GUIDE FOR COLLECTING EVIDENCE OF TORTURE & ILL-TREATMENT DURING PROTEST & DETENTION

— DEVELOPED BY FORENSIC EXPERTS AT —

irct
International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims

HUMAN RIGHTS CENTER
UC Berkeley School of Law

ifeq
independent forensic expert group
IN FOUR PARTS, THIS GUIDE WILL TELL YOU HOW TO MOST EFFECTIVELY:

1. USE PHOTOS AND VIDEO TO DOCUMENT ACTS OF POLICE BRUTALITY

2. COLLECT AND PRESERVE PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

3. DESCRIBE YOUR STORY AND INJURIES IN DETAIL

4. TAKE PHOTOS OF YOUR INJURIES THAT CAN SERVE AS FORENSIC EVIDENCE
HOW TO USE PHOTOS AND VIDEOS TO DOCUMENT ACTS OF POLICE BRUTALITY
PLAN AHEAD OF TIME

IF YOU’RE WITH A GROUP,
CREATE PROTOCOLS FOR
SAFETY AND USING MEDIA
IDENTIFY DETAILS OF EQUIPMENT USED

BODYCAM
TEAR GAS
BATONS
DO NOT CORRUPT THE DATA
AVOID NARRATING
AVOID IDENTIFYING PROTESTERS
LONGER VIDEOS ARE BETTER
DON’T GET CAUGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF A SKIRMISH

PROTECT YOURSELF & OTHERS FIRST
SHARE A COPY OR MEDIA CARD WITH A TRUSTED FRIEND

DO NOT EDIT THE IMAGES

SECURE YOUR PHONE WITH A HARD PASSWORD

PROTECT YOUR DATA & DEVICES

IDENTIFY & USE TRUSTED APPS

STORE THE ORIGINAL FILES IN A SAFE PLACE SUCH AS ON THE CLOUD WITH ENCRYPTION
DISSEminate quickly on Social Media or hand off to Journalists
HOW TO COLLECT & PRESERVE PHYSICAL EVIDENCE
PICK UP ANY EVIDENCE YOU CAN USING GLOVES
KEEP YOUR CLOTHING & GET CHANGED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE

IF IT’S WET, AIR DRY IT. DON’T USE A HAIR DRYER!

DON’T CLEAN IT - KEEP THE TRACE EVIDENCE
COLLECT EVIDENCE IN PAPER ENVELOPES OR METAL PILL BOXES

WRAP BULLETS & CARTRIDGES IN PAPER

CLOSE OR TAPE THE ENVELOPE SHUT, THEN PLACE IT IN A BIGGER BAG
PROTEST  20/5/20

1. OBJECT #1
   DATE   TIME
   PLACE

2. OBJECT #2
   DATE   TIME
   PLACE

3. OBJECT #3
   DATE   TIME
   PLACE

Signed  02/6/20

LABEL THE ENVELOPE CONTAINING THE EVIDENCE WITH THE LOCATION, DATE, TIME, DESCRIPTION, & ITS CONDITION
3

HOW TO DESCRIBE YOUR STORY & INJURIES IN DETAIL
WRITE DOWN YOUR STORY OR TELL IT TO SOMEONE ELSE

MAKE A DETAILED ACCOUNT OF WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU

RECORD WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU: WHEN, WHERE, WHAT, HOW AND BY WHOM?
11:30 AM
WHERE WERE YOU?
WHAT POSITION WERE YOU IN?

12:16 PM
TRY TO TELL YOUR STORY CHRONOLOGICALLY, FROM BEGINNING TO END

16:42 PM
WHAT EXACTLY HAPPENED?
WHAT WERE YOUR SURROUNDINGS LIKE?

REMEMBER: THE MORE DETAIL, THE BETTER!
Describe your injuries. How many, where & what size?

Describe all the visible injuries you have.

Swellings
Cuts
Bruises
Scratches
IS THERE ANYTHING YOU CAN’T DO NOW BECAUSE OF YOUR INJURY?

DO YOU HAVE ANY PHYSICAL PAIN OR DISCOMFORT?

E.G. SIT DOWN, LIE DOWN, URINATE

E.G. A TWISTED ANKLE
DID YOU GET TREATMENT FOR YOUR INJURIES AFTER THE INCIDENT?

WHAT & BY WHOM?

WHEN?
4

HOW TO TAKE PHOTOS OF YOUR INJURIES THAT CAN SERVE AS FORENSIC EVIDENCE
USE BRIGHT
NATURAL LIGHT

TAKE LOTS OF PHOTOS OF EVERY INJURY
Take lots of photos of every injury from different angles.
TAKE A FULL BODY PHOTO TO SHOW THE PATTERN OF INJURIES
TAKE A MEDIUM DISTANCE PHOTO TO SHOW THE BODY REGION OF YOUR INJURY
Take close up photos of each injury

Hold up a common object (such as a coin or pen) to show the size of your injury.
WRITE DOWN THE DATE, TIME & PLACE WHERE YOU TOOK EACH OF THE PHOTOS

20/05/20

SPECIFY WHAT IS DEPICTED IN EACH PHOTO

John Smith

upper right arm

20/05/2020
CREATE A DETAILED RECORD OF YOUR EXPERIENCE USING OUR FREE DOCUMENTATION FORMS AT HTTPS://IRCT.ORG/PROTESTTOOLKIT NOW AVAILABLE IN 6 LANGUAGES