

A WITNESS TIP SHEET



SEE IT
FILM IT
CHANGE IT

BEST PRACTICES FOR UPLOADING HUMAN RIGHTS VIDEO

FILMING FOR HUMAN RIGHTS CAN BE DANGEROUS: BE SAFE. BE ETHICAL. BE EFFECTIVE.

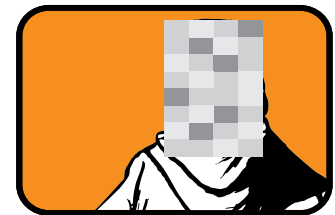
Follow these steps to help ensure that your human rights video is found by your target audience and by people who can use such video in their investigations, advocacy, and reporting projects.

SAFETY

Stop and think before making your video public online. Could sharing the video endanger you or others by exposing their identities and/or location? Once a video goes online, you won't have full control of how and where it is used. When uploading, you may want to adjust the settings to keep the video private or unlisted until you can confirm that publicly sharing the video will not endanger anyone. Consider finding legal support if you are unsure about security or legal implications.

CONCEALING IDENTITY

If you are concerned about revealing someone's identity, consider using tools like YouTube's custom blur tool, which allows uploaders to obscure identities of individuals in the video. For instructions on using the app, visit bit.ly/howtoblurYT. Keep in mind other ways the video could reveal an individual's identity, including voice, testimony, clothing, tattoos, license plates, or other details that you may want to blur or edit.



TITLE

Keep titles brief and descriptive, like a headline to a news story. Include the date and location. Use common words that will help others find the video, i.e., "Deadly Clashes At Garment Workers' Strike, Phnom Penh, 2015-03-14"

DESCRIPTION

Write a description of what happened before, during and after the recording. Include the date, time, location and relevant links. Provide context.

GRAPHIC FOOTAGE

If your footage is graphic, write "GRAPHIC IMAGERY" in the video's title and description to alert viewers that the video may disturb them.

GRAPHIC IMAGERY

TAGS

When uploading your video, add key words or "tags" that people can use to search for the video online. Always include date, time, city, specific location. Use words that describe the footage such as: 'pepper spray,' 'arrest,' 'shelling,' 'protest.'

CREDIT

If you are uploading or sharing a video that wasn't recorded by you or your organization, include a link or details about the original video in the description area (to the extent that doing so would not put the filmer at risk). This helps investigators and journalists find the original source to verify its authenticity and discover any additional contextualizing information about the footage. It also enables them to contact and/or credit the original uploader.

CREATIVE COMMONS

Consider selecting a Creative Commons license so that your video can be remixed, collected and/or archived by others.



PRESERVE

Video sites such as YouTube are great for sharing videos but should not be used as a place to save video. Valuable metadata is lost when files are uploaded and sites like YouTube may delete your footage. Save copies of original footage and accompanying documentation on a separate drive in a secure location or a trusted cloud storage site.

See the Activists' Guide to Archiving Video for more information about preserving video files at archiveguide.witness.org.

ONLINE HARASSMENT



Publicly sharing a video from your personal account can make you vulnerable to aggressions from the public, internet trolls and hostile authorities. Be aware that media outlets sometimes use eyewitness video without asking for the filmer's consent or respecting the filmer's requests about how he/she is credited. This could put you in the media spotlight against your wishes.

Think about whether or not you want your personal information shared alongside the video – or if there are other options for releasing the video through a trusted advocacy group, journalist or legal expert.