How to avoid your data being collected to track and prosecute you

But there's one thing
that hasn't changed over 50 years

Aram
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https://aramzs.nexus

https://aramzs.me/kcavoid

This isn't a presentation about what direct action to take nor is it legal advice

I am not a lawyer

https://www.rcfp.org/resources/police-protesters-and-the-press/
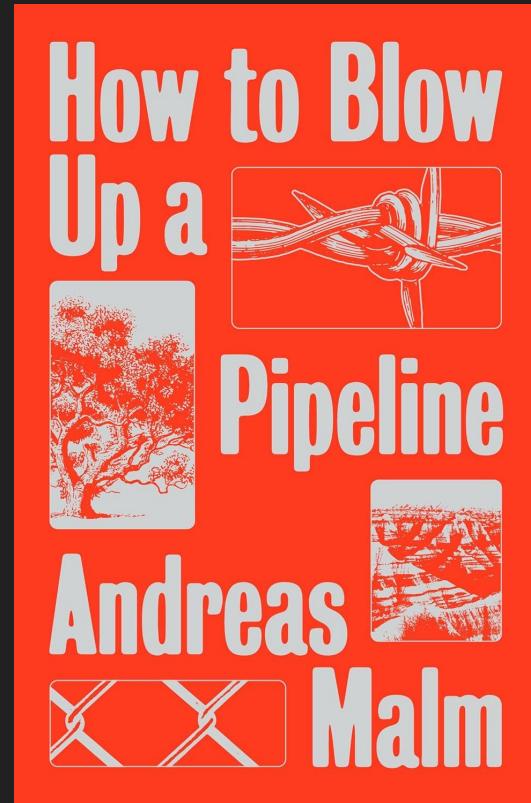
I will recommend you this book

about why people consider taking action, what the philosophy is that might justify action, and how it relates to broader movements and history

I am not speaking on behalf of my employer!

How to Blow Up a Pipeline

Andreas Malm

This is a presentation about how to:

- protect yourself

- the people around you

- work in the midst of or reporting on direct action events in your community/campus

Why do I need to know this?

Is it ethical to cover protesters while using techniques like protesters do to protect yourself or keeping your identity protected from authorities?

Yes

Your politics or slant is irrelevant to your choice to work safely.

Want to cover a protest more than once?

You're not getting people to talk to you twice if:

- You take photos of their uncovered faces without permission

- Your phone, social, credit card, or Google data reveals where and who they are

- Your data footprint or photo metadata gets them deported

Journalists protect their sources

Student journalists assaulted, others arrested as protests on college campuses turn violent

By Hadas Gold, CNN
6 minute read · Updated 6:41 PM EDT, Wed May 1, 2024

AFTER GEORGE FLOYD

NPR reporter arrested during George Floyd protest will receive settlement from L.A. County

"Journalists in Los Angeles County should be able to record police activity in public without fear

U.S. Press Freedom Tracker | Incidents | Database | Analysis | FAQ | About | Donate | Submit an Incident

● ◎ Student journalist detained at University of Minnesota protest

#protest #student journalism

Cops don't like journalists

At least three credentialed journalists were arrested while covering protests in downtown Chicago during the Democratic National Convention (DNC). Reporters Without Borders (RSF) condemns this act of police interference with journalists' ability to do their jobs, and calls for all charges against them to be dropped. Police in Chicago and across the United States must respect the right of journalists to do their jobs safely and without interference in covering election-related events and protests.

September 17, 2024 Update: Recently released Chicago Police body camera footage shows journalist Sinna Nasseri repeatedly informing police that he is a journalist and showing them his press credentials. Nevertheless, the officers violently arrested the photographer and held him for eight hours for "being in the way" according to police Superintendent Larry Snelling. Police should drop the frivolous ordinance violation against Nasseri.

Iowa Journalist Who Was Arrested at Protest Is Found Not Guilty

In a rare case, Andrea Sahouri, a was prosecuted after covering a violence in May.

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NEWS & COMMENTARY

Police are Attacking Journalists at Protests. We're Suing.

We are facing a full-scale assault on the First Amendment freedom of the press.

Brian Hauss,
Senior Staff Attorney,

As people take to the streets to demand justice for George Floyd, Breonna Taylor,

ONE NATION, TRACKED

AN INVESTIGATION INTO THE SMARTPHONE TRACKING
INDUSTRY FROM TIMES OPINION

And surveillance is easier to run through your smartphone than ever.

G

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Your Phone Is a Goldmine of Hidden Data for Cops. Here's How to Fight Back

By **Shoshana Wodinsky**   Published June 2, 2020 | Comments (50)

Photo: Chandan Khanna/AFP via Getty Images

How to Track the Tech That's Tracking You Every Day

For folks trying to get a grip on their digital privacy—whether you're an activist or not.

By **Shoshana Wodinsky**   Published June 6, 2020

Photo: Getty

It's easy to feel helpless right now. Cities across the country are seeing unarmed protesters maimed by police officers who enjoy both the full support of the current presidential administration and of the American legal system itself. Congress is, in 2020, debating whether to make *lynching* a federal hate crime. And there's still a pandemic happening! Meanwhile, even the people who emerge from this moment unscathed physically will, undoubtedly, find their digital lives compromised in more ways than we can possibly fathom.

This last bit, at least, is something we can make meaningful progress on without risking life and limb. But that doesn't mean it will be easy.

Additional Note:

Respect the privacy practices of your subjects when reporting on them.

Talk to protest organizers, anonymous subjects, leakers, etc… about what their privacy and security practices are and meet them. Then, if it makes sense to do so, exceed them. Make suggestions from your expertise but listen to their security precautions.

Do not tell at-risk sources you know their safety better than they do.

Remember that taking these steps isn't just about protecting yourself, it's about protecting others who may be more at risk than you because they are undocumented, have a criminal record, have an underlying health condition that would make an arrest life threatening, etc etc.

9:41 PM · May 30, 2020

BASIC

SERIOUS

ADVANCED

BASIC

- Bare minimum work for digital safety
- You should do this as a responsible journalist
- You should do this if you are regularly near a protest

SERIOUS

- You should be aiming to do this.

- Reconsider sensitive source interactions without these practices

ADVANCED

- You want to be a resource and a help to those around you.

- You are looking for a way to do some of the activities you could not do securely in other approaches

BASIC: Secure Your Phone

- Switch your phone to password only (no face ID or fingerprint access)

- Make a password 8-12 characters long

- Use device encryption where possible

BASIC: Secure Your Phone

- Also do this at the border, or maybe when you fly in general now.

"In the United States, using a biometric—like your face scan or fingerprint—to unlock your phone may also compromise legal protections for the contents of your phone afforded to you under the Fifth Amendment privilege against compelled incrimination."

- EFF

BASIC: Secure Your Phone

- Turn off location services

- Turn off Bluetooth to avoid beacons

BASIC: Apps

- [Disable basic app tracking](#)

- Location services should be turned off

- Ad tracking should be turned off at the system level

BASIC: Apps

- Log yourself out of everything you aren't using, especially social media

BASIC: Apps

- Delete apps now that don't do anything but track you

- Many health apps, especially women's health apps are selling your data.

BASIC: Social Media

- Be careful what you post live. Use a clean phone and Proton Mail to set up anonymous new accounts.

- [How to Use Social Media at a Protest Without Big Brother Snooping | WIRED](#)

- Consider having an off-site buddy for social media posts

ADVANCED: App access

- Android: Pin & unpin screens

- Use Guided Access with iPhone, iPad, and iPod touch - Apple Support

You do not have to unlock your phone for the cops

BASIC: Backup and delete data off your device

- Google Drive and iCloud can be used to pull your data off your device

- SD cards in your device often do not get encrypted

- Photos, files and other stored data can hold data about you, where you've been and your network

BASIC: Have 2FA Options other than your phone

- If the cops take your phone now what?

- YUBIKey, 2FA Codes, a home device

- Virtual Phone Numbers

SERIOUS: Avoid Tracking

- Ad tech on standard websites can be used to track you

- Block ads, use VPNs or Tor.

- Consider DDG on your phone - [DuckDuckGo Now Stops Android Apps From Snooping On Your Data](#)

SERIOUS: Clean up your data

- Consider clearing your data immediately before and after a protest

- Most platforms have data deletion and checkout options you can use.

- [How to Take Back Control of Online Data With Apps Like Consumer Reports' Permission Slip](#)

BASIC: Secure Comms

- Do not use any texting or call service except for **Signal**

- **Use Signal** and give people usernames and not phone numbers

SERIOUS: Leave Your Phone

- You can leave your phone at home

- A phone you don't have can't be taken.

SERIOUS: Use an alternative phone number

- Use Google Voice to get a free number to use

- Get a cheap pre-paid SIM

- Use this with Signal

ADVANCED: Burner

- Get a burner phone - [Protesters, Here's How To Set Up a Cheap Burner Phone](#)

- Keep it off at home

- Only turn it on for the protest

- Consider a non-smart phone

ADVANCED: Use Alternative Comms

- Mesh communications can be used to talk with others without connecting with the internet

- https://meshtastic.org/docs/getting-started/

SERIOUS: Strip Metadata from Photos

- Photos taken both on phones and modern digital cameras have a lot of information attached, check their info.

- Check and strip EXIF data

- Send photos via Signal, which strips metadata

"The right of citizens to record the police is a critical check and balance. It creates an independent record of what took place in a particular incident, free from accusations of bias, lying, or faulty memory. It is no accident that some of the most high-profile cases of police misconduct have involved video and audio records."

- Filming and Photographing the Police | American Civil Liberties Union

BASIC: Cash for Public Transport

- Public transport cards are trackable

- Paying with tap to enter connects your phone **and** card to your transport use

- If you can only use transport cards, pay for those in cash. Get a new one for each event.

BASIC: Plan Safely

- Records of planning while signed into Google or other user accounts may be traceable or available to law enforcement.

- Use VPNs or Tor and don't sign in or create burner accounts.

BASIC: Plan Securely

Search privately using: The Best Google Search Alternatives if Privacy Is Your Thing

(DuckDuckGo is an easy alternative)

BASIC: Plan Securely

- Check out:

  Consumer Reports Security Planner

SERIOUS: Think about where to drive and park your car

- Licence plate readers are common

- They can be used to track your travel across an entire city or town.

SERIOUS: Facial Recognition

- Wear a mask

- [Reflectacles](#)

- [Homeland Security Worries Covid-19 Masks Are Breaking Facial Recognition, Leaked Document Shows](#)

- [How Much Do I Need to Change My Face to Avoid Facial Recognition?](#)

- You have the right to remain silent. For example, you do not have to answer any questions about where you are going, where you are traveling from, what you are doing, or where you live. If you wish to exercise your right to remain silent, say so out loud. (In some states, you may be required to provide your name if asked to identify yourself, and an officer may arrest you for refusing to do so.)
- You do not have to consent to a search of yourself or your belongings, but police may pat down your clothing if they suspect a weapon. Note that refusing consent may not stop the officer from carrying out the search against your will, but making a timely objection before or during the search can help preserve your rights in any later legal proceeding.
- If you are arrested by police, you have the right to a government-appointed lawyer if you cannot afford one.
- You do not have to answer questions about where you were born, whether you are a U.S. citizen, or how you entered the country.

[Know Your Rights | Stopped by Police | ACLU](#)

BASIC: Bonus Round

- Own a Tesla?:

1. Fucking don't.
2. It's a mobile surveillance center covered in cameras and the company gives that footage to the cops.

- Have a Ring or other Video Doorbell on a protest route?

1. Fucking don't.
2. Take it down while there's a protest. All those companies give that footage to the cops.

EFF
[Surveillance Self-Defense](#)

[Attending a Protest | Surveillance Self-Defense](#)

EFF Privacy for Students
https://ssd.eff.org/module/privacy-students

Additional Sources

- Surveillance Self-Defense
- CrimethInc. : How to Form an Affinity Group : The Essential Building Block of Anarchist Organization
- First steps towards online privacy
- Practice digital self-defence — Beautiful Trouble
- How to Use Signal Without Giving Out Your Phone Number
- ANTI-DOXING GUIDE FOR ACTIVISTS FACING ATTACKS (Updated 10/16/23) | by Equality Labs
- Attending a Protest | Surveillance Self-Defense
- Consumer Reports Security Planner
- Opinion | Freaked Out? 3 Steps to Protect Your Phone - The New York Times
- How to Buy and Use a Burner Phone | WIRED
- Your Phone Is a Goldmine of Hidden Data for Cops. Here's How to Fight Back
- How to Cop-Proof Your Phone Before Heading to a Protest
- OpSec for activists | The Outline
- These Burner Phones Can Help You Evade Data Snoops | WIRED
- How to Safely Use Your Phone at a Protest
- 11 Online Privacy Tips for Getting an Abortion
- How to Get an Abortion in the Age of Surveillance
- DuckDuckGo Now Stops Android Apps From Snooping On Your Data
- Accessories for the Paranoid uses fake data to stop your devices spying on you
- How Hong Kong Protesters Evade Surveillance With Tech | WSJ
- Can I make my cellphone secure?
- Know Your Rights | Stopped by Police | ACLU
- Guide to Abortion Privacy — Digital Defense Fund

Additional Sources

Collection of sources [to understand how law enforcement captures your data](#).

Steal These Slides

`https://aramzs.me/kcavoid`

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https://aramzs.nexus