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## Police, organizers prepared for potential protesters

By **Edward A. Brown**/ Correspondent  
Thursday, July 20, 2006

Tuesday's Harvard Street rally outside Congregation Kehillath Israel may have seen fewer anti-Israel protesters than anticipated, but the event's organizers and police were fully prepared to handle potential clashes.

Police Chief Daniel O'Leary said more than 25 officers patrolled the area between Stedman Street and Naples Road on Harvard Street.

"We had anticipated counter-demonstrators to arrive as well," he said. "But in actuality, only about a handful showed up and there were no incidents."

O'Leary said his office had expected a total showing of 2,000 people, while organizers had predicted 3,000. Actual attendance fell somewhere between the two.

Also scattered throughout the crowd, identified by their black suits and shades, were members of an independent security agency hired by the organizers, who said that they call on the agency regularly for this type of event.

Meanwhile, planners of the Lebanese rally and candlelight vigil held at Copley Square on Wednesday were not expecting any security issues at the time of press.

"We have a committee for slogan control, but the idea is to focus on the humanitarian side of things," said Loai Naamani, president of the Lebanese Club at MIT, one of the event's organizers. "We don't have a security [agency], but we don't expect any security problems."

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