

# Reporting protests, Civil unrest

## Safety tips for Photojournalists



**Internews**  
Local voices. Global change.

Photojournalism brings with it a unique set of work conditions. You must be in close proximity to the events that you are recording while paying attention to the equipment that you are using, and your own security. You also have to be mindful that your attention can be concentrated on what you are trying to capture through the viewfinder. This can take your attention away from the general situation around you.

### Preparation



Before embarking on your coverage, gain an understanding about the protest location, roads, transport, parties to the protest, and general atmosphere at the protests.

Talk to colleagues, especially those who have covered the protests firsthand. Scan social media and message groups for information.



Always useful to have an idea of the weather, especially if you are working with sensitive equipment.

Have a good plan on what equipment you would be using for the reporting, how you would transport them and, insurance cover for them. Travel light as much as possible.



Create, implement, and practice a robust check-in plan with colleagues and loved ones.

Have a clear idea about the reporting and images that you are looking for.



## At sites/while reporting

Arrive early, give yourself time to acclimatise to the assignment and the location. It is always best to arrive before the crowds increase and tensions rise.



Have a clear idea of the situation map like where the security units and protesters are located, so that you can make sure you do not get trapped between two or more groups.

Respect the privacy of those you are documenting, and always be mindful that protests can be fluid situations that can change quickly.



Unless it is a grave threat to your safety, wear your credentials clearly and leave no ambiguity as to why you are at the site.

Have an exit plan.



Be mindful that your work demands can divert your attention from the general situation around you.

As much as possible, work with or among a group of trusted colleagues who can be trusted with your security.



Never undermine your own security.



Have a clear understanding of the prevalent security risks and your plans to deal with them.



As visual documentarians, reporting remotely is not an option for you. You need to build skills that help you to continuously assess your security situation on the go, all the time.