Could posting it put you at risk for retaliation, abuse or persecution?

**YES**

Could posting it put protesters that appear in your video at risk for retaliation, abuse or persecution?

**NO**

Does the video have images of gratuitous graphic violence, violate anyone's privacy or dignity, incite hate or serve to retraumatize?

**YES**

**REDUCE HARM FIRST!!**

- Share your video anonymously, via a trusted journalist or lawyer.
- Before posting, consult a lawyer, the person filmed or their family.
- Blur faces (and identifying marks like tattoos) before sharing.
- Consider scrubbing metadata.

**DON'T POST**

**NO**

- Make sure your video tells the story you want it to. Does your footage reinforce the harmful stereotypes you're trying to counter?

**POST IT!**

**CONSIDER THIS EXAMPLE:**
Ramsey Orta, who filmed the murder of Eric Garner by the NYPD in 2014, reported being targeted, harassed and persecuted by police after sharing his video publicly. His one regret? Not releasing his footage anonymously.

**DIG DEEPER:**
- You filmed police abuse - now what? Anonymize your online footprint

**TO THINK ABOUT:**
- In 2017, a man was doxed and threatened after being wrongly identified as a neo-Nazi in social media videos of a white supremacist rally.
- Police have used activists' videos to identify and criminalize protestors.
- Remember that immigration status or criminal justice history could increase one's vulnerability.

**DIG DEEPER:**
- Assessing safety, security, consent
- Equality Labs anti-doxxing guide

**This can be tricky, especially since videos can themselves be traumatic to witnesses. We created guidance to help!**

**ADDITIONAL TIPS:**
- Good practices for uploading human rights videos online
- EFF Surveillance self-defense for protests during COVID-19
- Mind your metadata!

More tips on how to use video safely, ethically and strategically at library.witness.org
POSTING VIDEOS OF POLICE BRUTALITY ONLINE - RESOURCES & EXAMPLES

Timing can also be really important. Sometimes it can be more strategic to hold onto your video and preserve it as valuable evidence that helps prove something in court, for example. Other times a rapid release could lead to immediate steps towards accountability. Here are two examples that took different approaches.

MURDER OF WALTER SCOTT, CHARLESTON - 2015

Feidin Santana filmed the 3-minute video that captured police officer Michael Slager killing Walter Scott, a black man, by shooting him eight times in the back. Unsure of what to do, Santana got a lawyer and reached out Walter Scott's family with help from the local Black Lives Matter chapter. He then released his footage three days later, just after Slager filed a false report about the incident. The national media picked up Santana's video, which proved the officer's account was not true, and Slager was arrested the same day, ultimately sentenced to 20 years for murder. In this example, waiting before posting online was the safest, most effective strategy. This is an especially smart tactic in cases that don't already have a lot of attention. Watch a video case study of this example here.

PROTESTOR KILLED BY NEO-NAZI, CHARLOTTESVILLE - 2017

Brennan Gilmore filmed the moment white supremacist James Fields ran his car into a crowd of counter-protestors, killing Heather Heyer and injuring 19 others. Though he was initially worried about sharing his video, he posted it online almost immediately, urged by friends/family who alerted that some media were reporting it as an accident. He tweeted: "let there be no confusion: this was deliberate terrorism" and his video went viral. Though he was doxxed and threatened afterwards, he reaffirmed his commitment to using his position of privilege to speak out as he reflected on his decision-making process. This example shows how posting rapidly --particularly in moments of heightened crisis-- could shape and correct false media narratives as they unfold.

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