to millions.

These protests have proven to be a threat to international security and peace because, when they increase or intensify, they could potentially lead to political crises, forced changes of government, and even conflicts with other countries. Unstable regions often trigger foreign alerts or interventions, leading to diplomatic tensions. Otherwise, very violent protests can give rise to armed groups, domestic terrorism, or human rights violations, all of which threaten global peace. Some governments respond with excessive repression, which can increase national unrest and provoke international condemnation or conflict.

Moreover, UNESCO and governments have been working together to resolve the protests that have arisen, implementing policies and protocols for dialogue so that UNESCO can provide assistance and training on how to deal with these protests with the least possible consequence. UN's Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (DPPA) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) have helped with this crisis. These institutions focuses on addressing the issue at its roots, especially situations with inequality, lack of opportunities and political exclusion, they also support national institutions providing capacities in order to know how to manage this protests and manage them in a peaceful way (UNESCO) is working to protect cultural sites and promote respect for cultural diversity, affording the topic through awareness-raising programmes and capacity-building initiatives.

IV. INTERNATIONAL ACTIONS

United Nations:

General Assembly:

The key statements made by the General Assembly are symbolic resolutions that reflect a global stance against violent repression. This was evident in Belarus in 2020, thanks to a resolution that had already been passed for Mali in 2013. In 2013, during the 67th session of the General Assembly, Mali expressed deep concern over the destruction of museums within its territory due to the occupation and vandalism by extremist groups at the time.

Security Council:

One of the most important declarations from the Security Council is its intervention when protests begin to threaten the peace of a region or international peace. Since the Council is responsible for maintaining peace, when a protest escalates to the point of endangering a population or broader stability, it takes concrete actions. Two of the most notable actions were: in February 2015, a resolution prohibiting the trade of cultural property from Syria and Iraq to cut off financing for ISIS. And the resolution 2347, adopted in March 2017, which established safe havens and a global fund for heritage at risk. This fund can be used in any UN member country affected by severe unrest, with safe havens available globally.

United Nations Human Rights Office:

The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) seeks to report specifically on human rights violations that occur during protests against individuals, property, or cultural sites. These include excessive use of force, censorship, and arbitrary detentions. During the exact measures taken (according to reports from 2029 and 2021) on Chile and Colombia, emphasis is placed on violations and police reforms are recommended in response to the protests.

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization:

On the other hand, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) focuses on issues related to cultural heritage, which is repeatedly shown to be the most affected by violence. Consideration must be given to safeguarding culture as a vital aspect of national security. Concrete actions include: rescuing and protecting historical sites since the 1960s, such as the Borobudur restoration campaign from 1973 to 1983 after rebel attacks. Also, declaring heritage sites in danger, such as Palmyra in 2013 (Iraq and Syria) due to emergency threats. Lastly, international training and emergency response networks, like the *United for Heritage* campaign (launched in 2015), and the *Blue Helmets for Culture* program, initiated in 2016 with the Carabinieri to train international forces.

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP):

UNDP has taken two significant concrete actions. An employment and reconstruction program in Tunisia following the Arab Spring conflict in 2011. It was implemented and continues in several countries due to its success. Also, support for micro-enterprises in Haiti and Kenya, countries affected by violent unrest, aiming to reduce economic tensions linked to the protests.

United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA):

OCHA has carried out a major concrete action and issued a key statement:

It coordinates humanitarian aid—health, food, and shelter—especially in Myanmar, where violent protests have harmed civilians and caused mass displacement. This effort has been ongoing due to continued unrest and is expected to be applied in other countries as needed.

Its key statement emphasizes that OCHA mobilizes when violent protests escalate into humanitarian crises, such as population displacement, violence, and lack of access to basic services.

IGO's:

European Union:

The European Union has warned that violent protests and terrorism can lead to illegal economies and damage cultural sites. They have been supporting African countries in order to protect vulnerable communities, also they have been supporting the protection of cultural sites and peace funding.

African Union:

AU peace and SC has made a lot of statements condemning violence, calling for peace, and asking governments to proteinas cultural sites, they has also applied sanctions where the government is not aware of the situation , and has pushed leaders to fix problems like unemployment to reduce the protests

Organization of American States:

This organization with the hand of INTERPOL has been focusing on stopping the violence and protecting cultural sites across the Americas. Its security department works on training programs for police in order to have knowledge of how to manage and control protests without using extreme force, and also protect important monuments and buildings

Interpol:

It has worked with OAS and other groups to protect cultural property, they also helped recover stolen art and artifacts that were stolen. Helps countries find and return items stolen principally from museums during violent protests.

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development:

This organization focuses more on the economic side, its charge of study how the protests impact on business, since they make markets unstable, and scare investors, they have been suggesting

governments take action to reduce inequality and improve trust in public institutions in order to avoid protests.

Organization of Islamic Cooperation:

This organization works with the UN in order to stop violent protest related with religions, they also runs campaigns to protect the Islamic culture and promote peace between religions

NGOS:

Human Rights Watch:

Their main objective is to investigate human rights abuses globally. By this action, they publish their findings, share the stories of those affected by abuses, and speak out against injustice. Finally, they want to make a change by mobilizing the public and pressuring governments to enforce rights-respecting laws, change policy, and deliver justice.

- Mozambique: Was part of interviewing several witnesses about the protest called by the
 Optimistic Party for the Development of Mozambique's Pre-presidential Candidate in
 Maputo on October 21, 2024. It is claimed that the security forces were responsible for
 killing at least 11 people and injuring many more.
- <u>Unites States</u>: Were responsible for formulating a letter due to pro-Palestinian protesters confronting Texas Department of Public Safety officers at the University of Texas at Austin, Texas, USA, on April 24, 2024. Where allegations of excessive use of force by some campus police and local law enforcement against peaceful protests and encampments across the country are expressed. They were also part of investigating and managing university administrators' reactions to student protests.

Amnesty International:

Basically they have a flagship campaign known as "Protect Protest" where they work to denounce violations of the right to protest and support global movements in their struggle for positive change. The campaign seeks to get governments to provide a clear message that protesters must be protected and to remove unnecessary barriers and restrictions to peaceful protest. Since the start of the protests in Bangladesh in July 2024, they have been influential in systematically documenting crimes under international law and other serious human rights violations committed by the Bangladeshi authorities in suppressing the protests. "We will not stop investigating the crimes committed by Bangladeshi authorities during and after the student uprising or holding Bangladeshi officials accountable." (Amnesty International, 2025)

International Crisis Group:

They have formed a strategy to track violence, CrisisWatch is a tool that functions as a global conflict tracker, it is designed to help prevent deadly violence. "It keeps decision-makers up to date with developments in more than 70 conflicts and crises each month, identifying trends and alerting them to escalation risks and opportunities to advance peace. In addition, CrisisWatch monitors more than 50 situations ("standby monitoring") to provide timely information if events indicate a drift toward violence or instability." (International Crisis Group, 2025).

Global Heritage Fund:

They focus primarily on protecting sites that are considered cultural heritage sites. They do this through early warning mechanisms, training in disaster preparedness and promoting those actions that as a community can be useful to safeguard the heritage as such. During the various times of crisis that the Middle East and North Africa have suffered in recent years, they have taken it upon themselves to train professionals in order to protect assets from various disasters or risks. They have also focused on developing mobile tools for rapid assessment and community development.

Cultural Survival:

This is a group of indigenous people who basically advocate for indigenous rights. They are registered in the United States and in their very movement they support self-determination, the cultures themselves and the political resilience of indigenous communities since 1972. "For over 53 years, Cultural Survival has worked with indigenous communities to promote the rights and cultures of Indigenous Peoples around the world." (*About Us*, s. f.)

Freedom House:

They fight for a freer world. Where basically freedom is no longer a concern, but a day-to-day thing. It was founded in 1941 because of an awakening interest in mobilizing legislators and a generally isolationist American public to fight Nazi Germany and to raise awareness of the fascist threat to American security and values. They achieve their movement primarily through advocacy, programs and research, seeking to be the leading U.S. organization dedicated to the support and defense of democracy around the world. Freedom of speech, press and assembly in China 2022: There was a great deal of unrest on the part of citizens due to the organization of quarantine due to COVID-19. This aggravated due to the

fatal fire in Urumqi that took several victims, which caused peaceful protests and demonstrations. However the authorities were influenced to suppress them, which became controversial, as it is supposedly a right. Freedom House took it upon itself to call on the authorities through a "joint statement".

Reporters Without Borders:

This organization seeks to provide everyone with access to reliable and free information. More than anything else, they seek to defend the freedom, pluralism and independence of journalism and to defend those who represent these ideals, based primarily on the spirit of Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the main declarations and charters relating to journalistic ethics, in particular the Munich Declaration on the Duties and Rights of Journalists.

V. BLOCK ANALYSIS

French Republic:

During the violent protests of 2023, the country was severely affected in terms of economic and cultural impacts. It is estimated that the damage caused losses of around \in 1 billion, with \in 650 million invested in claims or insurance. This not only had a financial impact, but also affected businesses, banks, and supermarkets. In terms of cultural sites that were affected, there is a list of libraries and theaters in Marseille and Paris. As a result, the government provided assistance with an emergency fund of \in 11.3 million, in addition to coordinating compensation with insurance companies.

Currently, there is no specific record of direct aid from international organizations in this regard. However, France maintains its "Asylum System" with 142,500 applications, a 33% acceptance rate (2023), and in 2024, it increased the intake of Palestinian refugees, with an approval rate of nearly 90%.

United States of America:

In June 2025, the country was affected by protests against immigration raids. This led to an unprecedented military deployment, with 4,000 members of the National Guard and 700 marines sent to Los Angeles. This had an economic impact of \$134 million and led to accusations of abuse of power. This prompted legal action by the state government.

Currently, the asylum system remains overwhelmed. At the end of 2024 and beginning of 2025, millions of pending applications were issued to both USCIS and immigration courts. This resulted in average wait times of more than 1,300 days (with peaks of almost six years), a record 10,933 decisions

issued in March 2025 with 76% rejections, and a judicial backlog exceeding 3.6 million cases, confirming the urgency of reforming the immigration process.

Republic of Chile:

The country is currently experiencing a growing crisis focused on security issues. This has a monetary impact of USD 8.2 billion per year (2.6% of GDP), negatively affecting businesses. Similarly, this is causing a shift in the political landscape toward the "right," with support for proposals to take tough measures against crime.

On the subject of migration, 7% of asylum applications in 2023 were approved, while a new law (No. 21,655) imposes greater restrictions, strict deadlines, and inadmissibility filters. At the same time, support has been announced for additional harsh measures based on bills that criminalize irregular entry and extend detention. Even so, there is already a program in place that deals with visas, which mainly seek to reunite thousands of Haitians with relatives already residing in Chile.

Republic of Colombia:

The country is currently experiencing a complex humanitarian crisis in which "widespread violence" has been the main cause of the internal displacement of around 7 million people. This mass movement has been accompanied by armed groups spreading across more than 500 municipalities. One example is the Catatumbo region, which was severely affected in early 2025 by clashes that left dozens dead and thousands displaced, forcing the government to declare a state of emergency and call in the army for support.

On the issue of migration, the country continues to be the main recipient of Venezuelans, with almost 3 million people welcomed and 2 million under temporary protection. On the other hand, the system involved in humanitarian sections faces severe limitations. More specifically in areas such as Darién, where migrants and asylum seekers suffer extreme conditions and constant violence.

Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela:

The current situation in the country has led to a worrying humanitarian crisis, with more than 80% of the population living in extreme poverty and facing critical food insecurity. The prices have risen so high that those considered "basic" exceed \$500, while the minimum wage is equivalent to less than one dollar per month. Approximately 7.7 to 7.9 million people have been forced to flee the country, and

millions more are requesting urgent assistance. However, it is important to emphasize that humanitarian aid plans are underfunded. Despite the government's call for stability, regional tensions, and forced returns, there is something that further aggravates the situation. This is the issue of political repression, the collapse of public services, and the erosion of freedoms, thus creating a series of problems for which no long-term solution is in sight. There are some associations that are helping to maintain the situation in order such as UNHCR, IOM (International Organization for Migration) or WFP (World Food Programme) by providing the necessary assistance for each one of the cases they defend.

Islamic Republic of Iran:

First, it is important to mention that Iran is currently experiencing an economic crisis marked by hyperinflation, the drastic devaluation of the rial, the collapse of industry, and rising basic costs, which have effectively been the main causes of labor and public protests across the country. Truck drivers, bakers, and some other sectors are expressing their discontent through strikes, emphasizing their frustration with the government's mishandling of the issue.

On the other hand, there has been strong repression by the security forces, highlighting the growing instability. Similarly, the country has been home to one of the largest refugee populations in the world, with almost 3.8 million displaced people, most of whom are Afghans. However, the financial situation is not helping, as the project itself is financially overwhelmed, with US\$10 billion invested in annual costs for refugees, which increase when deportations intensify.

Republic of the Union of Myanmar:

It is embroiled in a multifaceted crisis involving many deaths due to an earthquake and the ongoing civil war. This has caused considerable destruction in terms of infrastructure and, for obvious reasons, the internal displacement of millions of people. Clearly, the country's economy has been affected, and it is now in recession with a projected contraction of 2% of GDP and poverty levels reaching 77%. On the other hand, inflation is further eroding purchasing power. Elections were promised at the end of the year, but for the moment, the military regime maintains political and administrative control, causing considerable doubt as to whether there will be any possibility of real change towards democracy.

Republic of Peru:

Illegal mining is a major issue to be resolved in this country, as Peru faces a multidimensional crisis marked by violence linked to it. This has triggered issues such as mass extortion, as well as recent

laws and political instability, which hinder the State's effective action against organized crime and environmental pollution. On the other hand, the issue of poverty causes a series of discontent and a desire to emigrate among the young population.

At the same time, it is often mentioned that the country continues to be one of the main destinations for Venezuelans, who are, in fact, the main drivers of the economy, contributing hundreds of millions of dollars in taxes. However, their access to services and recognition as refugees remains limited.

Republic of South Africa:

In 2021, South Africa faced one of the worst problems the country has ever experienced: protests and looting triggered by the imprisonment of former President Jacob Zuma, which caused serious losses to the economy. The estimated cost was more than 50 billion rand, and businesses, refineries, and COVID-19 vaccination programs were also affected. There is no evidence that other countries or the UN directly intervened in the 2021 protests and looting in South Africa. These events were managed primarily by the South African government and security forces. However, international organizations may have provided indirect economic or technical assistance to help with post-crisis recovery, but there was no direct intervention to control the unrest.

United Mexican States:

In 2025, Mexico City was the scene of numerous protests against urban renewal and mass tourism, which led to acts of violence and vandalism. Some luxury stores in important areas such as Roma and Condesa were attacked, which eventually affected the city's image as a tourist destination and caused material and, therefore, economic losses. In addition, the University Museum of Contemporary Art was vandalized, causing damage to cultural monuments.

Federative Republic of Brazil:

In January 2023, many protesters who disagreed with the election of President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva invaded the headquarters of the three federal powers in Brasilia. The repair costs amounted to millions of reais, including damage to public buildings, furniture, and security systems. In addition, several valuable works of art were damaged due to the citizens' disagreement.

Kingdom of Spain:

During the summer of 2025, protests against mass tourism led to a significant 20% drop in tourism revenue in July, mainly affecting bars, shops, and restaurants. At the same time, millions of residents demanded tourism regulation, complaining about the overload on public services, which led

some cities to decide not to renew tourist apartment licenses from 2028 onwards. In 2021, the South African government responded to the unrest by deploying extra security forces, enforcing curfews, and protecting key infrastructures. They also provided economic and social assistance to those affected and worked to maintain essential programs like COVID-19 vaccination.

Italian Republic:

In 2024, during the movement called No Meloni DAY, students were involved in clashes with police in cities such as Turin, Milan, and Rome. At least 15 officers were injured after violent clashes and the use of prohibited harmful gases, while in Rome, the National Film Museum was vandalized. This led to riots that affected social stability and public confidence, in addition to protests in which paint was thrown at important monuments.

VI. KEY POINTS

- Cultural destruction: Damage or destruction of cultural property and traditions that affect the memory and identity of a society
- Civil unrest: Disruption of public order caused by protests against authorities and social conditions
- Social movements: Organized collective actions that seek to bring about cultural and social change
- Violent protests: Using physical force to hurt, injure, or kill other people during a protest. Because of a strong complaint expressing disagreement, disapproval, or opposition
- Governmental repression: The act of using force to control a group of people and limit their freedom.
- Repercussions: An indirect and usually bad result of an action or event that may happen some time afterwards.
- Public monuments: Structure built to commemorate a relevant person or event... due to its artistic, historical, political, technical or architectural importance.

- Cultural heritage: The tangible and intangible representations of humans and their lives that bring awareness and understanding of their shared identities
- Social injustice: Social injustice refers to the unequal distribution of resources, opportunities, and privileges within a society, often leading to discrimination and marginalization of certain groups.
- Cultural identity: The definition of groups or individuals (by themselves or others) in terms of cultural or subcultural categories (including ethnicity, nationality, language, religion, and gender).
- Vandalism: Defacing or damaging property. There is no offence of vandalism as such, but it will
 usually constitute an offence of criminal damage.

VII. KEY QUESTIONS

- What strategies can be implemented towards reducing the financial impact of the protests?
- To what extent can governments balance the protection of cultural heritage with the need to guarantee freedom of expression during violent protests?
- How can international organizations ensure that interventions to protect cultural heritage during protests do not violate national sovereignty?
- How can UNESCO involve the local community in safeguarding the cultural heritage during violent protest?
- Should violent protests be considered a threat to international peace and security under the UN Charter, and therefore fall under the mandate of the Security Council?
- What long-term economic repercussions can violent protests have on developing countries, and how might these differ from those in developed nations?

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