

INDONESIA:

TIPS FOR FILMING ELECTION OFFENCES

WITNESS

SEE IT FILM IT
CHANGE IT

Filming for human rights can be dangerous.

Be Safe. Be Ethical. Be Effective.



PREPARE

- Understand your rights as defined by the Indonesian [Constitution](#).
- Respect voter privacy and assess risks to yourself, interviewees and communities.
- If you are a journalist, it may be useful to secure a media pass or an identity card.
- Keep aware of daily changes in the actions of the military, the police and other agitators. Familiarize yourself with the [Indonesian Electoral Law of 2017](#).
- To publish content online, it is best to use a VPN service such as [ProtonVPN](#) or start making a new account using TOR or an I2P.



EQUIPMENT

- Prepare essential equipment and filter your devices by removing sensitive materials.
- Password-protect your smartphone. Do not use fingerprint identity sensors or facial recognition. Encrypt your smartphone or delete sensitive data.
- Charge your batteries and consider getting an alternative and portable power station during outages.
- Always carry backup batteries, memory cards and recording devices in case of equipment failure.



WORK IN A TEAM

- Consider working in pairs or groups to increase your security and support. Plan and divide tasks between your team.
- Cultivate trustworthy connections within the community near the vicinity of the polling station, and engage with members of the election observers team to begin building a reliable network.
- Know your limits—both physically and mentally. Stay at the crowd's periphery and have a colleague keep watch whilst you film.
- Create a discussion group using an encrypted service like [WhatsApp](#)/[Signal](#)/[Wire](#) with your colleagues.
- In situations of electoral violence, it is crucial to strategize your exit plan. Ensure your vehicle is easily accessible, and your designated driver/team is on standby.



DATA PRESERVATION

- Free up storage space on your device.
- Enable auto back-up, e.g. [Google Photos](#) or [Dropbox](#) in case the phone is lost/damaged or confiscated. In the event of any unlawful activity at the polling station, the election committee can use this stored media as evidence in accordance with the [General Election Commission Regulation/Peraturan Komisi Pemilihan Umum \(PKPU\)](#).



CAUTION!

Having a smartphone/camera can make you a target. Keep a safe distance to stay clear of intimidation and/or attacks whilst filming.



VISUAL VERIFICATION

- To help news media, courts and human rights organizations verify your video and prove its authenticity, turn on GPS (high accuracy).
- If safe to do so, speak into the camera/mobile phone to verify that you are the one filming. Clearly state the date, the time and the location into the device.
- Confirm the location by filming street signs, intersections and/or landmarks.
- You can use apps such as [Tella](#) or [ProofMode](#) to capture photos or videos with added metadata, location, and any additional details for verification.

If you need to be anonymous for security reasons, use a code name and do not capture your own face or identity whilst filming.

In certain instances, police and military personnel may conduct inspections of your mobile devices to check your apps, social media accounts, and/or files/media inside your phone.



FILMING TIPS

- ▶ Do no harm. Get permission from people before you film. Discuss potential safety risks if the video is to be shared publicly, online, or with authorities.
- ▶ Always keep a safe distance when recording. Record as much detail as possible when documenting human rights abuses and violations.
- ▶ Get a variety of shots. To capture the events effectively.
- ▶ Document those affected. To protect their identity, film crowds from behind and only record the backs of people's heads or their feet.
- ▶ Avoid zooming in if you can, as this blurs your focus. Get closer if safe to do so.
- ▶ Film in a way so that someone who is not present will be able to watch your video and understand what happened.
- ▶ If filming interviews, ensure that those you film are fully aware of how and where the video will be used.
- ▶ When it comes to filming sensitive details, protect interviewee, witnesses and/or victims. Only use audio to obfuscate their identity.
- ▶ If anonymity is needed, film only interviewees' hands while they speak or use blurring tools apps such as YouTube, Signal, or tools in iOS.
- ▶ When safe, get detailed shots of perpetrators, whether they be army, police, or government officials, as well as the surrounding crowds. Shots of injuries, electoral manipulations or vote buying need to be clear.
- ▶ To maintain neutrality, avoid taking sides in a conflict during an election to minimize the risk of becoming a target. Cautiously record and provide facts. Be objective.



THINK BEFORE YOU SHARE

- ▶ Before sharing, consider speaking with a trusted activist/media/international organization or lawyer.
- ▶ Think twice before uploading your videos or livestream on a public channel (e.g. Facebook/ Twitter/Youtube) as it may turn you or victims and their communities into open targets.
- ▶ If you do decide to upload your videos directly to social media or stream them live, Reconsider disclosing your location. Avoid sharing GPS or a photo of well-known landmarks.
- ▶ Remember that anyone can be identified by their voice, location, clothes and their companions, not just by facial identity.
- ▶ If you decide to share the video on social media, e.g. Facebook/ Twitter/Youtube, add a brief descriptive title or caption that states that you are sharing this to expose a human rights violation.
- ▶ If you can, tag someone outside the country and ask them to save the video.
- ▶ Always keep your original media files in a secure location. When sharing your video online, include the date, time, location in the video's title, tags, as well as details and contextualizing. Keep one edited and original copy of your footage offsite.
- ▶ If you are a victim of a digital attack, please report it to local digital security service providers.
- ▶ Consider sharing using alternative platforms, such as sharing your media via secure messaging apps like Signal.



AT THE POLLING STATION (TPS or Tempat Pemungutan Suara)

- ▶ Whether during the campaign period or on voting day, be cautious of party members or party supporters.
- ▶ Take serious consideration of what should not be recorded inside the polling station: There are some important factors that you need to be aware of while recording in the polling station. to the law (hyperlink), it is forbidden to record inside voting booth.
- ▶ It is also recommended that you refrain from uploading your vote ballot on social media, as per Article 2 Number 7 2017 of the Election Law.



VPN & ROAMING SIM

- ▶ If you can, be prepared with VPN and a roaming SIM in case of an internet shutdown. For more tips, check out our guide on documenting during internet shutdowns.



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SOME USEFUL RESOURCES

- ▶ Fighting hoaxes, digital security violation:

On Social Media:

[Mafindo](#)

[Masyarakat Anti Fitnah Indonesia](#)

On Whatsapp:

[Internet Sehat by ICT Watch - Indonesia](#)

[Komisi Pemilihan Umum Republik Indonesia \(KPU RI\)](#)

Laws:

[Criminal Procedure Law \(KUHP\)](#)

[Electronic Information and Transactions Law \(UU ITE\) 2024.](#)

- ▶ For Reporting Digital Attacks during 2024 Elections:

[AJI Indonesia](#)

[SAFEnet](#)

[Tim Reaksi Cepat \(TRACE\)](#)