



# **FILMING THE AFTERMATH OF AERIAL ATTACKS**

**an introduction for documenters**

**WITNESS**  
SEE IT FILM IT  
CHANGE IT



An aerial, high-contrast black and white photograph of a city grid. A large, dark, irregular shape in the center represents a massive explosion or fire, with smoke or debris rising from it. The surrounding city streets are visible as a grid pattern, with some areas appearing lighter, possibly due to damage or smoke. The overall tone is somber and dramatic.

## **FILMING THE AFTERMATH OF AERIAL ATTACKS: AN INTRODUCTION FOR DOCUMENTERS**

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# ABOUT THIS GUIDE

Aerial attacks from explosive weapons in conflict zones, especially in densely populated areas, cause immediate destruction and long-term harm. These strikes leave lasting impacts on civilian lives, including the devastation of buildings and infrastructure. Capturing the full scope of this damage, including its effects on surrounding areas, is crucial for accountability and justice efforts.

Human rights documentation of the aftermath of aerial attacks can influence a range of efforts, from pushing for accountability in arms trade policies to advocating for redress for those directly impacted. Building this kind of documentation is key to pressuring militaries to acknowledge harm and review their actions. Creating content that is more easily verifiable makes it more resilient to manipulation or synthetic alteration, and more credible for potential audiences. This is especially valuable in supporting cases that aim to demonstrate disproportionate force or indiscriminate targeting.

This introductory guide offers practical tips for capturing the aftermath of aerial attacks, with a particular focus on reliable and credible documentation to be used for evidentiary, campaigning and journalistic investigations.<sup>1</sup> At WITNESS, we support civilians and communities affected by unlawful attacks by helping those already filming at or near strike sites to document

effectively and as safely as possible. This guide is not designed for the general public due to the risks involved. While this guide is focused on air-delivered munitions, such as airstrikes, missiles, and drone strikes, many of the practices shared here are also relevant for documenting other explosive weapons, including artillery shells, improvised explosive devices (IEDs), and weapons prohibited by international conventions, such as cluster munitions.

We focus on the aftermath of aerial attacks because of the particular challenges they pose for accountability, including access, verification, and attribution. The aim of this guide is to strengthen the “justice pipeline”: so that frontline documenters can support analysts, journalists and lawyers with documentation that is reliable and relevant for casebuilding in multiple scenarios. That said, we recognize that in many conflicts, occupations, and armed violence, other explosive weapons are commonly used, such as ammunition. When we refer to ‘munitions’ in this guide, we mean any kind of explosive weapon or payload designed to cause damage, including those dropped from aircraft or launched from the ground.

We welcome suggestions and feedback to help make this resource as useful and relevant as possible. Please send your suggestions to [feedback@witness.org](mailto:feedback@witness.org)

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<sup>1</sup> For other guidance on filming injuries or proving responsibility, please refer to our free library of resources: [www.library.witness.org](http://www.library.witness.org)



# BEFORE FILMING



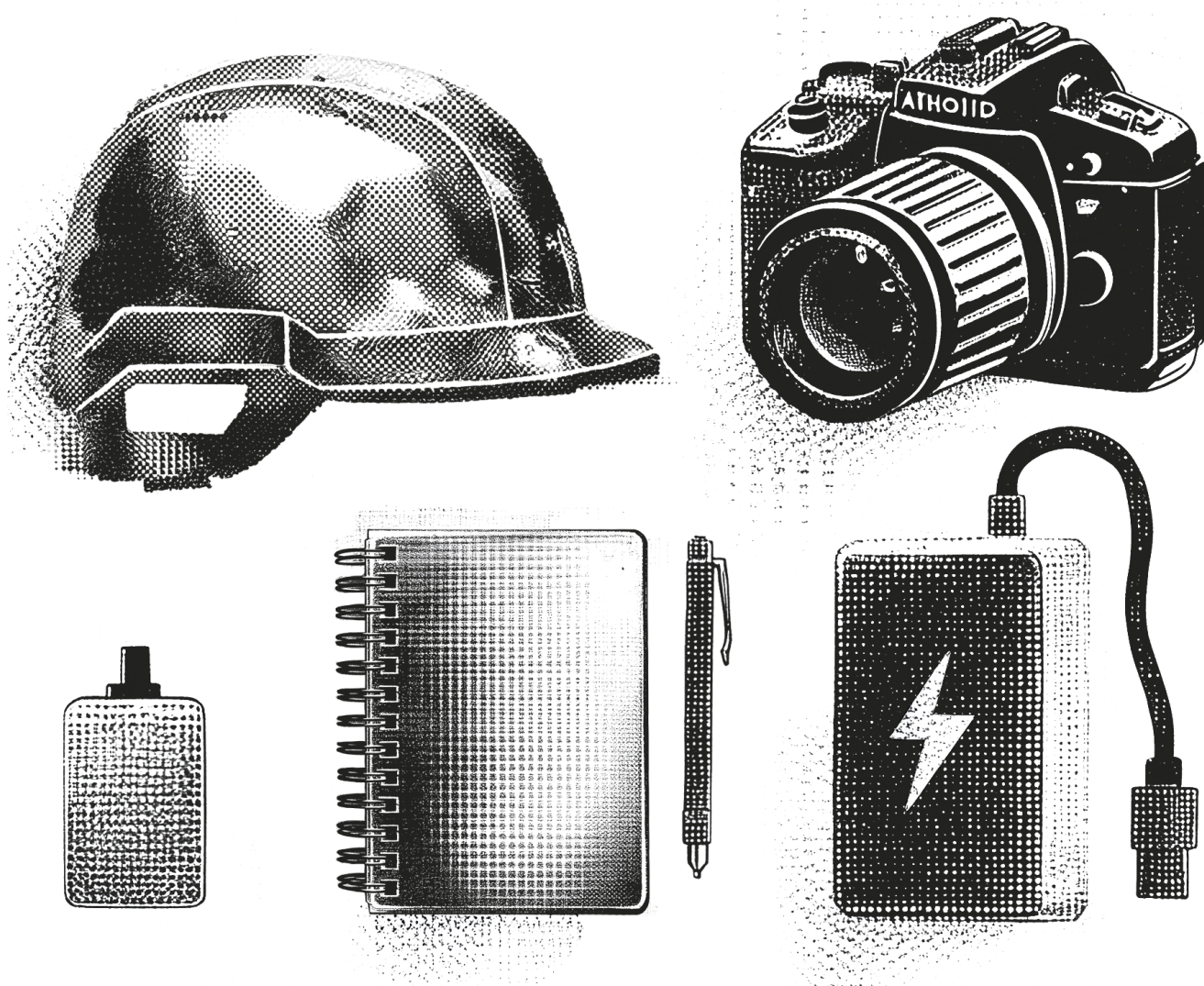
## SAFETY WARNING

Your role is to document, not to intervene. Do not get in the way of first responders. Do not touch or move munitions, debris, or unexploded ordnance, as they pose serious risks. Always be mindful of the trauma experienced by those around you—avoid actions that may exacerbate their distress. Wait until the scene is stable and safe before approaching, and prioritize your security and the security of those around you at all times.

Unexploded ordnance (UXO) refers to munitions—such as bombs, rockets, artillery shells, mortars, and grenades—that failed to detonate as intended. This can happen due to factors like poor manufacturing, age, storage conditions, method of deployment, or environmental factors. UXO are also subject to international regulation under the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW), which seeks to minimize their long-term harm to civilians. It is crucial to never touch, move, or disturb any suspected UXO, as they remain extremely dangerous and can explode unexpectedly, posing serious risks to life and safety.



# PREPARING YOUR EQUIPMENT



Before heading to a site, ensure that your equipment is ready and suited for the task. At a minimum, aim to carry these items with you.

Personal gear, if safe, to bring:

**IDENTIFICATION:** Carry your ID or passport and keep two paper copies stored separately elsewhere as backups.

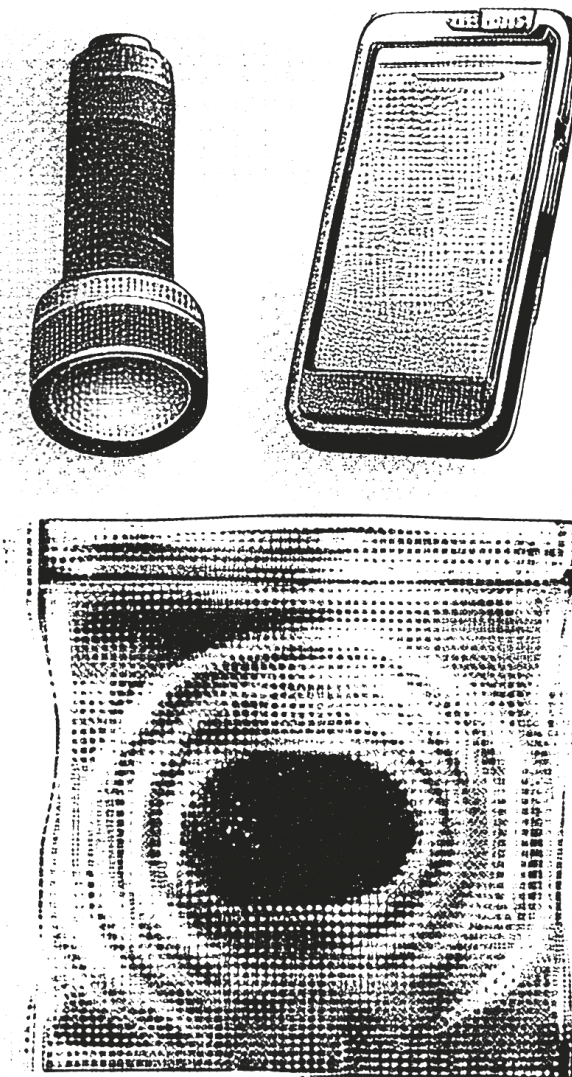
**ESSENTIALS:** Bring clean drinking water, snacks, and hidden cash in reasonable amounts.

**HEALTH CARD:** Keep a card or record around your neck or in your wallet listing your blood type, allergies, and emergency contact details.

**PROTECTIVE GEAR:** Wear a helmet, safety goggles, mask, and carry a first aid kit if possible.

**POCKET NOTEPAD & PEN:** For field notes and to create a camera slate.

**FLASHLIGHT OR HEADLAMP:** Essential for night documentation and low-light settings indoors.



When filming in challenging environments, it's crucial to protect your gear and personal items from dust, water, smoke and extreme temperatures. A simple solution is to store your equipment in zip lock bags to shield it from direct sunlight or prolonged exposure to dust when not in use.

# FILMING GEAR

## RELIABLE DEVICE. MAKE SURE TO CHECK PRIOR TO FILMING:

- The location and GPS capabilities of your camera
- The accuracy of time and date metadata of your camera

## BACKUP MEMORY CARDS.

**MOBILE PHONES:** If discretion is important, use the camera on your mobile phone, and secure it with a strong password.

**EARPHONES AND MICROPHONE:** Helpful for recording audio during interviews with a mobile phone, if you don't have access to a lavalier mic. [Check more on Filming Interviews here.](#)

## CHARGED POWER BANKS AND CHARGED BATTERIES:

Carry extra power to avoid losing footage due to a dead battery.

**MEASURING TOOL OR OBJECT:** Use a pen, ruler, or other standard-sized object to show scale in footage.

**OPTIONAL - DUMMY SD CARD/ THUMB DRIVE:** You could consider carrying a decoy storage device in case you are searched—but be aware that if authorities suspect it's a decoy or choose to inspect its contents closely, it could raise suspicion or lead to further questioning. Detailed guidance is outside the scope of this document, please seek professional security guidance before taking this step.





## **SAFETY CHECKLIST:** **PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT**

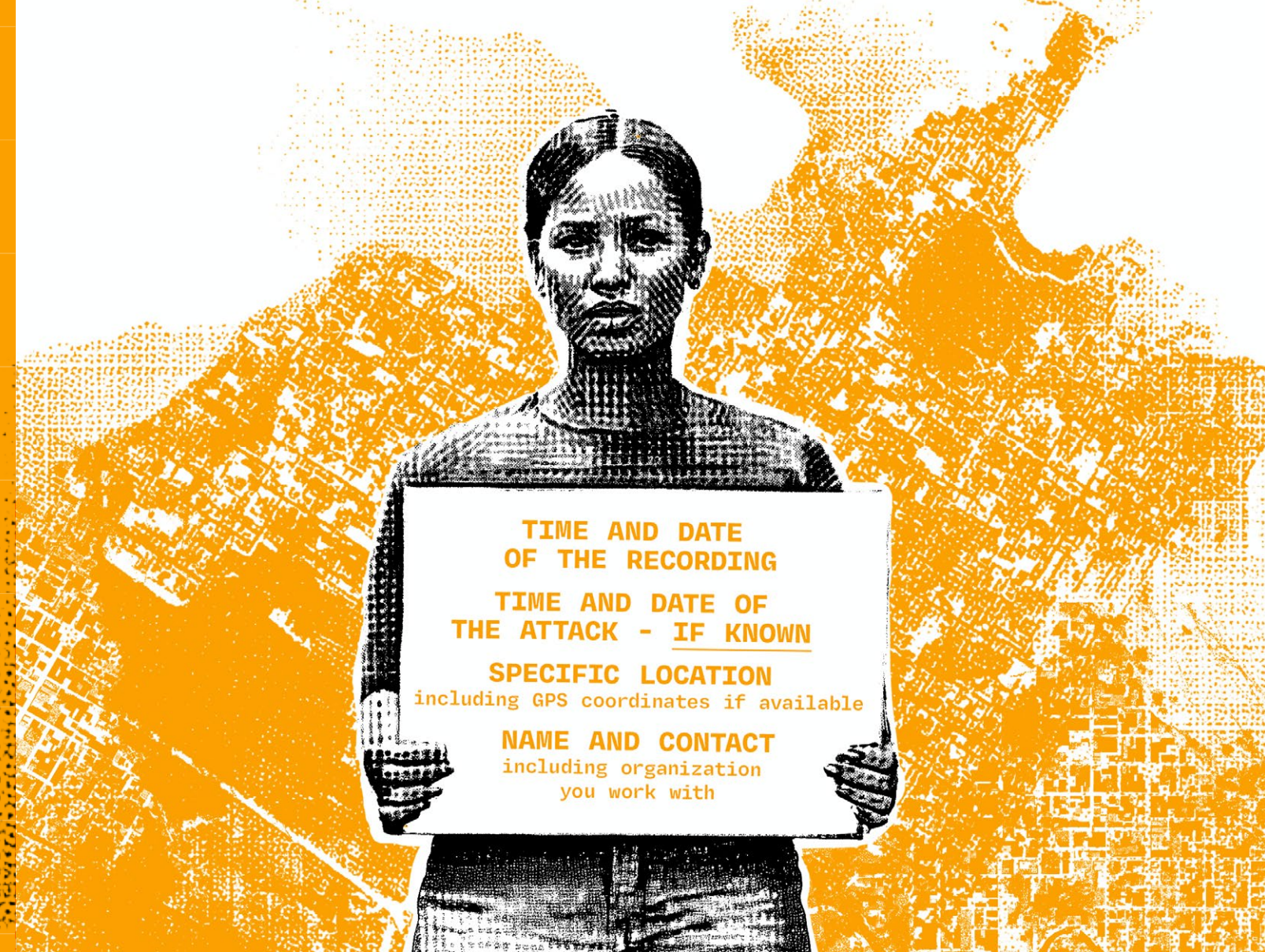
Risks should be reassessed on a continual and frequent basis as site conditions change. There are far too many possible safety concerns or dangerous circumstances than we can name and fully address in this guidance. Each environment is unique.

Scan the scene visually when you arrive. Observe all of the people, objects, buildings, and activities. Specifically, make sure you:

- **LOOK FOR EMERGENCY SERVICES ACTIVITY.** Have first responders arrived at the scene and do they have control of the situation? Wait until first responders are mostly done with their work and the situation has stabilized. Stay out of their way.
- **BE AWARE OF SECONDARY ATTACKS. ALSO KNOWN AS DOUBLE-TAPS.** Attackers are known to target the same location two or more times, with a waiting period that is often about 5 to 30 minutes between each strike. Stay away from the scene until you are sure that all strikes are over.
- **CHECK FOR HAZARDS.** Is the site cleared of any existing or potential threats? Note and stay away from scene hazards like chemicals, fires, or unstable structures. If any hazardous materials or explosives are stored nearby, keep your distance as they may have been disturbed by the strike.
- **LOOK OUT FOR - BUT DO NOT HANDLE - ANY MUNITIONS.** Certain types can be especially hazardous—from unexploded ordnance (UXO) to those that release toxic substances or contain ‘dud’ devices that could detonate if disturbed. Be cautious if you see smoke that is unusually colored—such as white, yellow, or green—or encounter unexploded munitions, and keep your distance.
- **NOTE THE PRESENCE OF COMBATANTS, MILITARY, OR SECURITY FORCES.** If present, who are they and could any of them pose a threat to you or members of your team? Carefully consider the answers to these questions and all of the cascading risks relevant to deciding if, when, and how to approach the site.



# MAKE YOUR FOOTAGE MORE EASILY VERIFIABLE



Help ensure that your footage is verifiable by clearly documenting the time, date, and location of the event. This can help others viewing your footage with cross-referencing against other evidence, such as photos, videos, satellite imagery, incident reports, and witness statements.

At the start of your recording, state out loud or write down and hold up in front of the camera:

- Time and date of the recording, and the reported time and date of the attack if known
- Specific location (including GPS coordinates if available)
- If it is safe to do so, your name and contact information (including the organization you work with)

Safety note: If your safety is at risk, make sure to edit out any identifiable information such as your name, contact details, location, or witness info before sharing your video online or directly with others. Always keep the original file intact, and make edits to a copy. Learn more about adding essential information [here](#).

Never delete metadata from the original file. When editing, use trusted tools that don't overwrite metadata unless intentionally stripped for safety.



## SAMPLE SCRIPT

If safe, use this sample script as a guide for how to verbally capture details about who, where, what and when you are recording. By staying factual, your documentation will be more reliable and withstand scrutiny during investigations.

"The time is 14:35 local time, and today is September 23, 2024. We are filming at 123 Freedom Street, Gaza City, Palestine. The GPS coordinates are 31.5° N, 34.5° E. My name is Mona Ahmed, and I can be contacted via the organization WITNESS at +123456789 or Mona@evidence.com. Joining me are Sarah Ayoob and Omar Yusuf. We are documenting the aftermath of an airstrike that reportedly occurred on September 22, 2024, at approximately 16:00 local time. This video will document the crater site and surrounding damage caused by the strike. *(If sharing personal contact details is not safe, you can instead say: 'For safety reasons, I am not including my personal information or my colleagues' details, but we can be reached via [group/organization email]')*.

I will begin filming in the northeast corner of the square and will then move clockwise around the scene."

## USING GEOLOCATION TO IDENTIFY PERPETRATORS



Making your documentation more easily verifiable can support analysts and investigators to prove the attacker. In [“the Killings they Tweeted”](#), a video report released by Airwars and Sky News, investigators geolocated hundreds of videos of airstrikes in Gaza by the Israeli Defense Force (IDF) targeting Hamas and other militant groups in 2023, uploaded to social media by various journalists and the community members on the ground. Investigators then sought to match these geolocated videos to videos of airstrikes that the IDF had uploaded to X. This case demonstrates how – especially when working at a scale of hundreds of videos -- more easily geolocatable video of an event’s aftermath could be more easily compared to perpetrator video of the same location.

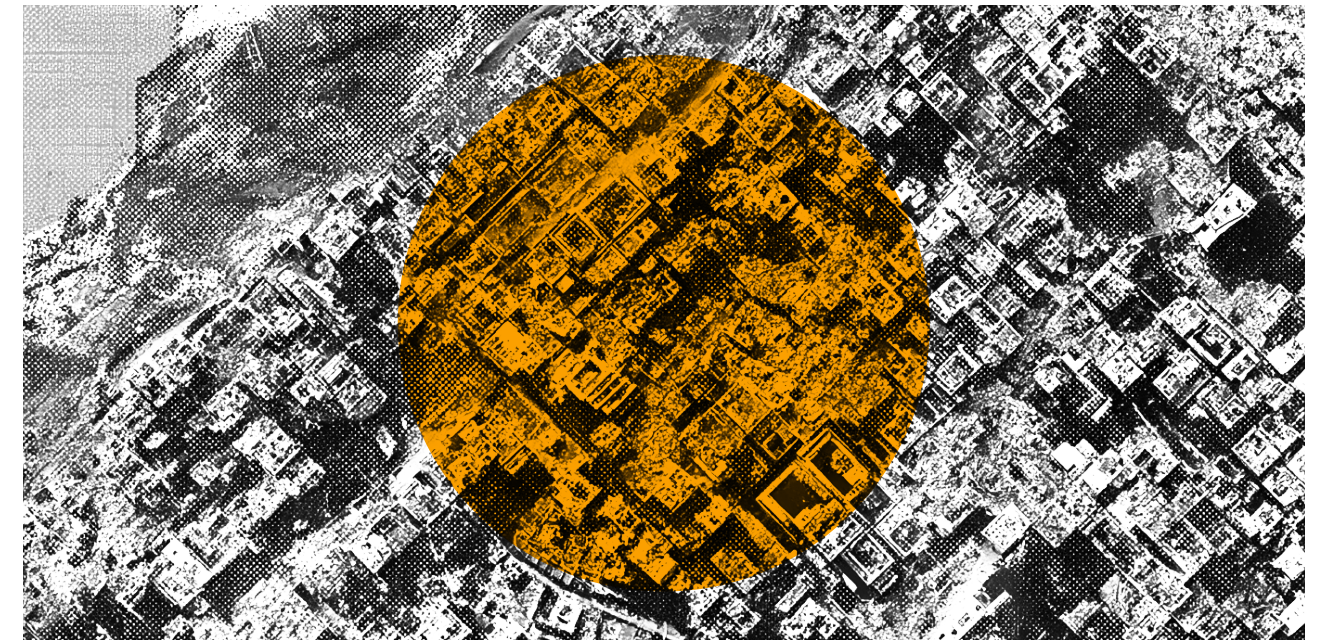
Geolocation is the process of using spatial clues within a visual piece of evidence to locate it on a map. It is a multifaceted process of information gathering which brings together multiple forms of information, usually found online such as web pages, images, and video for the purposes of verifying the location of an incident under investigation through the corroboration of satellite imagery and/or map data. Geolocation is a crucial technique used to verify communities’ claims against actors who may try to discredit them. It can also provide important information to encourage militaries to investigate an incident, such as an aerial attack.

In the next section you will find some documentation tips to make this job easier for geolocators who might be contributing to the credibility of civilian casualty assessments, journalistic investigations or legal cases.

To learn more about the process of geolocation, check out WITNESS’ [Community-based Approach to Verification](#).



# CAPTURING THE OVERALL SCENE



- Try to capture the character of the area surrounding an impact site. Footage that includes indicators of civilian presence—such as homes, playgrounds, business signs, or public transit stops—can help teams assess the legality of an attack. Make sure to film from multiple angles and include recognizable or distinctive building structures whenever possible, as this can support geolocation efforts using satellite imagery and other verification methods.
- Zoom out when possible. Capture a range of shots whenever possible. While close-ups can highlight specific damage or detail, medium and wide shots provide essential context. All three are important for thorough legal analysis, so aim to document from multiple perspectives. If it is possible to do so in a continuous shot, this will help with verification; if not, consider repeating part or all of your sample script in each individual clip.
- Think about what an attacker should have seen in advance and from above. Let's say that the impact site is a mosque with a tall minaret tower. This is an important consideration because a legal team may choose to make the argument that either by satellite imagery or by observation from the aircraft itself, the targeting decision-maker and/or pilot should have seen the minaret, and therefore should have known that this airstrike would land on a specially protected civilian object.
- Prominent architectural features—such as minarets, hospitals, schools, or Red Cross-marked facilities—can also help investigators verify the authenticity and location of your footage.
- If applicable, capture weather conditions, a view of the horizon, and the position of the sun (or moon) in the sky. Capturing information about the weather in the immediate aftermath can be incredibly helpful to investigators and analysts attempting to geolocate or chrono-locate your footage.

**Filming Tip:** Filming your 360° and wide shots at the edges of the scene will help you succeed at capturing the overall scene and other establishing information such as location, weather conditions, and landscape features. Learn more about filming 360 in this [video explainer](#).





Syrian Institute for Justice.  
Idlib, Syria, 2016.

## NOTES FROM THE FIELD

On April 4th, 2016 multiple reports and videos started being posted on social media pointing to a potential chemical attack in relation to air strikes in Khan Sheikhoun, Idlib Province, Syria. Investigators from the Syrian Institute for Justice filmed the immediate aftermath of this attack. While one team member collected forensic evidence such as soil samples from the crater site, their partner decided to film the evidence collection process. In doing so, the documenter captured footage that fortified their investigation against claims of improper evidence handling, and helped make the footage easier to verify for others investigating the attack on Khan Sheikhoun.

The documenter also stood up after filming the crater and did a slow and steady 360-degree shot of the surroundings. This panoramic shot captured valuable scene information which makes the footage relatively easy to geolocate, such as:

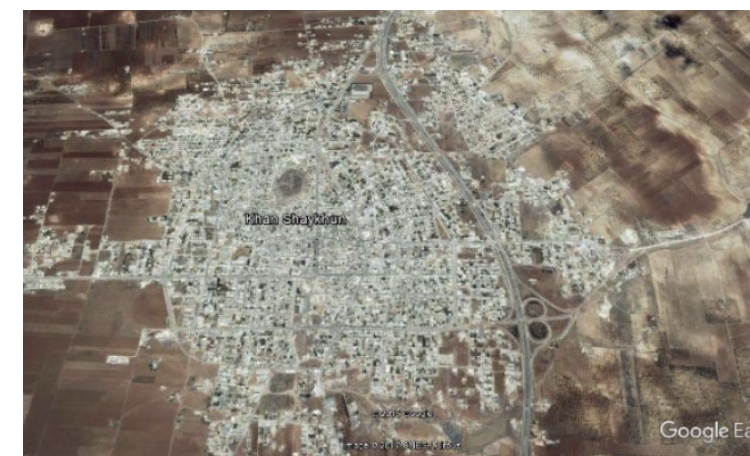
- The situating of the crater on a wide boulevard
- The presence of a divider and lamp-posts running down the middle of the road
- A large unfinished building in the background
- A monument in the middle of the road
- A sharp angle to a road which splits off of the main road
- Presence of densely packed trees on one side of the road

The documenter also spoke to the camera which offers a good example of how we can add additional information through the act of narration, in particular:

- The mentioning of the organization's name and the location of filming at the beginning and end of the video- this is a great way to ensure that if the video is edited or cut off, the information is carried on within the content of the footage
- The announcement that the investigators are on the "main road... which leads to the international highway". This is especially important when mainstream map services may lack detailed information, or may not have map information available in foreign languages, that other investigators or lawyers may rely on. (see pictures on the right)

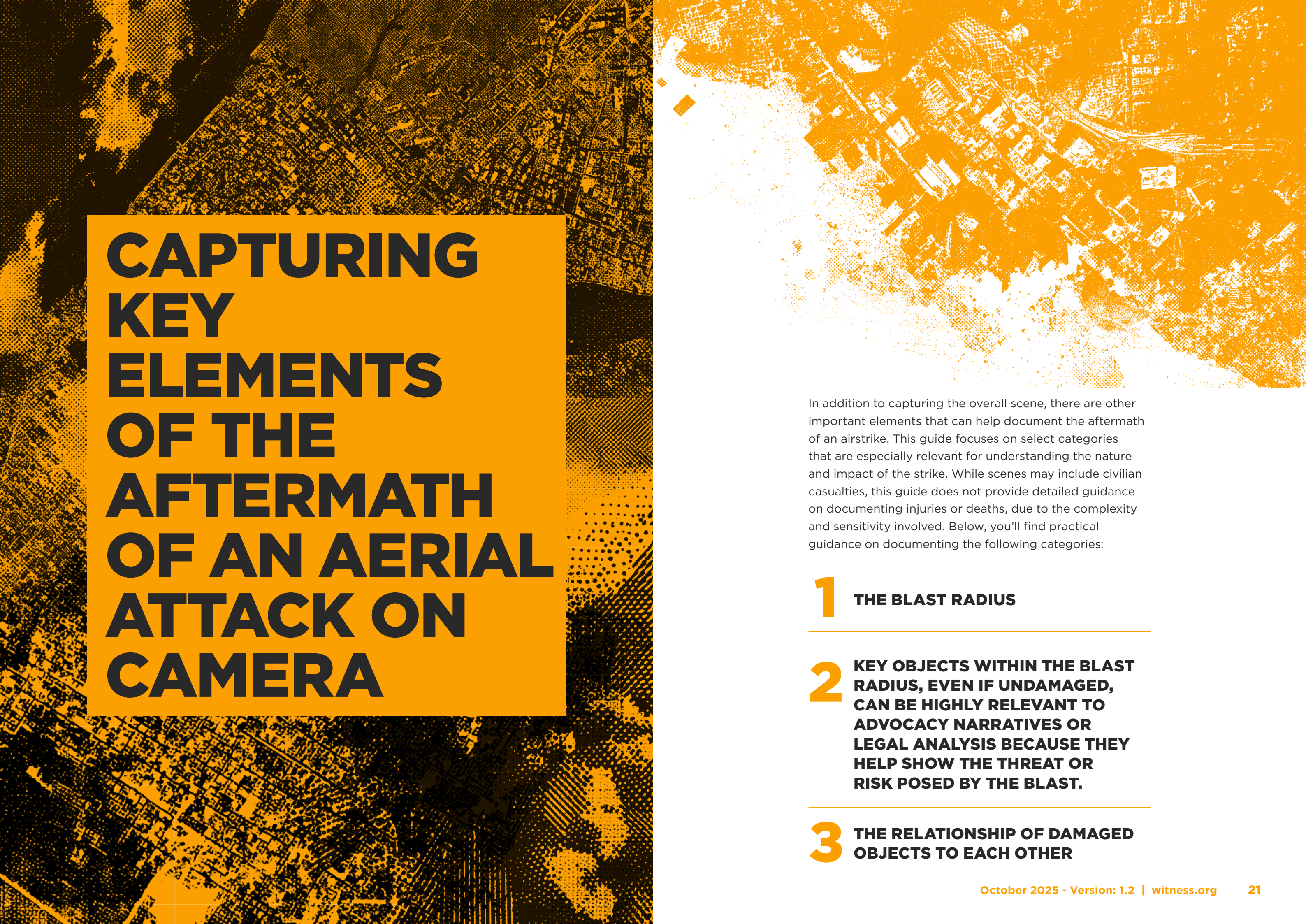
To view the full 1 minute 14 second video, [click here](#). To read the full fact-finding mission report by OPCW, [click here](#).

This- alongside other forms of evidence such as witness and survivor interviews- led to widespread [international condemnation of the attack](#) and to the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) conducting a fact-finding mission which confirmed that this was an illegal chemical weapon attack which killed 50 and exposed close to 300 people.



Syrian Institute for Justice.  
Idlib, Syria, 2016.





# CAPTURING KEY ELEMENTS OF THE AFTERMATH OF AN AERIAL ATTACK ON CAMERA

In addition to capturing the overall scene, there are other important elements that can help document the aftermath of an airstrike. This guide focuses on select categories that are especially relevant for understanding the nature and impact of the strike. While scenes may include civilian casualties, this guide does not provide detailed guidance on documenting injuries or deaths, due to the complexity and sensitivity involved. Below, you'll find practical guidance on documenting the following categories:

## **1** THE BLAST RADIUS

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**2** KEY OBJECTS WITHIN THE BLAST RADIUS, EVEN IF UNDAMAGED, CAN BE HIGHLY RELEVANT TO ADVOCACY NARRATIVES OR LEGAL ANALYSIS BECAUSE THEY HELP SHOW THE THREAT OR RISK POSED BY THE BLAST.

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**3** THE RELATIONSHIP OF DAMAGED OBJECTS TO EACH OTHER



### Category 1:

## BLAST RADIUS

The blast radius refers to the area around the impact where the explosive force causes destruction. Documenting the extent of damage caused by a strike or blast can help analysts and investigators determine the type of weapon that was used.

When documenting the destructive radius of the blast site, make sure to:

- **EVALUATE THE BOUNDARIES OF THE SCENE.** Begin with wide shots to show the breadth of destruction, including affected buildings and roads.
- **WALK THE BLAST SITE.** If the destruction radius is extensive, consider using a vehicle or drone to capture the broader area. Start at the epicenter of the strike (the crater or impact zone) and film outward. This will enable you to capture the most severe destruction closest to the impact and to then continue documenting until visible damage diminishes. Remember to always prioritize the safety of yourself and others.
- **FILM THE CRATER.** At the center of the blast, film the crater carefully. Try to capture its diameter, radius, and depth, and include a verbal or written description of its shape (e.g. wide and shallow, or cone-shaped). If safe to do so, and without making any physical contact, include close-ups of any residue, substances, or identifiable fragments inside or around the crater.

- **NOTE MULTIPLE CRATERS.** If you can see more than one crater, film and describe their locations. A pattern of craters may suggest a cluster munitions strike or repeated targeting. Marks on the ground—especially those visible due to rain, snow, or dust—can offer additional clues. For example, [in a recent investigation by Airwars into Russian cluster munitions use in Ukraine](#), marks in the snow were key evidence.
- **MEASURE THE SCENE.** As you walk through the area, open and use a GPS-enabled map app to describe the path you're taking. Mention street names, landmarks, and key features along the way to help others reconstruct and verify the location later (as phone GPS readings alone may not be sufficiently accurate for precise measurement).



An example of a satellite view of a blast radius

Video and documentation of a crater and blast site can provide critical data to forensic and weapons experts who do not have direct access to the location or physical evidence after the attack.

### Category 2:

## KEY OBJECTS WITHIN THE BLAST RADIUS

By capturing the details of individual objects and any damage done to them, we can help show the impact of the blast on military and civilian targets.

When documenting the key objects within the blast radius, make sure to get medium and close-up shots of:

- **EXTERIOR DAMAGE** including facades of impacted buildings, collapsed structures, exposed steel beams, and walls partially blown out by the blast.
- **INTERIOR DAMAGE** including, but not limited to, caved-in floors, scattered debris within rooms, damaged furniture, collapsed ceilings, and fire/burn markings.
- **SECONDARY EFFECTS** — the indirect or extended damage caused by an explosion — include harm to power lines, schools, and cracks in surrounding roads. In these cases, it is especially helpful to document what are known as fragmentation markings.
- **FRAGMENTATION MARKINGS** (see below) occur when debris or shrapnel from a blast strikes surrounding surfaces, such as walls, vehicles, or other structures. These markings can help investigators understand the direction and intensity of the blast.

Additionally, try to capture:

- **MUNITIONS AND FRAGMENTS.** If safe to do so, film munitions, fragments, or remnants without making any physical contact. Capture any visible writing or numbers, and use nearby objects already present—like a pen, coin, or other common items, to indicate scale. This method can also apply to bullet holes or projectile damage.
- **CIVILIAN INFRASTRUCTURE.** Record any damage to protected or civilian areas such as schools, hospitals, ambulances, religious sites, IDP/refugee camps, water or power stations, and humanitarian facilities. Try to show identifiable objects that clarify what the location was—for example, desks in a school or signage in a marketplace.
- **BUILDING TYPES.** Try to show whether buildings were residential or commercial. If it's a home, capture personal belongings like clothing or photo frames. If it's a shop, film what was being sold. Mention whether residential structures were houses, apartment blocks, or temporary shelters like tents.



## THE OPEN SOURCE MUNITIONS PORTAL

If you want to learn more about how to identify munitions and their use and impact in conflict, visit the [Open Source Munitions Portal \(OSMP\)](#). It's a searchable archive of verified munitions imagery from conflicts around the world. You can also contribute verified footage, helping to strengthen the database for future investigations.

For more information about the different kinds of shots - wide, medium, and close-up - and how they can be used strategically when filming your walk through the scene, read the Video as Evidence Field Guide chapter on [Filming Secure Scenes here](#).

### CATEGORY 3:

## THE RELATIONSHIP OF OBJECTS TO EACH OTHER

Finally, it's important to capture the relationship of objects to one another and the scene overall. Often, a big missing piece of the evidentiary puzzle is the lack of a relationship of objects to one another within the site of an aerial attack.

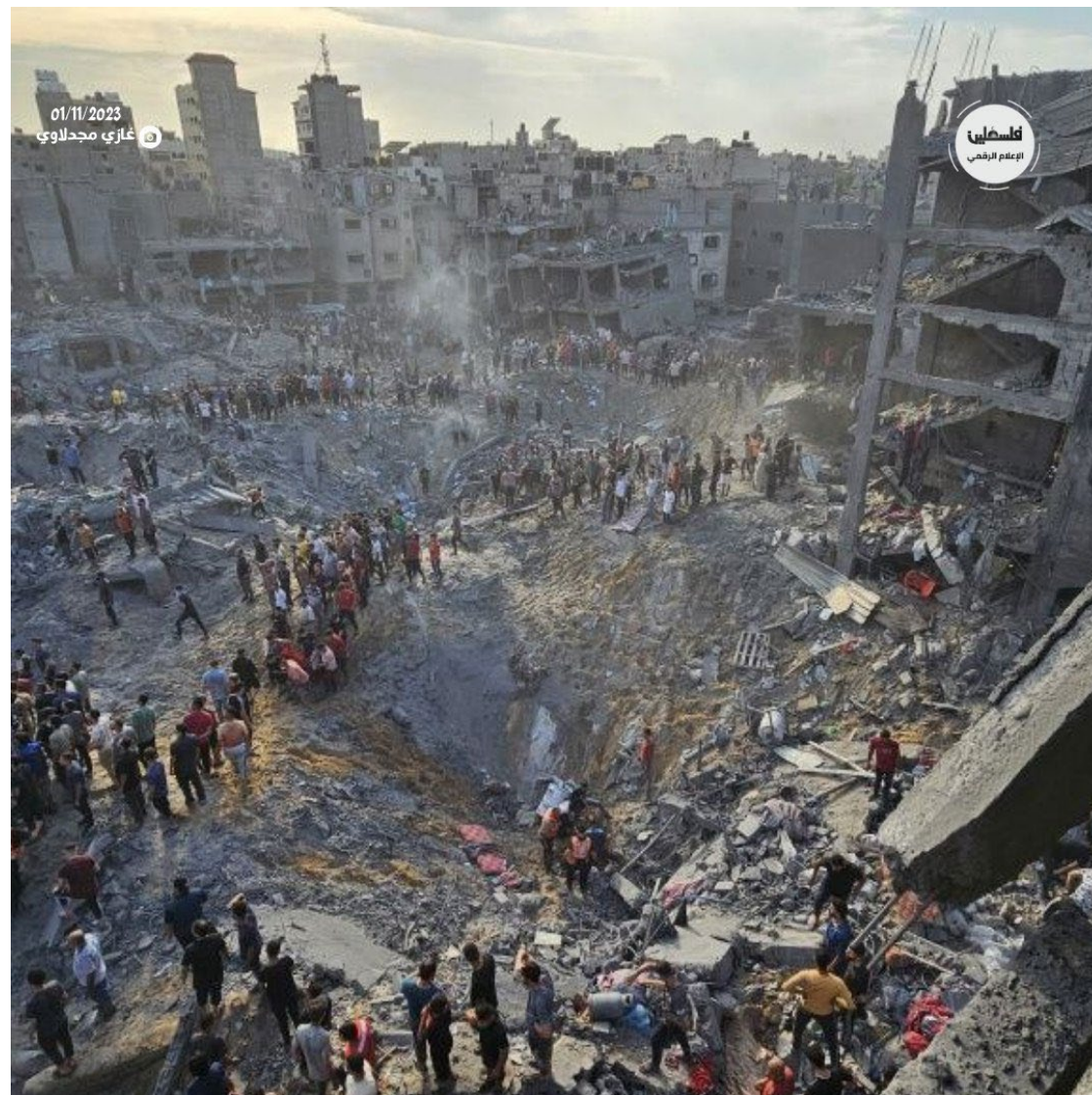
- **MAKE SURE** your footage shows craters in relation to civilian objects such as nearby shops or residences, or the city street where the attack took place. This will help investigators understand the extent of the damage and the location of the airstrike.
- **MAINTAIN THE INTEGRITY OF THE SCENE.** Do not touch or move physical evidence, especially munitions and munitions remnants. When recording, make note if you suspect the physical evidence you're documenting has been moved from its original location. If you do happen to move physical evidence, make note of where you found it.
- **IF YOU FIND PARTS OF A MUNITION** or a partial fragment of metal with limited markings, such as numbers or letters, these might still provide important clues. Although incomplete, these markings could be part of a serial number, batch code, or manufacturer's identifier.
- **MAKE SURE** your footage shows where craters or munitions remnants are located in relation to nearby civilian objects. If the crater is especially large (see picture on the next page), consider taking a wide shot from higher up if safe to do so.
- **IF DOCUMENTING INDOORS,** link the inside footage to an outdoor shot. Walk outside with your camera recording to provide a complete view, connecting interior damage with exterior environment. This helps create a mappable reference point.
- **ALSO CONSIDER** documenting any visible signs of military presence near the civilian area. Are there known military bases, structures, or operatives nearby? Was a warning issued prior to the strike? If so, try to record or describe the format of the warning (such as a flyer, phone message, or audio alert), the time it was received, and whether there was enough time and clear paths for evacuation.



WHO, Gaza, 2024. [<https://news.un.org/en/story/2024/04/1149051>]



**WARNING:** Documenting military presence or related details can be very risky depending on the context. In some situations, it may lead to detention, arrest, violence, or violate local laws prohibiting filming security forces. Always prioritize your safety and assess the risks before documenting this information.



A massive crater marks the point of impact from airstrike, Jabalia Camp, North Gaza, 2023.

These documentation tips aren't just theoretical, they play a crucial role in real investigations. The following case study shows how careful video and photo documentation helped verify a major claim in an ongoing conflict.

## NOTES FROM THE FIELD

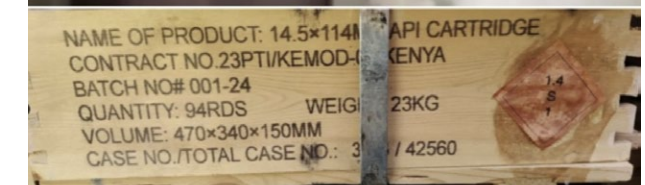
### KENYAN WEAPONS LINKED TO SUDAN'S WAR

In 2025, Bellingcat and Nation Media [published an investigation](#) directly linking Kenyan weapons to Rapid Support Forces (RSF) in Sudan's civil war. The key to the investigation was verifying audiovisual documentation of Kenyan-labelled crates of ammunition allegedly inside a location in Sudan, and linking them to other audiovisual documentation found on social media showing the same tins with ammunition matching the labels on the crates, but with no verifiable location, alongside claims from human rights organisations and others of Kenya's involvement in the war. The videos were taken showing the captured weapons displayed by the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF). The retaking of Khartoum by the SAF in early 2025 led to a lot of footage and images being released.

The investigation was able to identify three videos ([video 1](#), [video 2](#), and [video 3](#)) which showed Kenyan Ministry of Defence labelled ammunition allegedly left behind by RSF inside a depot. According to the videos, the location was supposedly in "Salha".. Similar photos had been previously circulating (Photo 1) on social media of the crates but there was no available audiovisual material that could geolocate them to inside Sudan before the most recent videos emerged.

#### KEY TAKEAWAY

What was missing from the original documentation (photo 1) was (Category 3), the relationship of objects to one another. There were photos showing the Kenyan munition, which investigators suspected was being used in Sudan. Finding videos which could be verified to show the munition inside a location in Sudan was the missing key.



Examples of text written on UXOs found online.

### FILMING TO SHOW A CIVILIAN AREA

In international law: under the Geneva Conventions and customary international law, attacks directed at civilian populations or individual civilians not directly participating in hostilities are prohibited. This principle aims to protect civilians from intentional harm during armed conflict.



## NOTE FROM THE FIELD

### **USING MASS-SCALE MEDIA COLLECTIONS TO SHOW PATTERNS OF VIOLENCE**

*Forensic Architecture's submission to South Africa:  
[A Spatial Analysis of the Israeli Military's Conduct in Gaza](#)  
since October 202*

As part of Forensic Architecture's ongoing research into the Israeli's military in Gaza, they provided a report to the legal team representing South Africa in the case of the Application of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide in the Gaza Strip (South Africa v. Israel). "[A Cartography of Genocide](#)" is an analysis of a mass collection of thousands of data points, including photos and videos of reports of aerial and ground attacks - and other archives such as Airwars' assessments. These data points and analyses were used to develop into a navigable "map" of Gaza that visually shows the way in which Israel's military operations entailed widespread civilian harm and destruction of civilian infrastructure.

The analysis shows the way in which Israel's military operations entailed widespread civilian harm and destruction of civilian infrastructure. Tagging categories such as medical infrastructure, displacement, agriculture and water resources, civilian infrastructure and aid means the scale and nature of attacks can be assessed, as well as the extent of damage, number of victims, as well as crucially for this case, understanding whether there is a systematic nature of violence and the improbability of random occurrences.



# AFTER FILMING





After you've documented and left the scene, your work is not yet done.

- **BACK IT UP:** To avoid losing your content, store the original, unaltered files in a safe place and save them in multiple digital and physical locations, such as: a thumbdrive, an encrypted cloud service; and if possible, use external drives. Securely share a copy with a trusted friend or colleague. Check out our library for more tips on [archiving and preservation](#) of human rights documentation.
- **SHARE WITH CAUTION.** Share with caution, and consider what you want your footage to achieve—this will help you share it more safely and strategically. Prioritize your safety and the safety of the people filmed. [Think carefully](#) before posting footage online. Instead, try connecting directly with trustworthy media or legal contacts. If it is safe to do so, and if you do choose to share online, label your uploads with useful, identifying information for

investigators researching the incident. Obtain [Informed Consent](#) and Blur or obscure the identities of those depicted in your video, especially when footage may show persons in vulnerable positions, including your own identity if you could face risks for documenting and posting the footage. Remember if blurring, obscuring or otherwise editing the footage before sharing online, do so on a copy and leave the original unaltered. If sharing online, think about adding key tags to make it easier for open-source investigators to find. Consider removing any sensitive or personal information from the content.

- **SUPPLEMENT WITH VISUAL AIDS:** If sharing your footage with trusted investigators, consider supplementing it with additional visuals such as drawings or maps. Simple diagrams illustrating the scene layout and labeling key features such as craters and damaged buildings can enhance your documentation.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This guide is the result of the generous contributions, insights, and dedication of many individuals. We are deeply grateful to all who shared their time, experience, and feedback.

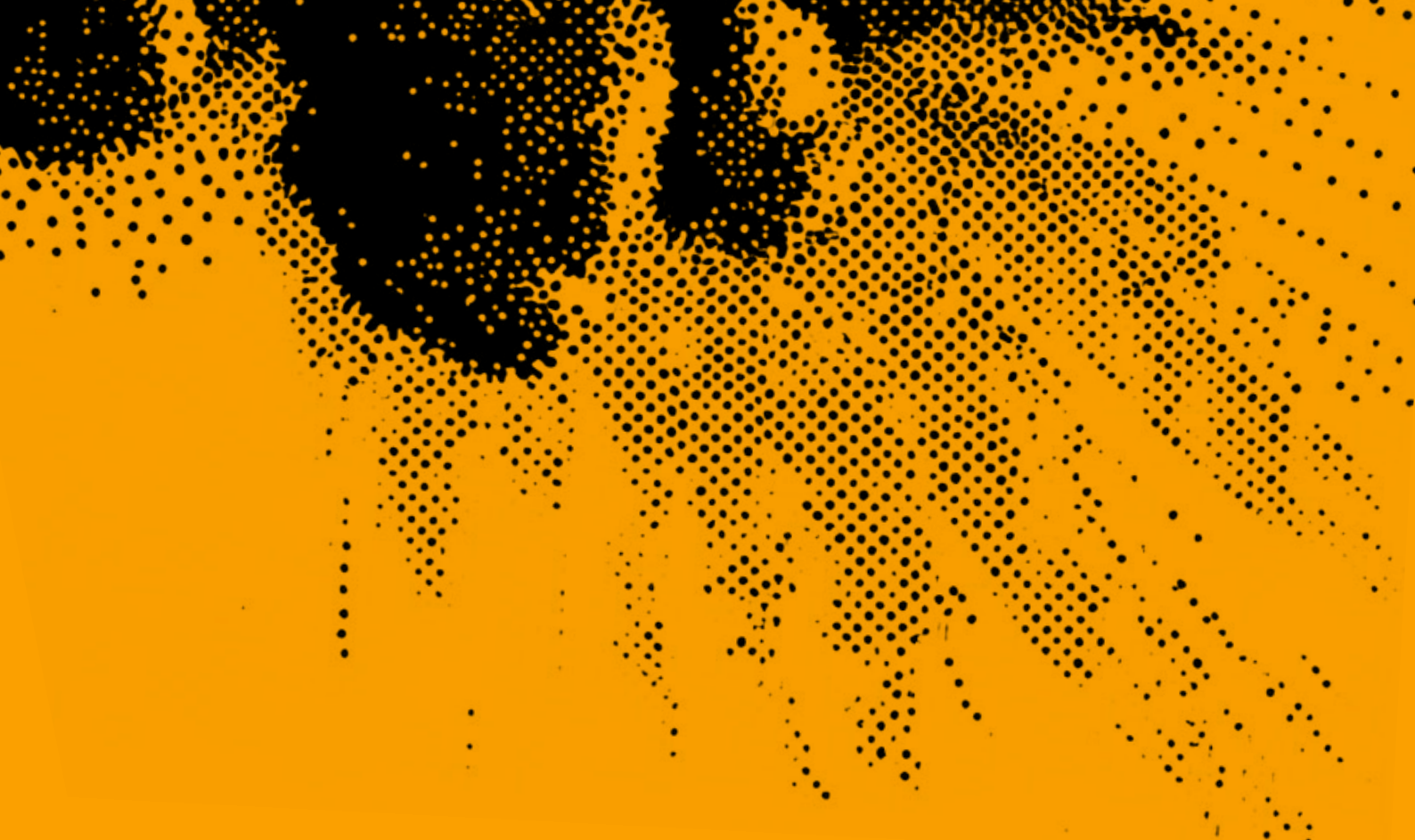
## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

[Report: Audiovisual Generative AI and Conflict Resolution](#)

[Video as Evidence: Developing a Collection Plan](#)

[WITNESS Library](#)





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