Fact checking: Who we are

Registered Charity: eyeWitness to Atrocities is a registered charity (registered number 1156242) and company limited by guarantee, incorporated in England and Wales (registration number 08703983). eyeWitness is regulated by the Charities Commission. See our registration on the UK Government’s Charity Commission website.

Initiated by the International Bar Association (IBA) in 2011: The IBA, established in 1947, is the foremost organisation for international legal practitioners, bar associations and law societies. The present membership is comprised of more than 80,000 individual international lawyers from most of the world’s leading law firms and some 190 bar associations and law societies spanning more than 170 countries. The IBA has considerable expertise in providing assistance to the global legal community, and through its global membership it influences the development of international law reform and shapes the future of the legal profession throughout the world.

Launched publicly in 2015: eyeWitness to Atrocities was launched publicly as a project of the IBA.
- BBC News, eyeWitness app lets smartphones report war crimes,
- The Guardian, eyeWitness to Atrocities: the app aimed at bringing war criminals to justice.

Usage: Since 2015, the eyeWitness to Atrocities app has been used by organisations and journalists in more than 20 countries. We have received over 60,000 photos and videos.

Secure: App users upload their footage to a secure server for verification and safe storage. LexisNexis Legal & Professional, a part of the RELX Group, hosts the secure repository, database and backup system to store and analyse this data. LexisNexis Legal & Professional’s industry leading data hosting capabilities provide the eyeWitness program with the same technology used to safeguard sensitive and confidential material for LexisNexis clients every day. The database is not accessible to the public. Only members of the eyeWitness team may access the secure server, subject to strict internal protocols to protect the chain of custody. Learn more about LexisNexis.

Impact: eyeWitness has submitted 53 dossiers to investigative and accountability mechanisms, including the International Criminal Court, the United Nations, European war crimes units, domestic courts and police forces. For example, photos and videos taken with the eyeWitness to Atrocities app were used in a crimes against humanity trial in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Read more about our impact on our website.

Awards and affiliations:
- Member of the Video4Change Network (since 2020).
- A Silver Award Winner of the UK App Design Award for Best App of the Year (2015).
Recently featured articles:

- BICTI, Capture evidence of war crimes.
- Ternopil City Council, International Bar Association invites eyeWitness to Atrocities to record war crimes or crimes against humanity.
- Ukrainian Bar Association (UBA), About the UBA hotline and gathering evidence of war crimes through the eyeWitness to Atrocities app in the Toronto Television.
- Jurliga, The eyeWitness to Atrocities crime documentation application: instructions for use.
- BBC News, Ukraine: Online posts 'transform' war crimes documentation.
- ABC News, UK-based charity works to verify images of war in Ukraine.
- Yahoo News, Tech battles to show its worth in Ukraine war crimes probes.
- VSquare.org, People in Ukraine contribute to gather evidence of Russian war crimes.
- Foreign Policy, To Prosecute Putin for War Crimes, Safeguard the Digital Proof.
- POLITICO, From war crime to conviction — what it will take to bring the Bucha killers to justice.
- New Republic, Is Russia Targeting Ukraine’s Hospitals?
- Forbes, How To Fight Russia’s War Crimes With Your Smartphone.
- RELX, Bringing war criminals to justice: the story behind the eyeWitness to Atrocities app.
- Law Society Gazette Ireland, IBA-backed app helps document war crimes.
- PILPG, ASP20 side event: Using digital technology for war crimes documentation and accountability.

Featured videos:

- Amanpour & Company, War crimes expert: Putin incriminates himself every day.
- RightsCon 2021, eyeWitness app demonstration.
- eyeWitness partner video, Gathering evidence of alleged war crimes in Ukraine, featuring National Geographic Photographer, Anastasia Taylor Lind. Anastasia’s photos were also featured in TIME.