

# Reporting extended civil unrest

## Safety Tips



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Extended civil protests, especially if they are taking place in your own community, can create a unique set of work and personal situations for journalists. It is best to assess these changes as safety related concerns and take preparatory actions.

## Preparation



The unrest is protracted. Plan your coverage for the long term in terms of content, sources, locations and logistics.

There are breaks and disruptions to your usual routines. It is important to take these into consideration. Plan out costs, logistics and other requirements well in advance and do this keeping in mind your work demands and conditions.



Similarly, it is important that you look after yourself mentally and physically. You need to work in breaks from the routine allowing you to recharge. Be mindful that exhaustion can lead to added levels of dangers and erosion of professional standards.

There will be added demands on your personal life. It is important that you discuss these openly with close loved ones and take appropriate measures.



Relatedly, it is important that you discuss personal circumstances which could impact your work with trusted work colleagues and supervisors. Never neglect pressing personal circumstances due to work demands and vice versa.



The security concerns are unlikely to remain stable and will change quickly. Initiate regular updates, take appropriate measures and keep work colleagues and loved ones informed of changes.

Pay attention to reporting by you, your organisation and your colleagues and reaction to them from various parties (protesters, security units, government officials, others, even friends and loved-ones).



Use social media astutely. Social media hashtags, lists, groups and messaging groups are vital sources of information. Use them professionally, always be mindful of misinformation, fakes and security risks linked to engagement.

Update emergency plans regularly.



Often neglected but important resource is legal assistance for journalists. It is important to consider and identify potential dangers and if possible, line up available legal resources.

Build awareness on media related laws and their applicability to the current work you are doing.



Pay attention to your equipment and stress on them due to extended coverage.

Pace yourself, this is not a sprint, this is a marathon, more precisely an extended decathlon demanding application, varied skills and perseverance.



## At sites/while reporting

Plan out each day, each assignment with detail.



Consider the before, during and after impacts of your reporting.

You have the resources to provide in-depth coverage, give all sides their fair share of coverage.



Build and gain awareness on different parties to the protests, learn to quickly identify signs of possible dangers.

Build on relationships that create trust.



With time you will understand the safest locations for coverage and best sources.

Adopt safe, ethical routines and practices when reporting and be extra vigilant when reporting under heightened dangers.



Be wary of becoming lax.

Create a personal checklist of things to do, including security, logistics, financial and communication updates.