

TIPS FOR FILMING PROTESTS, POLICE & MILITARY VIOLENCE IN BANGLADESH



If you have any questions or feedback about this resource, or would like to share the tools and techniques that you use, please reach out to us on Twitter @WITNESS_Asia or fb.com/witnessasia.

This tipsheet has been developed in collaboration with Human Rights activists in Bangladesh.

Filming for human rights can be dangerous. Be Safe. Be Ethical. Be Effective.

PREPARE

- Know your rights before you turn on the camera. Always respect voter privacy and assess risks to yourself, interviewees and communities before you film

- Stay aware of the daily changes in the actions of the military, police, or provocateurs. Develop a security plan to protect your safety.

- Memorize emergency contact information, or keep it written in a secure location, e.g. lawyers & immediate family.

- When necessary, share your live location with trusted contacts to ensure they are informed about your movements and well-being.

[WhatsApp live location sharing](#)
[Android real-time location](#)

WARNING: Sharing your location could pose risks if compromised, leading to potential harm or safety concerns.

PASSWORD PROTECT

- Password-protect your smartphone. Not fingerprint or facial recognition. Encrypt your smartphone or delete sensitive data if there is risk of confiscation.

CHARGE BATTERIES

- Charge your batteries and free up storage. Enable auto back-up, e.g., Google Photos, Dropbox in case the phone is lost / damaged / confiscated.

GET A POWERBANK

- Consider getting a power or portable power station to charge your equipment during power outages.

TURN ON GPS

- To help news media, courts and human rights organizations verify your video and prove it's real, turn on GPS (high accuracy) on smartphones. If safe to do so, speak into the camera/mobile phone to verify that you are the one filming. Say the date, time, location into the phone/camera. Confirm the location by filming street signs, intersections and Landmarks.

WARNING: If you need to be anonymous for security reasons, use a code name and don't capture your face/identity while filming.

- You can use apps like Tella or ProofMode to capture photos or videos with added metadata, including location details. This additional information embedded in your media helps verify the exact time, date, and place where it was taken, enhancing its credibility and reliability.

Download Tella here:

<https://bit.ly/tella-app>

Download ProofMode here:

<https://bit.ly/proofmode-app>

DOCUMENT VIOLENCE

- Civilians who are peaceful protestors should not be attacked.

- Film in a way so that someone who isn't present will be able to watch your video and understand what happened.

- Show that the victims were acting peacefully. Document those affected, especially if they were targeted.

- Capture details like police/military vehicles, uniforms, badges and indications of police/military rank. When safe, document violence, such as gunshots or physical attacks, and film the identities of the perpetrators as well as surrounding crowds, any injuries, damages to buildings, bullet holes or nearby vehicles.

- Get a variety of shots (from far away, moving your camera slowly from left to right, closer in, from above to get a better view) to show what happens. Keep the phone steady and move it slowly when changing positions.

- Avoid zooming in if you can. This will blur your focus. Get closer if safe to do so.

- To protect people, film crowds from behind and only record the backs of people's heads or their feet. If filming interviews, ensure those you film are fully aware of how and where the video will be used. Discuss potential safety risks if the video is to be shared publicly, online, or with authorities.

- If anonymity is needed, film interviewees' hands while they speak, have the interviewee cover their face, or wear a mask. Alternatively, use a blurring tool afterwards to protect people if you are not filming live. Below are some tools you could use.

YouTube (browser-based):

<https://bit.ly/youtube-blurring>

Blur tools for signal:

<https://www.signal.org/blog/blur-tools/>

Anonymous Camera (iOS):

<https://apple.co/3iZz3Xx>

WARNING! Having a smartphone/camera can make you a target. Keep a safe distance as some authorities will use their weapons to intimidate or attack those filming.

THINK BEFORE YOU SHARE

- Think before you share your video. Uploading your videos or livestreaming on a public channel e.g., Facebook/Twitter/ Youtube can turn you or the victim and their communities into a target. Before sharing, consider speaking with a trusted activist / media organisation / International NGOs/ lawyer.

- You can share the media via secure messaging apps like Signal.

- Always consider your own and others' safety before sharing your video publicly. Decide if you need to edit out a section that creates more risk for someone or blur a face to help protect someone.

- Remember someone can be identified by their voice, location, clothes and their companions, not just their face.

- If you decide to share the video on social media, e.g., Facebook/ Twitter/ Youtube, add a brief, descriptive title that states that you are sharing this to expose a human rights violation. If possible, provide a caption at the start of your video. This is important as it helps make sure it stays up on the platform as proof and is not removed because the footage is violent or graphic.

- If you can, tag someone outside the country and ask them to save the video.

VPN & ROAMING SIM

- Assess your data and internet connection. If you can, be prepared with VPN and roaming SIM in case of an internet shutdown. Here is our guide on documenting during internet shutdowns: wit.to/internet-shutdowns

WARNING: In certain instances, police and military personnel may conduct inspections to identify the presence of roaming or international SIM cards in mobile devices.

SECURE YOUR FILES

- Always keep your original media files in a secure location. Do not make edits to the original file – always do so from a copy.

WITNESS
SEE IT FILM IT CHANGE IT