GUIDE FOR COLLECTING EVIDENCE OF TORTURE, EQUIPMENT USED, AND INJURIES DURING PROTEST AND DETENTION

— DEVELOPED BY EXPERTS AT —

irct
International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims

Berkeley Public Health

ifeg
independent forensic expert group

Omega Research Foundation
IN FOUR PARTS, THIS GUIDE WILL TELL YOU HOW TO:

1. Use photos and video to document acts of police brutality
2. Document 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

- Plan location to meet up afterwards
- Work in pairs
- Review what you’re carrying (e.g., ID, money, camera)
- Emergency contacts

IF YOU’RE WITH A GROUP, CREATE PROTOCOLS FOR SAFETY AND USING MEDIA
FACES OF POLICE OFFICERS

POLICE BADGES

RECORD DETAILS OF POLICE EQUIPMENT
IDENTIFY DETAILS OF EQUIPMENT USED

BODYCAMs

GRENADE MARKINGS

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 FIRST
Secure your phone with a hard password

Share a copy or media card with a trusted friend

Do not edit the images

Protect your data & devices

Identify & use trusted apps

Store the original files in a safe place such as on the cloud with encryption
HOW TO DOCUMENT AND PRESERVE PHYSICAL EVIDENCE
Riot Control Agents are allowed under the Chemical Weapons Convention for domestic law enforcement purposes and are used around the world. With this RiotID guide you can begin to identify these weapons. Knowing how to identify riot control weapons can help you medically respond, monitor human rights violations, challenge use of force abuses, and identify the manufacturer and country of origin of these devices.

For support with identification send your images to @RiotID using the hashtag #RiotID.

WWW.RIOTID.COM

#RiotID | @RiotID

Design by Minute Works

NEVER PICK UP CANNISTERS OR EXPLOSIVE ITEMS - ONLY TAKE PHOTOS

PHOTO TIPS

- Try with and without flash
- Use your zoom
- Photograph the weapon where you found it
- Capture the surrounding area
- Photograph each weapon individually
- Record all details (see below)
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
PLACE EVIDENCE IN NEWSPAPER OR ENVELOPES AND LABEL WITH LOCATION, DATE, TIME, DESCRIPTION, AND 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
WHAT EXACTLY HAPPENED?

16:42 PM
WHAT WERE YOUR SURROUNDINGS LIKE?
REMEMBER: THE MORE DETAIL, THE BETTER!
Describe all the visible injuries you have.

Describe your injuries.

How many, where & what size?

Swellings

Cuts

Bruises

Scratches
DO YOU HAVE ANY PHYSICAL PAIN OR DISCOMFORT?

E.G. A TWISTED ANKLE

IS THERE ANYTHING YOU CAN'T DO NOW BECAUSE OF YOUR INJURY?

E.G. SIT DOWN, LIE DOWN, URINATE
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

SPECIFY WHAT IS DEPICTED IN EACH PHOTO

John Smith
upper right arm
201/05/2020
CREATE A DETAILED RECORD OF YOUR EXPERIENCE USING OUR FREE DOCUMENTATION FORMS AT

https://irct.org/protesttoolkit
https://omegaresearchfoundation.org/resources/identification-tools