Accessible Workflows for Collecting & Preserving Human Rights Video Evidence

No Time to Wait Symposium
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WITNESS trains and equips human rights defenders around the world to use video and technology to expose abuses and fight for justice and lasting change.
Accessible Workflows for Collecting & Preserving Human Rights Video Evidence

- Human rights video evidence examples
- WITNESS collaborations
  - Community documentation of police violence in the US
  - Social media documenting state violence against Rohingya in Burma
- Gaps / needs
Video evidence example: DRC military tribunal
Collect Verifiable Photos and Videos

How the eyeWitness app allows your photos and/or video footage to be stored in a virtual evidence locker for use in trials and investigations.

1. You decide to report a serious human rights violation
2. Using the app you record the information
3. The app collects metadata for verification
4. You send the footage to our secure server
5. You keep a copy of your footage to share
6. Our analysts can assess your footage
7. We help support your accountability efforts

Source, Eyewitness to Atrocities, https://www.eyewitnessproject.org/
Video evidence example: Walter Scott case
Ex-South Carolina cop Michael Slager gets 20 years for Walter Scott killing

By Meridith Edwards and Dakin Andone, CNN

Updated 2110 GMT (0510 HKT) December 7, 2017

First lady's office calls out T.I. for 'disgusting' video...

For the first time, a woman is leading the largest command in...
Video evidence example: War crimes arrest warrant

Source: Bellingcat: How a Werfalli Execution Site Was Geolocated,
https://www.bellingcat.com/news/mena/2017/10/03/how-an-execution-site-was-geolocated/
Projects

• **Profiling the Police:** Archiving community documentation of police misconduct in the US.

• **Rohingya Genocide Archive:** Archiving social media of state violence against Rohingya in Burma.
Profiling the Police
Profiling the Police

CHARGES DROPPED AGAINST BROOKLYN FRUIT VENDOR WHOSE ARREST WAS CAUGHT ON VIDEO

By NY1 News | February 14, 2015 @5:11 AM

SHARE

Charges against a Sunset Park fruit vendor whose arrest was caught on video have been dropped.
Archiving El Grito's video collection

1. Planning.
2. Collecting /selecting videos.
3. Capturing miniDV tapes.
4. Processing and ingesting video files to storage.
5. Description, developing basic cataloging scheme.
6. Using videos and other public information to create officer timelines.
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EXACTLY
(BAGIT)
● Advocacy information
● Sample officer timeline
● Workflow toolkit
Part 2: Berkeley Copwatch database

- Started in 1990, co-founded by Andrea Prichett.
- Regular copwatch patrols, Peoples' Investigations, Know Your Rights trainings, UC Berkeley DeCal class.
Berkeley Copwatch database project

- Clarifying video collection policy.
- Re-design database with end uses in mind, with more structure, and better documentation.
- Streamlining video ingest workflows from camera --> storage, and input to database.
Where we're at now

Collaborative Workflow documentation

Berkeley Copwatch Database Intake Protocols [DRAFT]

Principles for intake: WHY do we collect footage?

- **INDIVIDUAL SUPPORT**: We want to curate footage and archive information to help people to manage their cases and find support for their cases. We want to support people knowing where to take their footage and assessing what they want to do with it. If we do not upload the footage because it has incriminating information or other reasons, we will make every effort to inform them to lawyers/advocates/etc., who can assist them.

- **REVIEW OF PATTERNS AND PRACTICES**: We want to gather and distribute and analyze information pertaining to the conduct of individual officers as well as the policies and practices of a department.

- **EVIDENCE IN CLASS ACTION LAWSUITS**: We may have campaigns where we specifically seek particular information and categorize the footage on that basis.

- **EERLY WARNING**: We want to be able to warn the city leaders when an officer has a documented track record of offenses and work with the City to prevent and document incidents.

Create Incident Records

- Create a new incident record

https://www.dropbox.com/s/kl88rbl8q3ldp3/incident-1.mov?dl=0

- Click **New Incident** button to create a new database record for the incident.

- **Enter**:
  - Date (mm/dd/yyyy)
  - **Time** (hh:mm AM or PM)
  - **Location**: street address or intersection or place name.

How to Offload Footage After a Copwatch Shift

Fellow the steps below for guidance on creating a new shift folder, offloading footage from your Camcorder, iPhone or Android and importing it onto the computer. Also learn how to link the video to an Incident Record in the database.

A. Setting Up Your Shift Folder

Organize all shift videos by Date > Camera A and Camera B > Shift Report

1. Open 'Shifts' folder on external media drive (BCW Media Drive 1ca, 2018)

2. Highlight the 'Yrem dikpyp' folder and press 'Command+C' to copy folder then press 'Command+V' to create a copy

3. Rename ‘em dikpyp’ to date of your shift.

New database

- For information about officers, participants, incidents, videos, other documentation, follow up actions
- Filemaker - pros and cons
Rohingya Genocide Archive

- Working with a Rohingya organization in SE Asia to establish sustainable Rohingya-led archive.
- Collect and preserve video and social media documentation of genocide and crimes against humanity against Rohingya people for purposes of investigation, accountability, justice, and truth-telling.
Background

- Rohingya people - marginalized and persecuted stateless minority in Burma.
- Numerous crackdowns by military using horrific violence, including on 25 Aug 2017 “clearance operation”.
- Major humanitarian crisis - thousands killed, missing; 700,000 Rohingya have fled.
- UN Fact Finding Mission recommends investigation and prosecution of Burmese military for crimes against humanity, war crimes and genocide.
- Preliminary examination at ICC underway on Rohingya forced deportation to Bangladesh.
Facebook bans Rohingya group's posts as minority faces 'ethnic cleansing'

As hundreds of thousands flee a brutal campaign by the Myanmar military, the social media company labels an insurgent group a ‘dangerous organization’

More than 400,000 Rohingya Muslims have fled Myanmar. Photograph: Zuma Wire/Rex/Shutterstock

Amid international accusations that Myanmar’s military is engaging in “ethnic cleansing” of the Rohingya Muslim minority, Facebook designated a
3pm 28/8/2017: #Rohingya villagers flee from #AlayThanKyaw as #ArsonAttacks & Killings by #Myanmar army army by going house to house growing
RGA Collecting Workflow

- **Facebook**
  - FB Graph API Explorer + Curl

- **Twitter**
  - FB Graph API Explorer + Curl

- **YouTube**
  - YouTube Data API Explorer
    - YouTube.videos.list service + Curl
  - YouTube-DL --id --write-info-json --format best

- **WhatsApp**
  - Built-in "Export Chat" button, "Attach media"
  - Built-in "Export Chat" button (phone) + Download from desktop app
RGA Collecting Workflow

**YOUTUBE**
- Video (highest quality available, via YouTube-dl)
- Video metadata (via YouTube-dl --write-info-json)
- (Optional) Additional video metadata (via YouTube Data API)

**FACEBOOK**
- Video (highest quality available, via YouTube-dl)
- Video metadata (via YouTube-dl --write-info-json)
- (Optional) Facebook post metadata (via Facebook Graph)

**TWITTER**
- Video (highest quality available, via YouTube-dl)
- Video metadata (via YouTube-dl --write-info-json)
- (Optional) Tweet metadata (via Twurl)

**WHATSAPP**
- Video (as delivered) _chat.txt
- (If available) Voice notes accompanying video

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Where we're at now

- Policies, workflows and data dictionary are documented.
- Continuing to build collection.
- Exploring how collection can be used in investigative, accountability, and justice efforts.
- Exploring how the collection can be made accessible to Rohingya community as a resource.
- Exploring how to make workflow documentation accessible for others to use.
Needs / Gaps

- For the most part, tools exist, but not all easy to use, or not all open source.
  - GUIs for existing media + metadata collection tools and easy step-by-step guidance and/or recipes.
  - Open source alternatives, e.g. to FileMaker [?]
- WhatsApp metadata, strategies for collecting from closed networks.
- Easy data modeling tools and walkthrough resources.
- Identifying duplicate content across different format/files.
Thanks!

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