

Preventing Crowd Violence

Crime Prevention Studies

Volume 26

Ronald V. Clarke, series editor

PREVENTING CROWD VIOLENCE

edited by
Tamara D. Madensen
Johannes Knutsson



BOULDER
LONDON

Published in the United States of America in 2011 by
Lynne Rienner Publishers, Inc.
1800 30th Street, Boulder, Colorado 80301
www.rienner.com

and in the United Kingdom by
Lynne Rienner Publishers, Inc.
3 Henrietta Street, Covent Garden, London WC2E 8LU

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Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Preventing crowd violence / [edited by] Tamara D. Madensen
and Johannes Knutsson.

p. cm. — (Crime prevention studies ; 26)

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN 978-1-58826-753-5 (hbk. : alk. paper)

ISSN 1065 7029

1. Riots—Prevention. 2. Crowds. 3. Mobs. 4. Violence—Prevention.
5. Public safety. I. Madensen, Tamara. II. Knutsson, Johannes, 1947–
HV6474.P74 2011
363.32'37—dc22

2010029732

British Cataloguing in Publication Data

A Cataloguing in Publication record for this book
is available from the British Library.

Printed and bound in the United States of America



The paper used in this publication meets the requirements
of the American National Standard for Permanence of
Paper for Printed Library Materials Z39.48-1992.

5 4 3 2 1

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Foreword

THE POLICE ARE EXPECTED TO GUARANTEE BOTH FREEDOM OF speech and assembly, and to safeguard participants and prevent crowd violence. Most police forces in democratic countries have experienced unanticipated crowd violence or, if anticipated, have witnessed it develop in unexpected ways. For example, sporting events should allow people to partake in an enjoyable and safe experience. However, police must be well prepared to respond to hooliganism and other harmful crowd behaviors that may occur at these events. Preventing crowd violence is complex and challenging, but police discussions have often been limited to questions regarding police methods, equipment, and the number of police officers needed to control the crowd.

Police forces from different countries now regularly share crowd management information and experience on a practical and operational level. This book is an important supplement to this cooperation. The case studies contained in this volume illustrate how and why police sometimes fail to effectively manage crowds in spite of excellent planning and extensive experience in dealing with crowd events. Some of the guidelines and conclusions presented may seem obvious, but they are often forgotten or ignored. Guidelines, knowledge, and experience must be used methodically both in planning and when responding on scene, and that is the focus of this volume.

As a police officer, I feel that the following concepts described in this volume will help to improve fundamental police functions related to preventing crowd violence:

- Good planning
- Understanding freedom of speech and assembly
- Communication with an understanding of the crowd and their legitimate aims
- Nonaggressive police behavior
- Problem-oriented policing

There is still much more to learn. I do hope that both police students and police officers will read and learn from the interesting case studies and guidelines proposed by the authors of this book.

I extend a warm thank you to Johannes Knutsson and Tamara Madensen, who have taken the initiative to produce this volume, and to the excellent colleagues who have contributed in writing a remarkable, important book.

—*Ingelin Killengreen*
National Police Commissioner, Norway

Acknowledgments

THIS BOOK CONSISTS OF CHAPTERS THAT WERE FIRST PRESENTED and discussed at a small crowd management conference held in May 2009 at Stavern, the Norwegian Justice Sector's Center for Training and Practice. We would like to express our gratitude to the staff of the center for making our stay most enjoyable. They made us feel very welcome, served delicious meals, and provided comfortable accommodations. We are also indebted to the Norwegian Police University College for funding the conference. Without its support, this project would not have been possible. Finally, we would like to thank the Stavern meeting participants for their contributions to this volume. In particular, we appreciate their thoughtful comments on one another's earlier drafts. We are pleased to present the results of this exchange in the chapters that follow.

—*Tamara D. Madensen and
Johannes Knutsson*

