WHY PROTEST?
Protest is a crucial way of expressing dissatisfaction with the state and social conditions. It is a key way that people, organisations, and movements can express dissent and make their voices heard.

CHALLENGES
Protest movements often face different kinds of challenges: outright banning of protests, violence experienced during protests, and the arrest and detention of protesters. This requires being strategic and creative, to overcome challenges that hamper the ability to organise and hold protests, as well as deal with the aftermath.

TACTICS

1. OPENING CLOSED CIVIC SPACES
Where civic space is closed, protest movements can start as grassroots movements that lobby local authorities to address specific concerns. When protests are banned, it may be effective to turn everyday life into a protest. Spontaneous performances of everyday acts can catch people’s attention and express dissent. Employing creative use of technology is also an option.

2. ONLINE SPACES, HOLOGRAMS AND CREATIVE TECH
Where people are prohibited from protesting in specific locations, it may be possible to use technology to protest. Online protest is increasingly occurring in the wake of global restrictions on civic space and, depending on the state of online freedoms, can be a viable tool to express dissent against restrictive regimes. One creative approach has been to use holograms to project people protesting outside of buildings.

3. MASS ACTION
Sometimes conditions in states call for mass protest even when domestic legislation restricts or outlaws the right to peaceful assembly. Experience shows that such protests are most successful when carried out peacefully and in large numbers. It is difficult to arrest all of the protesters in a mass movement.

4. NON-LOCATION SPECIFIC PROTESTS
It is possible to be disruptive and express dissent without holding a formal mass gathering, march or sit-in. Single acts of dissent carried out by individuals that cumulatively disrupt the functioning of states or send a clear message do not require prior notification or permission from states. In Armenia, drivers were asked to hoot at a specific time if they supported the opposition. Similarly, people who disliked the government were asked to bang on pots and pans at a particular time. These individual acts combined to create a huge amount of noise.

For more information about these tactics and many more check out the Protest Resilience Toolkit by CIVICUS

WWW.CIVICUS.ORG/PROTEST-RESILIENCE-TOOLKIT