There are risks associated with attending a protest, and taking steps to mitigate them can go a long way in ensuring you—and the data you value—are kept safe.

This guide outlines steps you can take before, during, and after a protest that will help keep yourself and your data more secure.

**PROTECT YOUR DATA:**

- Force you to unlock your device
- Take photos/videos without unlocking your device
- Back up your data. Your device may be damaged,
- Enable full-disk encryption on your device
- Install Signal for safer communications
- Wear nondescript clothing and cover identifying features
- Video & Photo Considerations
  - Police and others may search images for any identifying features, including clothing, tattoos and belongings, not just faces. These features can also be used for doxxing.
  - Be mindful of what you post before, during and after protests. Social media posts, for example by posting photos that identify you, can allow police to identify you at the scene of a protest. If police can access social media posts, they may be able to learn more about you, including your full name and address.
  - If police stop or arrest you:
    - You can refuse to provide your password or unlock your device
    - You should tell the police, ‘I choose to remain silent,’ and ask for a lawyer
    - If you speak, don’t lie
    - Be aware police might seize your phone and try to search it later with a warrant, and you may be booked into custody
    - You should tell the police, ‘I choose to remain silent,’
    - You can refuse to provide your password or unlock your device

**PROTECT YOUR LOCATION:**

- Enable airplane mode and turn off location services
- Download area maps and plan meeting spots ahead of time
- Consider biking or walking. Prevents license plate readers from recording your vehicle’s exact time, speed, and location
- Protected your location: General Considerations
  - The device often has specific legal concerns. If you do not consult legal advice or counsel regarding your use of your device, you may be subject to prosecution.
  - Be aware police might seize your phone and later search it.
  - You should tell the police, ‘I choose to remain silent,’
  - You can refuse to provide your password or unlock your device

**IF POLICE STOP OR ARREST YOU:**

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**PROTECT YOUR DATA DURING A PROTEST**

- Police and others may search images for any identifying features, including clothing, tattoos and belongings, not just faces. These features can also be used for doxxing.
- Be mindful of what you post before, during and after protests, as police can often access social media posts.
- Black out the faces and identifying marks of protestors. Scrub metadata on photos, for example by using screenshots of images instead of the originals.
- Learn more about surveillance tech: sls.eff.org
- And how to protect yourself: ssd.eff.org

**WANT MORE INFORMATION?**

To read EFF’s full protest guide, visit https://ssd.eff.org/en/module/attending-protest

Learn more about surveillance tech: sls.eff.org
And how to protect yourself: ssd.eff.org

If you’ve spotted surveillance or if you believe your arrest was related to digital rights issues, contact EFF at info@eff.org.

**SURVEILLANCE TECH TO KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR:**

- Drones
- Body-worn cameras
- Camera networks

**VIDEO & PHOTO CONSIDERATIONS**

- Police and others may search images for any identifying features, including clothing, tattoos and belongings, not just faces. These features can also be used for doxxing.
- Be mindful of what you post before, during and after protests, as police can often access social media posts.
- Black out the faces and identifying marks of protestors. Scrub metadata on photos, for example by using screenshots of images instead of the originals.

**EFF POCKET GUIDE:**

PROTECTING YOUR DATA DURING A PROTEST

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**How to Fold:**