Your voice can stop a bullet.

The Independent Police Investigative Directorate (IPID) encourages the public to report any misconduct or human rights violations by the South African Police Service (SAPS). This factsheet outlines your rights during protests and provides information on reporting illegal police activity.

**Step-by-step guide to protesting:***

1. **Organise and report:*** Inform the police of your intention to protest at least 24 hours in advance. This can be done through the police helpline: 0800 023 456 or 012 399 0000. You can also contact the Legal Resources Centre (LRC) for free legal advice at 021 483 0669.

2. **Know your rights:*** During a protest, you have the right to:
   - Be informed of your rights under Section 3 of the Constitution.
   - Be given a notice of arrest.
   - Seek legal advice.
   - Access a solicitor or defence attorney.

3. **When can police use force?*** The police are only allowed to use force when:
   - Protecting the lives of individuals.
   - Preventing an escape or evading arrest.
   - Protecting public order and safety.

4. **Recording and reporting illegal police activity:** This guide outlines the steps protestors must follow when organising a protest, the rights of protestors, and how to report police misconduct.

**Reporting abuses of power:***

- **Corruption Watch:** Developed an Action Against Corruption tool that enables you to report police corruption anonymously.
- **The Western Cape Police Ombudsman:** You can lodge a formal complaint if you believe your rights have been violated. Their contact number is 012 399 0000.
- **Government and other law enforcement agencies:** These platforms seek to collect evidence to build a publicly held record of abuses, which can be used to understand their rights during protests. Click here for more information.

**Important dates and information:***

- **Police are only allowed to detain a person for a maximum of 48 hours.**
- **A warrant of arrest may be issued by a prosecutor or police officer with the rank of captain or higher.**
- **Defensive measures:** These include search and seizure, pushing protesters, and using crowd control weapons.
- **Setting up offensive measures:** These include setting up roadblocks and using water cannons.
- **Accountable police:** The public has the right to hold the police accountable if their rights are violated.

**Reporting injuries:**

- **Seek medical assistance immediately.** The medical officer in attendance will record the injuries in a J88 form.
- **Photograph evidence of the injuries.** This will help you prove your case in court.
- **Date and report the injury.** This will help you build a record of abuses.

**Reporting police corruption:**

- **Find out more here.**
- **Learn more about your rights when interacting with SAPS.**
- **To protect people against informal traders,** the Legal Resources Centre (LRC) has developed a guide outlining the implications of impoundment and administrative law.

**Contact information:***

- **Western Cape Police Ombudsman:** 012 399 0000.
- **Legal Resources Centre:** 021 483 0669.

**Learn more about your rights:**

- **Mobilisation and coalitions:** Essential to combat violence and harassment.
- **A warrant of arrest:** May be issued by a prosecutor or police officer with the rank of captain or higher.
- **Government and other law enforcement agencies:** These platforms seek to collect evidence to build a publicly held record of abuses, which can be used to understand their rights during protests.

**Download the factsheet:**

- **Here.**

**Support:**

- **Gun Free SA:** A national NGO committed to reducing gun violence through public policy advocacy.
- **###**

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- **@CorruptionWatchSA**
- **@LegalResourcesCentre**

**Read more:**

- **Legal Resources Centre**
- **Corruption Watch**
- **TORTURE DEFINITION**
- **In line with international human rights law and principles, any use of force must be proportionate.**
- **Any gun owner who commits any of these offences can be fined, imprisoned, or be declared unfit to own a gun.**

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**An arrest can be made without a warrant if:**

- **The officer must inform the person of the warrants.**
- **Photograph evidence of the injuries.**
- **Seek medical assistance immediately.**
- **Date and report the injury.**
- **When the trader flees and abandons goods when approached by metro police,** the officer must inform the person of the warrants. Photograph evidence of the injuries. Seek medical assistance immediately. Date and report the injury.

**Volunteers and donations:**

- **Learn more about volunteering:**
- **Donate:**

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**Police accountability:**

- **Learn more about police accountability:**
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**Police corruption:**

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**Human rights abuse:**

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**Benefits:**

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**Refugees and asylum seekers:**

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**Women's rights:**

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**Youth rights:**

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**Children's rights:**

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**Business and investors:**

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**Impoundment and administrative law:**

- **Learn more about impoundment and administrative law:**
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**COVID-19 lockdown:**

- **Learn more about COVID-19 lockdown:**
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