

Dear all,

Since last May, I've been trying to encourage various protest groups to develop a strategy and tactical approach to this unpleasant political situation we find ourselves in. That's why I'd like to share this here, so we can all realise that the success of any movement's demands also depends on being prepared for different scenarios and not just reacting blindly.

This is not, of course, the Ten Commandments—let's discuss it and perhaps find other methods. But at the very least, let's have it in the background, to know what could happen and where we want to get to.

Goals of the Protests:

1. To compel the government to act in accordance with the law and democratic principles.
2. To reject any collaboration with Russia and support Ukraine.
3. To maintain Slovakia's pro-European and pro-Atlantic orientation.

The protests must have a clear escalation strategy—starting with public gatherings, progressing to mass demonstrations, and ultimately to non-violent civil disobedience. Each protest should depend on the reactions to the preceding one and gradually increase pressure on the government and public support.

Week 1: 10 January – First Official Joint Protest

- **Form:** A mass gathering with a march, noise-making, and a clear message.
- **Goal:** To show strength from the outset, attract media attention, and highlight demands.
- **Reactions and next steps:**
 - **Large turnout:**
 1. Announce a nationwide series of protests in additional towns, mobilise other locations.
 2. Launch an intensive media campaign focused on the demands.
 - **Low turnout:**
 1. Examine the reasons—mobilise local leaders and involve regional communities.
 2. Focus on intensive outreach through social networks and personal appeals.
 - **No reaction from the government:** Emphasise government ignorance and amplify protest voices in the media and on social networks.
 - **Discreditation campaigns:** Use clear facts, visual communication (infographics, videos), and strengthen the positive message—how and where?

Week 2: 17 January – Protest with Visual Impact

- **Form:** A symbolic action—mass march with lights and banners outside government buildings, creating visual symbols of unity. Louder protest? Inspired by the Serbian protests of 1998?
- **Goal:** To create visual material that will attract media attention and strengthen public perception.
- **Reactions and next steps:**
 - **No reaction from the government:** Launch an online petition with clear demands and gather thousands of signatures in support of the protests.
 - **Mockery:** Use humour to expose the government's false claims while maintaining a serious message.

Week 3: 24 January – Targeted Protests in Multiple Locations

- **Form:** Coordinated protests in Bratislava and regional towns, in front of key government institutions.
- **Goal:** To increase pressure on the government with decentralised actions and strengthen regional mobilisation.
- **Reactions and next steps:**
 - **No reaction from the government:** Prepare a plan for civil disobedience.
 - **Repression from the government:** Involve human rights organisations and activate international support.

Week 4: 31 January – Noisy Protest Outside Government Buildings

- **Form:** A symbolic blockade of selected government institutions (non-violent).
- **Goal:** To increase pressure on the government by directly targeting its key representatives.
- **Reactions and next steps:**
 - **Harsh government response:** Document any interventions and highlight them in the media and international organisations.
 - **Positive reaction (willingness to negotiate):** Prepare a team of experts for negotiations.

Week 5: 7 February – First Phase of Civil Disobedience

- **Form:** Coordinated activities—mass non-violent blockades of roads, government buildings, economic boycotts.
- **Goal:** To increase pressure on the government through non-violent direct actions.

- **Reactions and next steps:**
 - **Negative media reactions:** Engage public figures and experts to defend the non-violent nature of the actions.
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Weeks 6–7: 14–21 February – National Strike and Further Blockades – Can We Do It?

- **Form:** Call for a national strike, blockades of government institutions and public spaces.
 - **Goal:** To demonstrate massive public support and paralyse the government's decision-making processes.
 - **Reactions and next steps:**
 - **Repression:** Intensify international pressure and cooperation with human rights organisations.
 - **Positive outcomes:** Prepare for transition to negotiations.
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Weeks 8–10: Escalation of International Pressure

- **Form:** Organise protests by Slovak communities abroad, involve international organisations, launch a strong media campaign.
 - **Goal:** To gain international support and force the government to take decisive steps.
 - **Reactions and next steps:**
 - **Government concessions:** Prepare a plan to monitor the implementation of demands.
 - **Government's refusal to compromise:** Continue with long-term protests and public mobilisation.
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Hello

Short notes from a lengthy debate

Reactions to the 10 January march:

- Very positive.
- A lot of people, more than we expected.
- Sound system needs improvement.
- Anger among participants is palpable.
- Stick to one topic, avoid mixing themes.
- Too few Slovak flags.
- Perception that participants were only Ukrainians.
- Good momentum in moving the crowd, let's keep going.

This Friday:

- On Friday, we march. The name remains: Slovakia is Europe, stop Russia.
 - The demand is updated to include the government's resignation (treason).
 - The protest/march route: Námestie SNP, Horná Street, past Prior to the Lenin statue, and in front of Lux to the steps of the Museum of the Slovak National Uprising (SNP).
 - We're the only ones protesting this Friday, so we might draw a very large crowd—the route is adequately adjusted.
 - We're leading by example; for now, we're not addressing whether we align with Mier Ukrajině. It's important to shift the focus to Slovakia (not Ukraine), to attract more people.
 - We need to communicate that people should bring lots of Slovak flags alongside noisy instruments.
 - Speakers: SaSka, Kubo, Kačer, Rizo (to be confirmed).
 - All speeches must be simple and focus solely on one topic—Russia's influence on the government, with clear explanations, and the need for a general strike must also be highlighted.
 - Message to the Museum of SNP: Join us.
 - Physical references to Slovak resistance—what could these be? Ideas?
 - Mobilising NGOs for the strike? Question for next week.
 - Anthem: Ondro and the folklorists / alternative: Trnki, let's stay traditional in Bystrica.
 - Kubo will include demands and declarations in his speech.
 - A message to city authorities—write it on paper and stick it to the doors of the town hall at the start of the march (VIDEO!).
 - Flags, flags, flags—Slovak flags everywhere, lots of them.
 - The next protest will either be a blockade or another form of more significant pressure.
 - EU anthem to play at the end of the march (after the protest concludes).
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What We Need:

- Route map (Tomáš L).
- Parking maps for out-of-towners (who?).
- Announcement and coordination with the police (me).
- Ambulance (me).
- Press release (me).
- Media outreach (Jozef).
- Contacting other initiatives, movements, and platforms to request sharing (Csilla, Zuzka J).
- Contacting businesspeople (Zuzka J in cooperation—find addresses from Pontis and Bystrin).
- Sound system (sorted, Mituch).
- Electricity (me).
- Graphics (Inka).
- Flags and poles (Tomáš L, Inka).
- Contact union leaders (Csilla).
- Drone footage.
- Invitation video (Meggie, me, Tomáš K, others?).

- Updated slogans (no “we belong here” chants) (Inka, everyone send suggestions to Inka).
- Video from an elevated position (Lux or a nearby block of flats).
- WhatsApp channel for supporters.
- More volunteers (who?).

Let me know if I forgot anything.