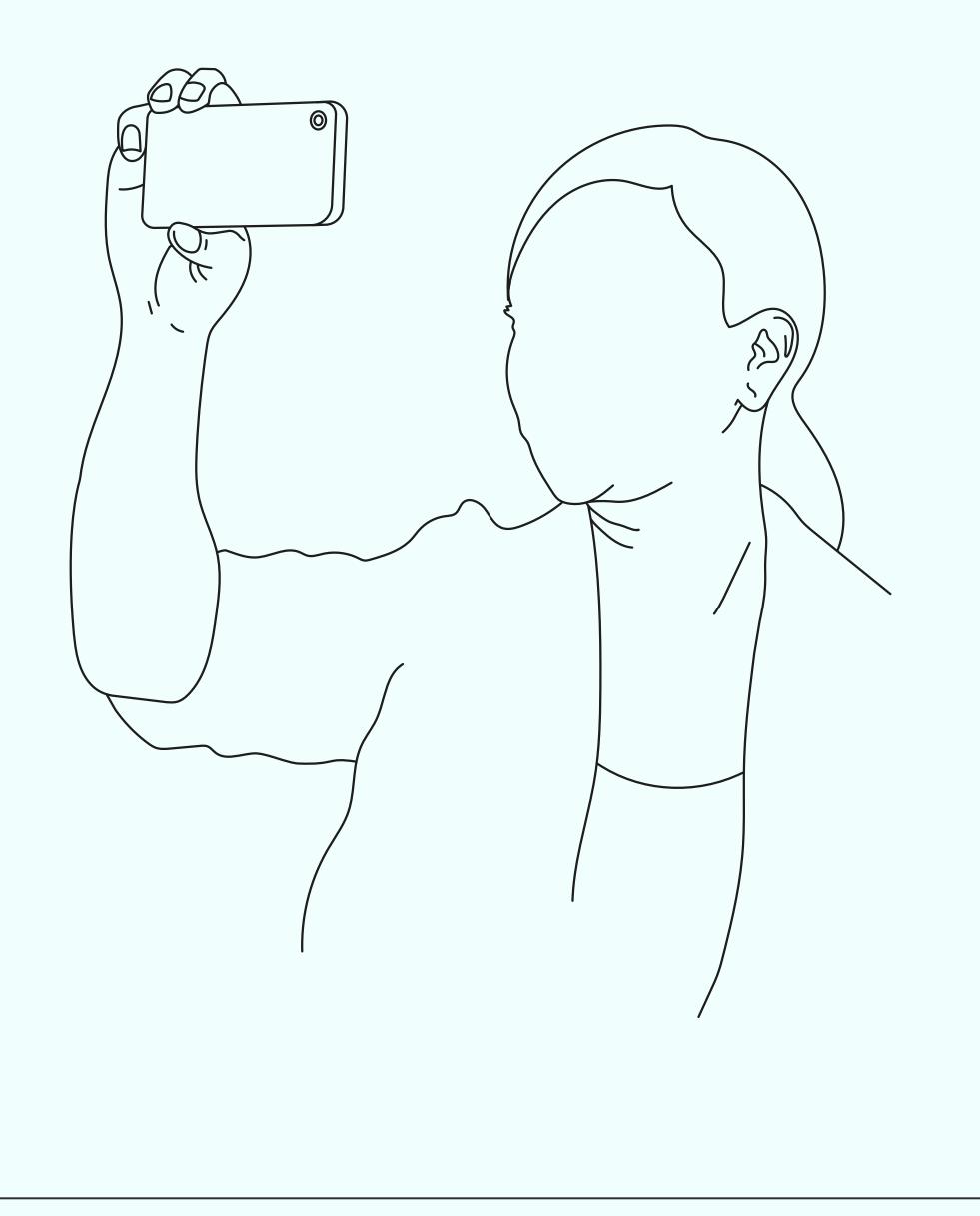




rtve lab

# How to document a **conflict**, **catastrophe** or **humanitarian crisis**



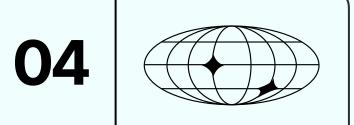
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# Be Witness

# Information can save lives

Anyone with a smartphone, no need to be an investigator or journalist, can report any type of emergency situation. For your testimony to be verifiable, it must meet a series of requirements.

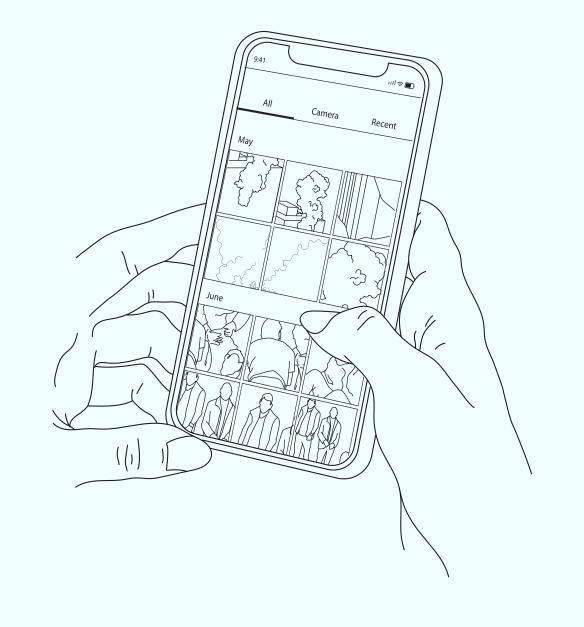


## But what do I do if I can't do any of this right now?

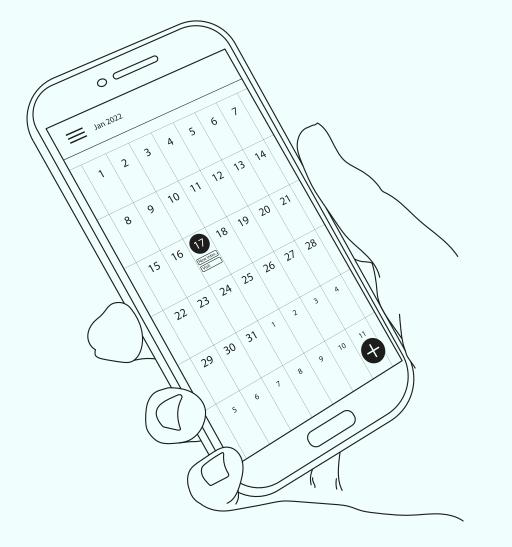


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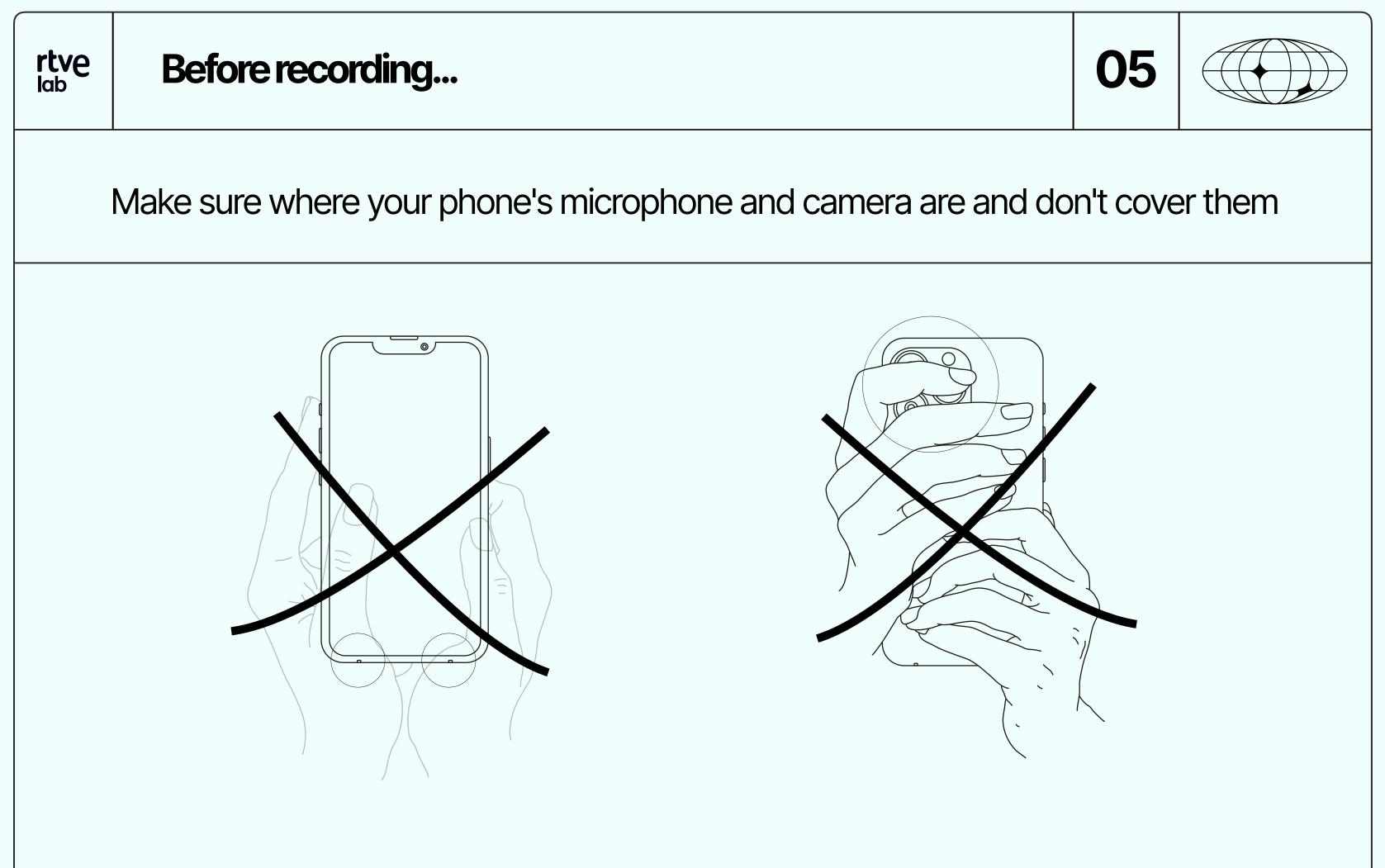
> You can tell your testimony to others, to local authorities (in case they are not involved), or to NGOs dedicated to the defense of Human Rights or humanitarian aid.



If the problem is the connection, you can record images or sounds to share them when possible.

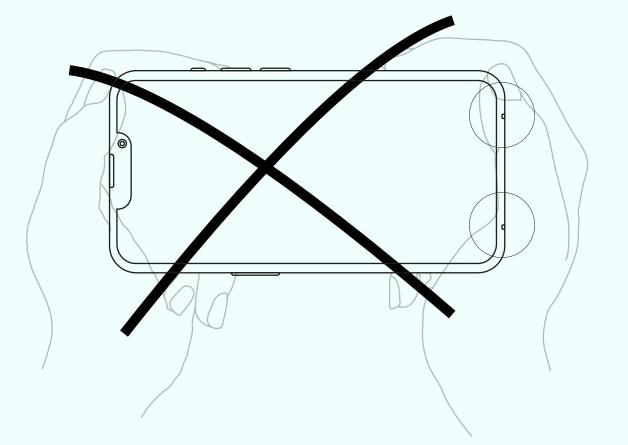


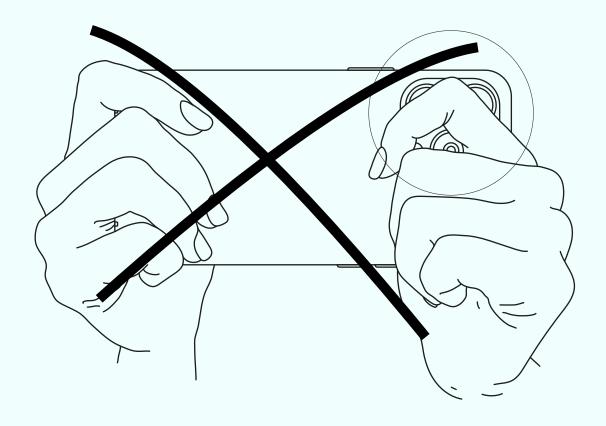
If you record, remember to record details such as location, exact date and anything that will facilitate later verification of the facts.



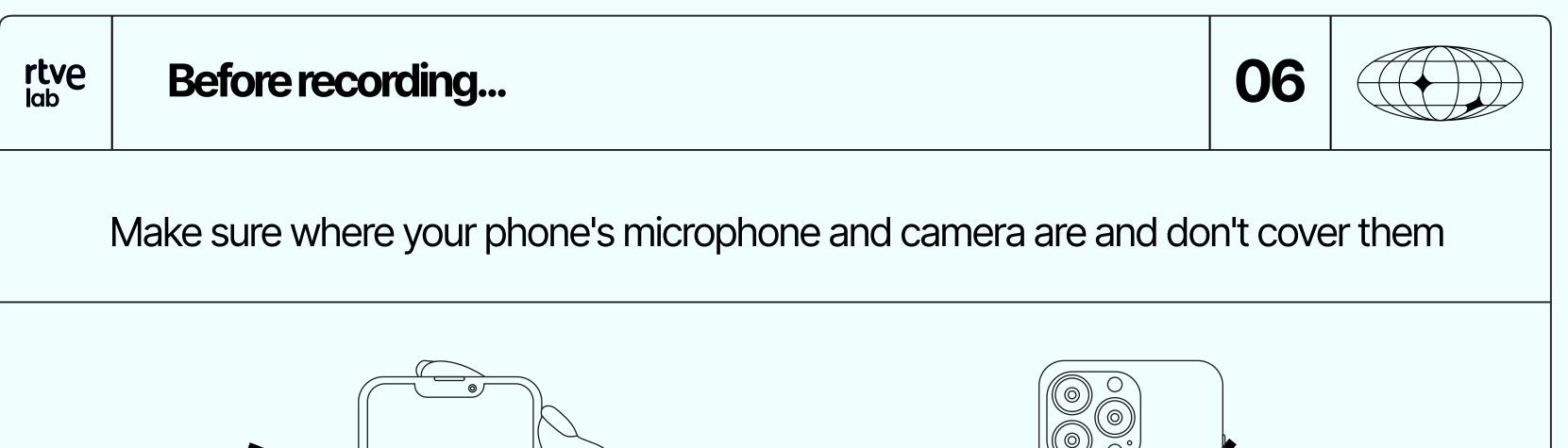


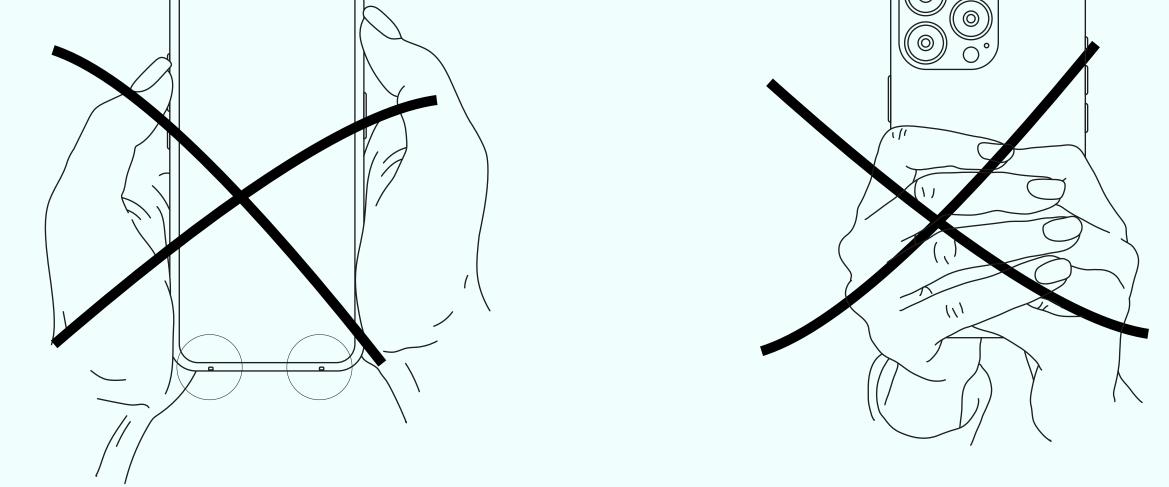
## Incorrect





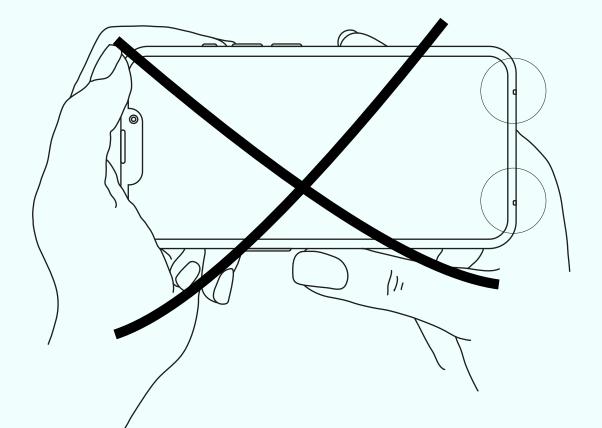
© LAB RTVE 2022

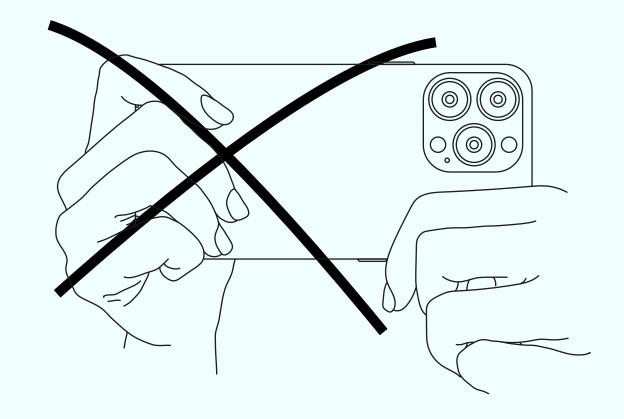


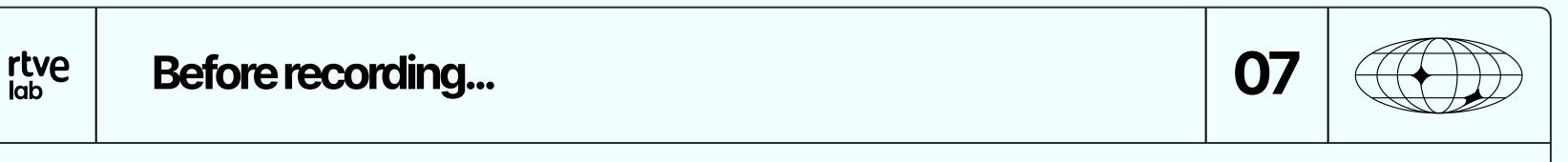




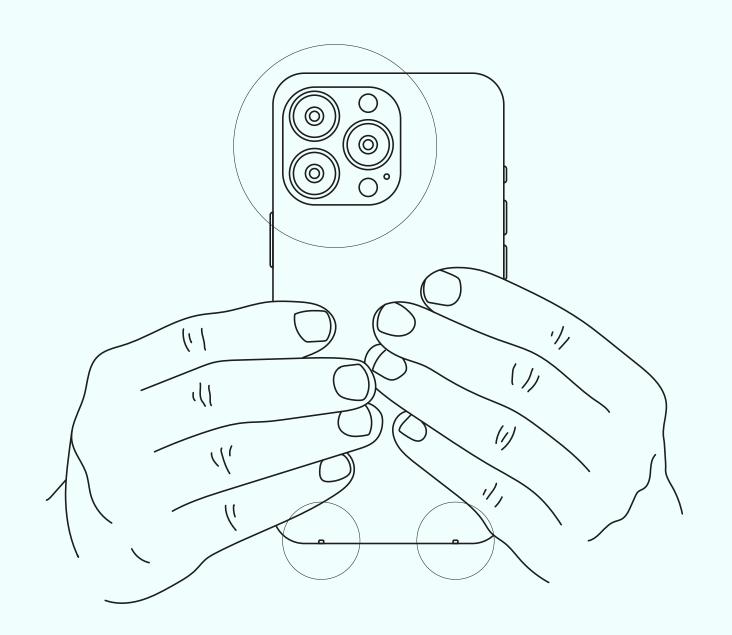
## Incorrect



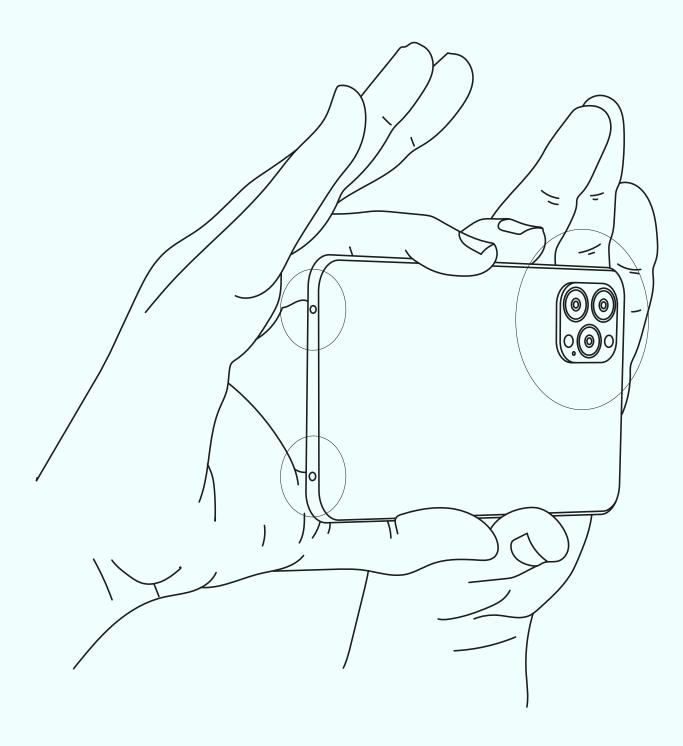




Make sure where your phone's microphone and camera are and don't cover them

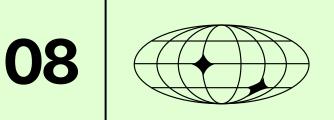






Right

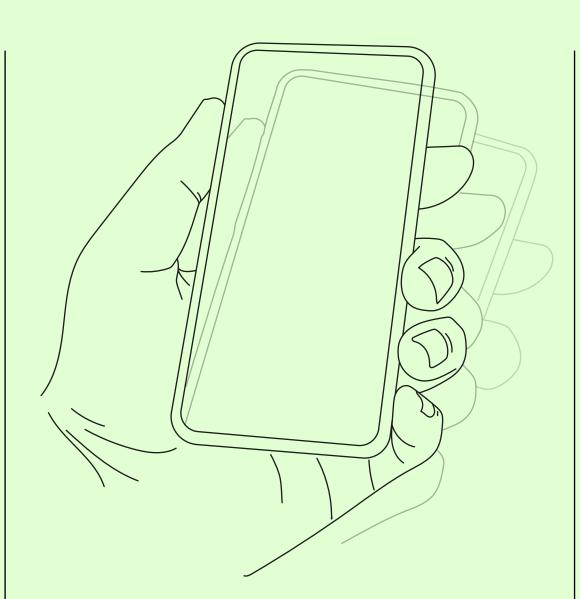




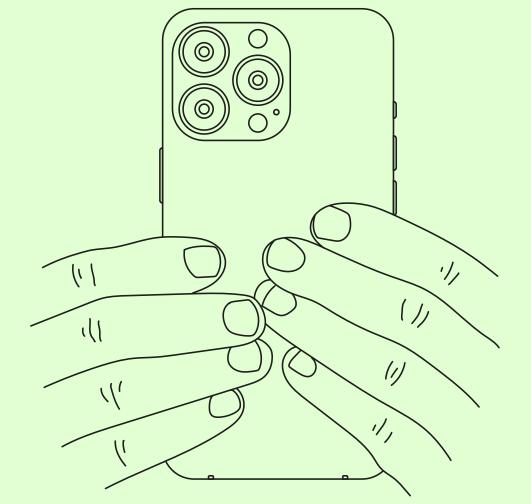
# Be safe. Your safety comes first.



Make sure you have activated the recording. Include references such as buildings, businesses or other objects that certify the location. Do this without cutting the recording.

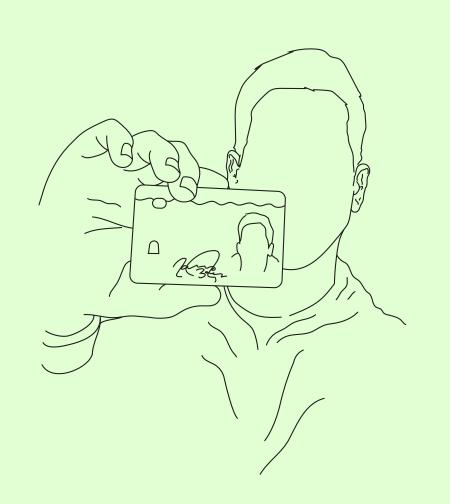


**Do not move the cell phone too fast.** Take long shots of at least 20 seconds. If you have to move around, try to stay in the frame without putting yourself in danger.

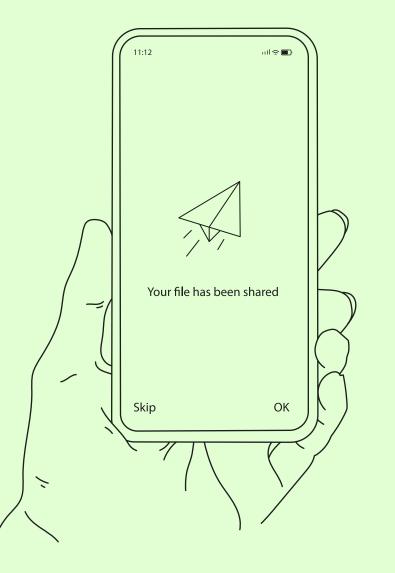


**Tips for a stable image:** Hold the cell phone with both hands. Keep your elbows close to your body. If possible, keep both feet firmly on the ground. If possible, rest the phone on a stable place.

#### If you are going to report an **abuse** or **crisis**...



...Record yourself next to your identity document saying date and place, at the beginning or at the end of the scene, without cutting the recording.

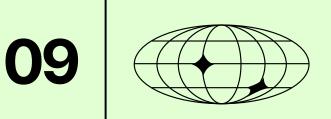


You can send it to a competent body or authority and have the legal effects of a complaint.



ATTENTION: If you are going to make the scene public, cut that part so as not to put yourself in danger.





# Be safe. Your safety comes first.

If you are going to post on TikTok or Instagram Stories, vertical is best.

#### Portrait framing





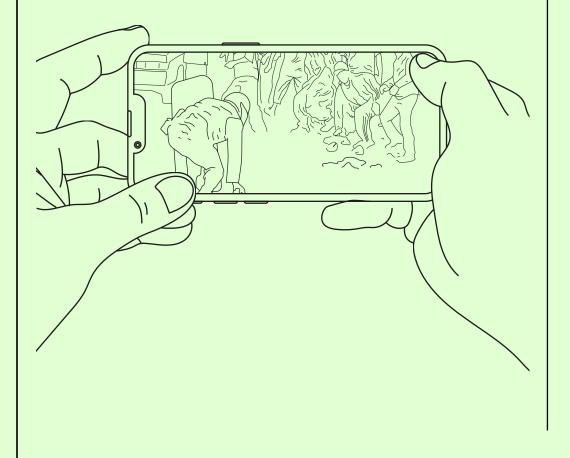
Don't use the zoom of the camera The image will lose a lot of quality and may be difficult to decipher. If there is no risk, it is better to physically zoom in.



If possible, record from an elevated position. Beware of the wind! If the air is blowing, it is best to record with the microphone facing upwind or shield it with your body.

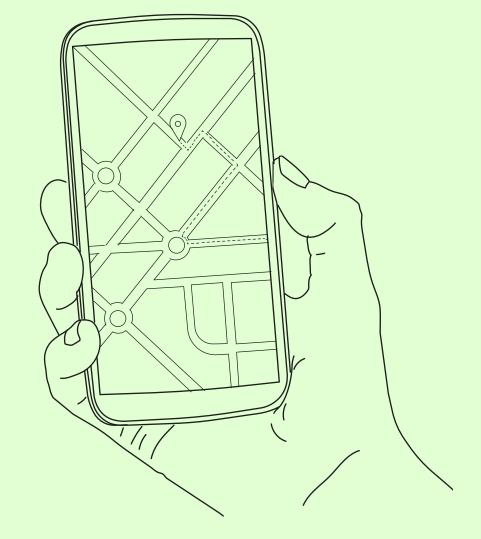
Select the format that best fits the scene and do not change it during the recording.

Horizontal framing

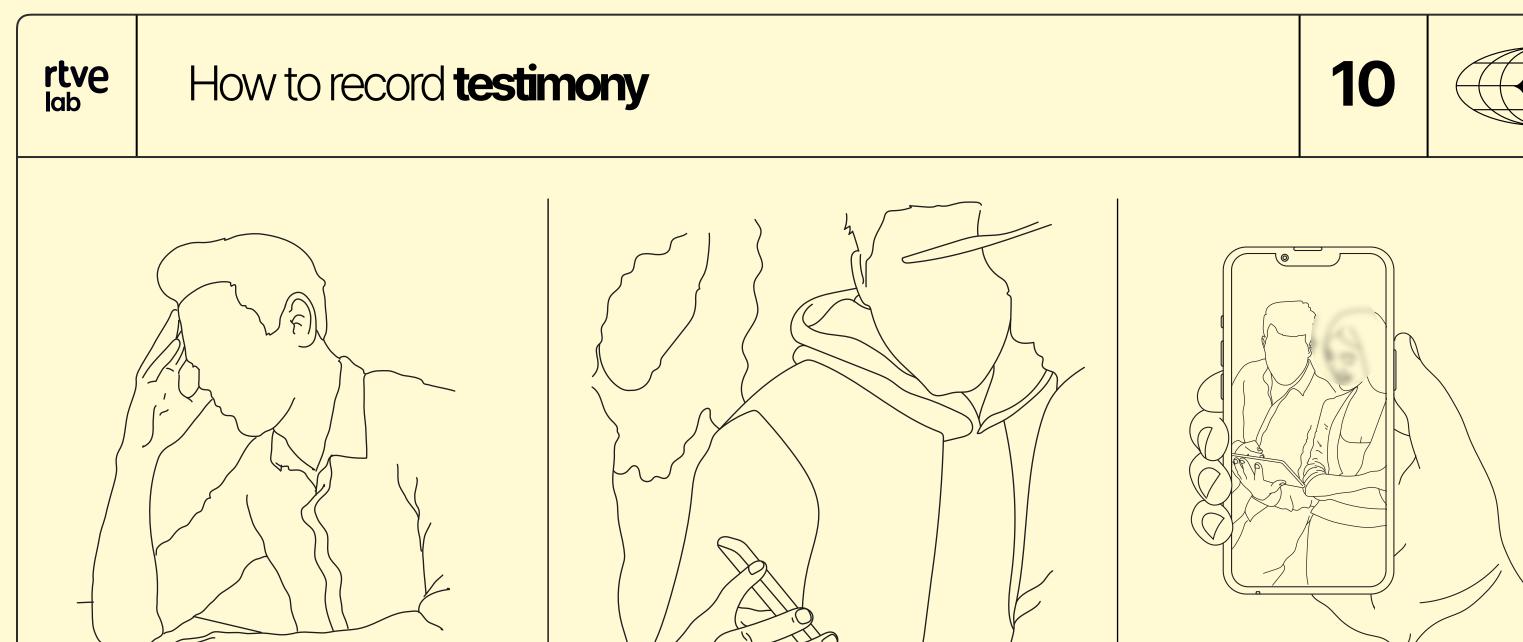




If possible, record from an elevated position.



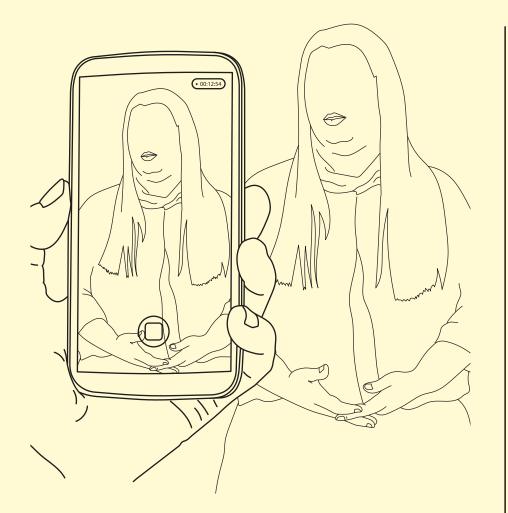
If it doesn't put anyone in danger, mention the location as precisely as you can, either in the video itself or in the accompanying information. You can look up the GPS data and save it to provide it in writing with the video.



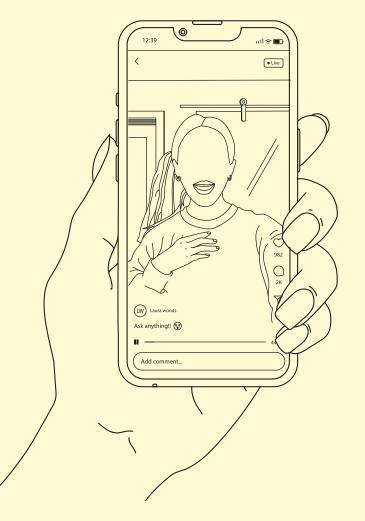
Be concerned about the condition of people who have just experienced a traumatic situation.

Don't go too far away if you have to record their voice with your phone's microphone.

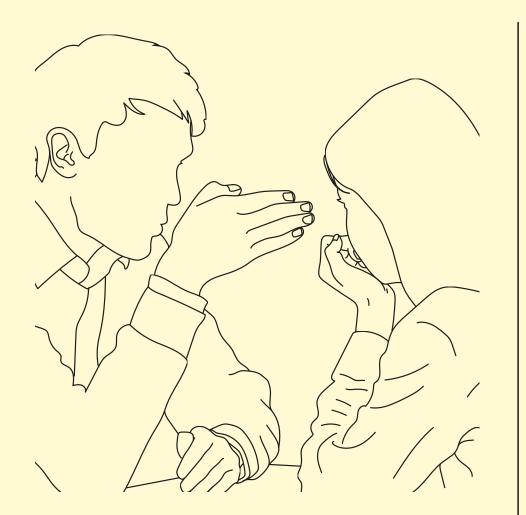
Protect their identity if their testimony may put them in danger.





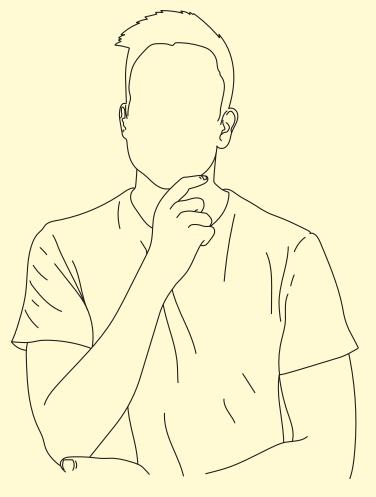


Record the person's verbal consent and identifying information.



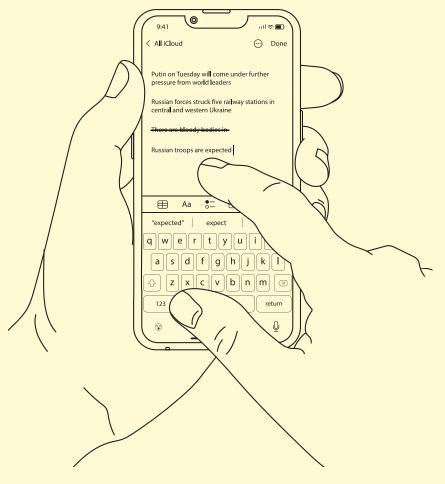
Ask for exact details of what happened.

Anticipate the questions Explain to your interviewee what data you are interested in. The fundamental questions are usually: Who, what, when, where, why.



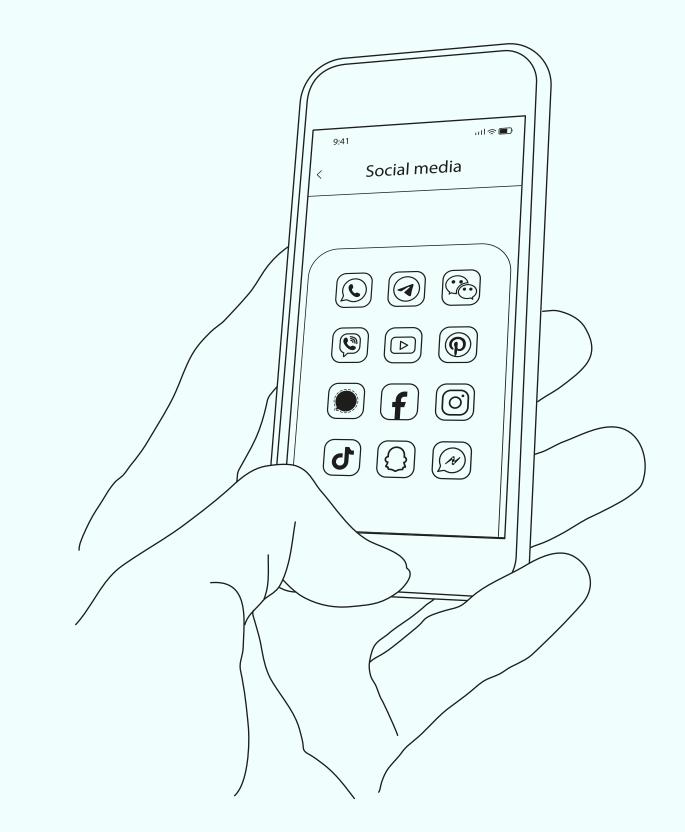
The witness may be confused or make mistakes.

Broadcasting in streaming? It is better not to broadcast a live interview because of the repercussions it could have if the interviewee gives wrong information or we expose his or her identity.

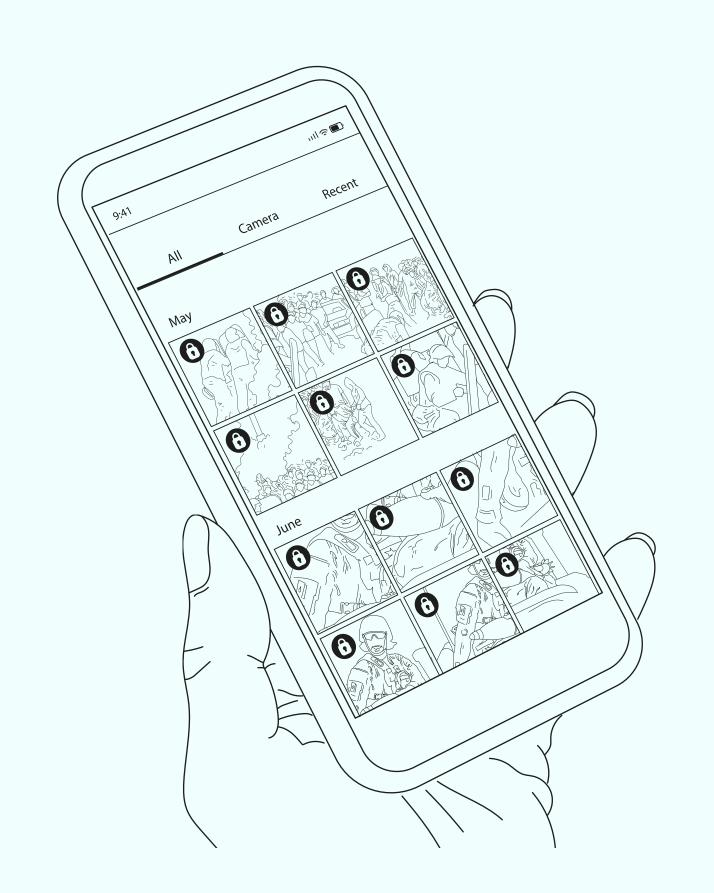


Avoid lurid details. Be precise.





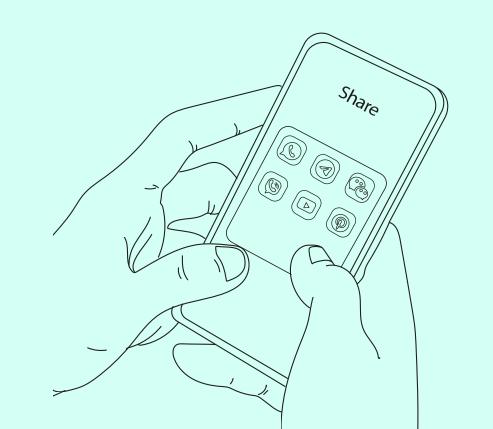
If you want to disseminate the content so that it reaches as many people as possible, use networks that erase metadata to preserve your security.

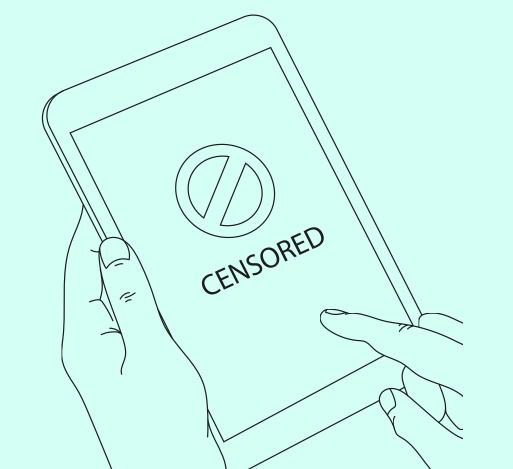


On the other hand, if you want your testimony to serve as documentary evidence, try to share your content and keep the material in its original format.



#### The local population is directly affected. Their interest in a crisis is related to their own safety and helps them to make decisions in the most appropriate way.



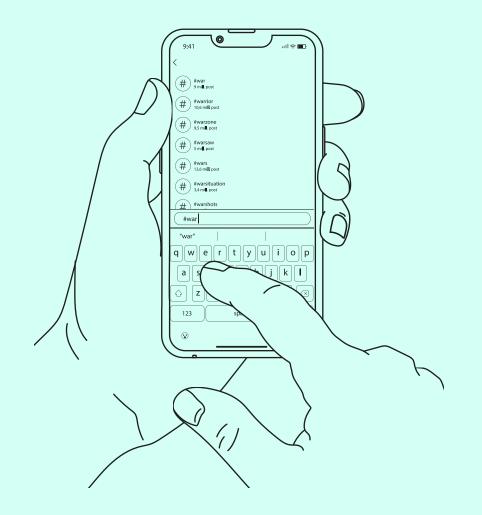




Where to share it Communities tend to share their content more quickly through messaging applications. Depending on the area, Whatsapp, Telegram, Wechat or Viber among others may be used more.



Facilitates verification The exact location, local time and description of the context in which the events occur help to verify their authenticity. Beware of censorship Some networks may be temporarily censored, so it is always best to post in at least two different network locations.



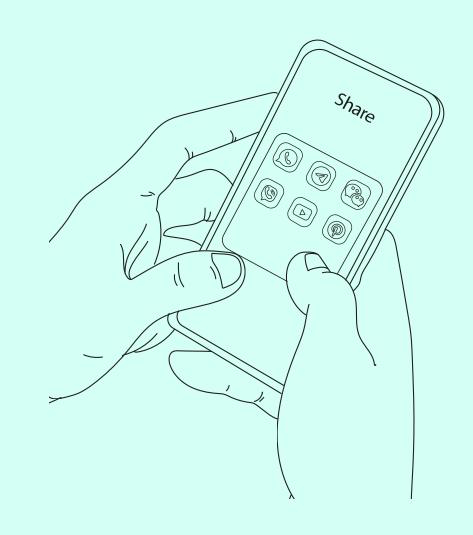
If you are going to upload it to social networks... ...you can also add #'s that are used by the local community to make them easy to find.

If your intention is to denounce... ... Look for local authorities (if they are not involved) or NGOs that can bring to justice the actions you have evidence of. There are a number of useful practices to ensure that the chain of custody (essential in legal proceedings) is not broken:

Keep the original file and make copies. Send the file through applications that retain metadata (EXIF and GPS information = technical information that accompanies the content and facilitates its verification, but can also expose personal data).

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What happens in one country can affect other parts of the world. Reporting activates the investigation of crimes or international humanitarian aid, governments and organizations such as the UN.



### Where to Share It

The most effective way is to use the social networks with the most global presence. TikTok, Twitter, Wechat, VK or Meta are some of them.



## What if there is a blackout?

In case of censorship, you can resort to VPN connections to try to "jump the wall".



# What if I want to file a complaint in an international court?

Normally, to bring a complaint to an international body such as the International Court of Justice, you must do it through the local justice system, or through international human rights organizations such as Amnesty International or Human Rights Watch.



Be Witness is an interactive project of the Laboratory of audiovisual innovation and new narratives of RTVE. Our intention is to give the necessary keys to collect quality information in case of witnessing a conflict, a catastrophe or a humanitarian crisis.

Because information can save lives, and injustices cannot go unpunished.



More on **rtve.es/be-witness**