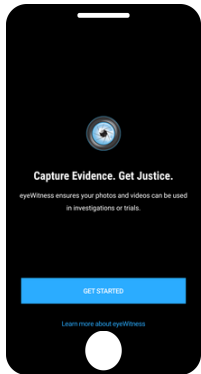


# TIPS FOR DOCUMENTING HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS AT PROTESTS USING THE **EYEWITNESS TO ATROCITIES APP**

This guide provides tips for filming possible human rights violations you might witness during a protest. The focus is capturing information that could be relevant as evidence of crimes. Filming for reporting or advocacy purposes may involve different approaches.



## Before heading to the scene

- 1 **Download** the eyeWitness to Atrocities app from the [Google Play Store](#).
- 2 **Test the app** and try uploading a test photo and video. You can add a note that says “test” using the “add a description” function. Not sure how the app works? Scroll to the end of the document for some resources.
- 3 **Do a risk assessment and know your legal rights.** Have a plan ready in case you need to leave the scene quickly. Make sure you are familiar with the app’s security features.

## At the scene

### Are you filming from far away?

(E.g. from a safer location such as a balcony, window or rooftop.)

- 1 Turn on location services.
- 2 Hold your phone sideways with both hands and press your elbows against your body for stability.
- 3 Try to record the general context of what is happening. E.g. the police formation and overall behaviour of the crowd.
- 4 Record videos instead of photos.


 **Whether close or far away, only film if it is safe to do so. Your safety comes first!**


### Are you filming at the scene?

(E.g. directly at the location of the protest, either within the crowd or on the sidelines.)


- 1 Turn on location services.
- 2 Hold your phone sideways with both hands and press your elbows against your body for stability.
- 3 Try to record what is happening and who is involved (see shot list below).
- 4 Record both videos (for movements and context) and photos (for close-up details).
- 5 If both safe and possible, head even closer to the scene and capture details.


### TECHNICAL TIPS:


 **TURN ON LOCATION SERVICES!** This allows the eyeWitness app to automatically record the date, time and location of the footage.

 **HOLD YOUR PHONE WITH BOTH HANDS!** Press your elbows close to your sides to help stabilise the shot.

 **TAKE PHOTOS TO CAPTURE CLOSE-UP DETAILS!**

 **DO NOT WORRY ABOUT ZOOM!** Zoom is not recommended to avoid image distortion. This is why zoom is not possible with the eyeWitness app.

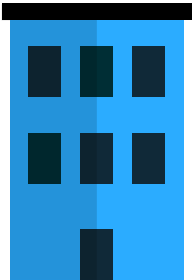
 **HOLD YOUR PHONE SIDEWAYS!** This enables you to capture a wider angle and obtain a better image.

 **TAKE VIDEOS TO CAPTURE MOVEMENTS OR ACTIONS!** Move the camera slowly and try to stop at different angles for at least 10 seconds while still filming, if possible.

## SHOT LIST (details to capture):

### LAW ENFORCEMENT ABUSES:

- Number of agents present and their formation, including when barricades are created or moved.
- Agents' identifying information (e.g. names, faces, badges, insignias, helmets, and type of uniform).
- Orders given to the agents.
- Instructions given to the crowds.
- Any forms of abuse or violence and its aftermath (e.g. injuries or casualties).
- Arrests and 'stop and search' scenes.
- Weapons held or used by agents (e.g. any markings or serial numbers to help identify the exact weapons).
- Bullets or other ammunition present at the scene (e.g. markings or visible serial numbers).
- Vehicles present and their number plates.



### PROPERTY DAMAGE:

- Anything that could help identify the perpetrators (e.g. names, faces or other identifying features).
- Vandalism, arson, or looting.
- Weapons and other objects that could have been used to cause the damage.
- Visible damage caused as a result of vandalism (e.g. shattered windows, damaged doors, gates, and fences, as well as damaged buildings).
- Visible damage caused as a result of arson (e.g. burnt buildings, vehicles, burnt patches on the ground, charred vegetation).
- Visible damage caused as a result of looting (e.g. damaged shops and warehouses as well as private houses, or barricaded windows, and doors).

### HATE SPEECH

- Identifying information of the perpetrators (e.g. names, faces or other identifying features).
- Any form of speech, writing or behaviour that advocates, incites, promotes or justifies hatred, violence, and discrimination against a person or group of persons on the basis of who they are.
- Anything that could link the area in which the violation occurred to a specific community.
- Anything that could link the violation to a specific community event, social activity or political gathering.
- Anything that could suggest that the violation was linked to the identity of a person or group that was targeted for their religion, ethnicity, nationality, race, colour, descent, gender or other identity factor.



## After returning from the scene



- 1 **Add notes to the footage in the eyeWitness app. Stick to the facts and avoid emotional language.**

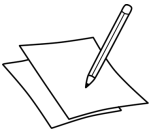
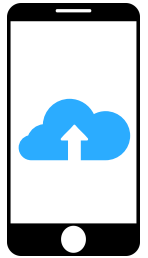
Remember to include (if applicable and known):

- A brief description of the event.
- The name of the perpetrators and the group they belong to.
- The name of the victims (unless it might put them at risk).

2

- 2 **Upload your footage to the eyeWitness server as soon as possible.**

- Once uploaded, eyeWitness maintains the chain of custody and tries to use your footage for accountability.
- After upload, you can share your footage across your network. If you delete the app before uploading the footage to the eyeWitness server, eyeWitness will not receive it.



3

- 3 **If useful, draw a sketch of the scene and take a photo of it with the eyeWitness app and upload it for additional context.**

**!** For security reasons, if you lose your footage, eyeWitness cannot release a copy back to you.

## Need more info about the eyeWitness to Atrocities app?

Check out our [Video Tutorial](#) and [User Guide](#).

Visit [www.eyewitness.global](http://www.eyewitness.global) and our [Resources page](#).

Contact us: [general@eyewitness.global](mailto:general@eyewitness.global) | +44 7578 489 100 (Signal and WhatsApp).

Follow us: [@eyewitnessorg](#) (Twitter) | [@eyewitnessatoatrocities](#) (Facebook).

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\* These guidelines have been prepared exclusively to help you document human rights violations you might witness during a protest, providing guidance to capture video and photos with the eyeWitness app. If you are using additional equipment where the eyeWitness app is not or cannot be installed (e.g. a SLR camera), you should also preserve the chain of custody and use an archival system (eyeWitness does both for you, but only for footage captured with the app).

\*\* The tips contained in these guidelines focus on filming information to be used as evidence in courts of law and other accountability mechanisms. More extensive guidelines for documenting protests and police abuse are [available from WITNESS](#). Please note that other guidelines often focus on documenting for advocacy purposes and using standard cameras, which means they may recommend different approaches. As eyeWitness verifies the location and timestamps the footage, and also authenticates and maintains the chain of custody for you, not everything in such guidelines might be applicable if you are using the eyeWitness app.