

STAY UNSEEN

Privacy & surveillance

Cameras and phones can identify who was at a protest. A few simple habits make you much harder to single out.

01 Your face

Cover your face.

A well-fitting mask (N95 or cloth) plus a cap and sunglasses breaks most face recognition.

Assume cameras are watching.

Police reportedly run facial recognition on protest footage. Treat every camera as one.

Avoid a unique look.

Distinctive clothing, bags, tattoos or hair make you easy to track across cameras.

02 Your phone

Your phone can place you.

Cell towers and IMSI-catchers log your presence. Use airplane mode when you don't need to be online.

Lock with a PIN.

Not face or fingerprint — those can be physically forced. See Your Rights.

Back up as you go.

Turn on auto-upload for photos/video, so evidence is already saved off your phone if it's taken.

Turn off auto-connect.

Disable Wi-Fi and Bluetooth auto-join so your phone stops broadcasting.

03 **If police take your phone**

You don't have to unlock it.

You're not obliged to share your passcode. A PIN is safer than face/fingerprint, which can be forced.

Stay calm; don't resist physically.

Note the officer's name, badge number, and the time. Say clearly that you do not consent to the search.

Ask for a seizure receipt.

Police are expected to document what they take. Ask for a seizure memo.

Deleting isn't the end.

If forced to delete, deleted media is often recoverable — and anything already backed up to the cloud is safe.

Call a lawyer.

As soon as you can. An unlawful seizure or forced deletion can be challenged.

04 **Photos & video**

Blur faces before posting.

Protect other protesters — blur faces and hide identifying details in any photo or video you share.

Strip metadata.

Photos carry location and time. Remove it before sharing publicly.

Don't expose others.

Don't post people's faces, check-ins, or plans without consent.

**In short**

Cover your face. Lock your phone with a PIN and back up as you go. You don't have to unlock it for police. Blur faces before you post. Protect each other.