

Police secure Jerusalem gay pride parade

by UPI

JERUSALEM - Nearly 2,000 people marched in a controversial gay pride parade in Jerusalem on Thursday as 7,000 police officers protected them.

Ynetnews reported that the parade went on as planned thanks to the heightened police presence. Police arrested 20 rioters and one suspected bomber who had threatened to disrupt the parade.

A resident of Jerusalem's Orthodox Mea Shearim neighborhood had been arrested earlier in the day for allegedly planning to scare people away from the parade through the use of a homemade bomb.

Police said the pipe bomb found on the suspect could potentially have caused injuries if it has been used.

The parade was also opposed by local religious leaders, who led a mass service before the protest for thousands of followers,

While the rally was allowed to commence without incident despite such opposition, Ynetnews said police did force the event's organizers to cancel a party that was to follow the parade.

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