



Privacy statement

Research to establish a timeline of the protests of 7-9 May 2024 at Utrecht University

Duration of research: until the end of August 2024

This is the privacy statement for the *Research to establish a timeline of the protests of 7-9 May 2024 at Utrecht University*. Here you can read what the research is about, how & by whom it will be conducted, and how personal data that is collected by the researchers will be handled.

What is the purpose of the research?

The aim of this research is to establish a timeline of the events on 7-9 May 2024, including the actions of protesters, university leadership, city officials, and police. This timeline will help the university to learn important lessons from these events.

N.B. The purpose of the research is *not* to identify individuals who played a role during the protests, nor to institute sanctions against any individuals.

The research will be conducted by the Global Justice Investigations Lab (the 'GJIL'). The GJIL has its own goals by conducting this research:

- A scientific purpose: using open-source information and camera footage, among others, to compile a timeline of events (to the extent possible) to contribute to the internal investigations of the university and other actors, and to publish the findings.
- An educational purpose: to allow student researchers to learn about, and practice with, the research methods of the GJIL.

How will the research be conducted?

The research team uses two categories of sources:

- Relevant open-source social media posts from protesters, media outlets and bystanders. These posts are categorised and analysed.
- Video footage recorded on the dates in question by Utrecht University (UU) surveillance cameras.

Who are the researchers?

The investigation will be conducted by researchers from the Global Justice Investigations Lab, assisted by two students who will review the camera footage.

Has the research been approved?

UU privacy officers have conducted a so-called data protection impact assessment (DPIA) which showed that UU can safeguard the fundamental rights and freedoms of data subjects by using appropriate security measures. Thereafter, the study was approved by UU's Executive Board.



What about personal data?

It is inevitable that researchers will process personal data in the context of this research. In a general sense, personal data is information that says something about a person, such as someone's name or address. But also, for example, messages someone has posted on social media or images on which someone could be recognisable.

Because researchers work with personal data, the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) applies. The GDPR is a European law that gives people whose personal data is processed (the 'data subjects') certain rights. For example, they are entitled to proper information about the research. Hence this privacy notice.

Why doesn't the UU inform data subjects personally?

With certain types of research, it is not possible to personally inform all those whose data is being processed. In those cases, it is not possible to ask them for consent to use their data, should this be necessary. This is also the case for this study. The UU does not know exactly who all the data subjects are, we don't have their current contact details, or there are so many people involved that it is impossible to approach all of them personally. The UU therefore tries to inform the data subjects as well as possible through this privacy statement.

What personal data are used? And for what purpose?

The researchers collect and process the following personal data:

1. Open-source social media posts from news outlets and from individuals who were at the protest – to gather first-hand testimonies of the events that took place at the protests on 7-9 May.
2. CCTV footage of the protests on 7-9 May, recorded by UU surveillance cameras – to help authenticate the timeline derived from the social media posts.

Do the researchers also collect 'special category' personal data?

When reading social media messages, and in exceptional cases also when viewing camera footage, there is a chance that the investigators will view messages or images that say something about the political beliefs of protesters or bystanders. These are so-called 'special category personal data'. Although these data might be processed, they will not be used in the investigation. Special category data in social media posts can be processed because it is made public by the data subjects themselves.

With regard to CCTV footage, only anonymous notes are taken, which cannot be traced back to individuals.

How is data subjects' personal data handled? Is this done safely?

The researchers treat data subjects' personal data with the utmost care. We have taken care to process as little personal data as possible.

1. Open-source social media posts from protesters and bystanders:



- *Links* to relevant posts are saved in the final report. This way, those who posted on social media platforms can always delete their posts without leaving a copy in the final report.
- Only the *most relevant posts* will be copied to the research documentation. For these cases, (scientific) verifiability is given priority over the (minor) infringement of the rights and freedoms of the posters.
- 2. CCTV footage recorded during the protests:
 - Only general observations about the images will be noted, no information on individuals.
 - To rule out the possibility that protesters that are recognisable may be negatively affected in the context of their studies, CCTV footage will only be viewed by student researchers, and not by the head researcher or other lecturers.
 - The student researchers have signed a confidentiality agreement in which they declare not to share any confidential information they learn during their research with others, including their lecturers.
 - The student researchers will review the footage at the office of the Security department. They are given access to recordings but do not receive a copy.

Who has access to the personal data?

The research team will have access to the links to social media posts and the associated notes. They also have access to the copies of the most relevant posts that are kept for the purposes of scientific integrity.

Surveillance camera footage is only viewed by the student researchers. The notes taken by them are anonymous and can be used by the other researchers.

How long will personal data be stored?

CCTV footage is stored according to the UU CCTV Policy. No copies of CCTV footage are made as part of this study. The notes made by the student researchers about the footage are anonymous; these are therefore not personal data.

The links to and – in certain cases – copies of social media posts with the accompanying notes are kept for at least 10 years after publication of the results. This follows the guidelines for scientific research in order to maintain scientific integrity. Raw data are no longer available for educational or organisational purposes after one year.

Will personal data be exported to a country outside the EEA?

No, all personal data remains within the European Economic Area.

UU ensures proper security of personal data

Utrecht University treats personal data with great care. Therefore, the UU has taken numerous security measures to ensure that personal data are protected and secured in an appropriate manner. For example, all computers that hold personal data are protected by a password. And many computers are even more secure, with a second code or password (2FA).

Is personal data used to create a profile of data subjects?

No, no profiles are created.



Can the UU use the personal data of data subjects?

The tasks of Utrecht University include conducting scientific research and offering academic education. These are tasks of general interest and, as such, we may use the personal data of data subjects for these purposes.

Earlier in this privacy statement, we indicated that the researchers may also process extra sensitive personal data of data subjects, namely about their political beliefs. We described there why it is legal for us to use that data.

What rights do data subjects have under the AVG?

Data subjects have a number of rights. For example, they have a right to know whether the UU has any personal data about them. And if so, they are entitled to review that information. If it contains errors, they can have these corrected. They can also ask the UU to delete their personal data; however, this is subject to certain conditions.

Because we process personal data in the public interest, data subjects also have the right – based on their specific situation – to object to such processing. The UU will consider whether the interests of the data subject outweigh the interests that the UU has in conducting this research. If the interest of the data subject outweighs the UU's, we will delete their data.

Note: Data subjects can only exercise these rights if the UU can (still) find out which personal data belong to them. In the case of anonymous data, this is not possible.

Would you like to exercise your rights? Then fill in the [Privacy Request Form \(uu.nl\)](#). Please include the name of the study. You will receive a response from us within one month (in special cases, within three months).

Data subjects also have the right to file a complaint. To do so, they can contact the UU privacy department (privacy@uu.nl) or the data protection officer (fg@uu.nl). Data subjects who cannot reach an agreement with us can file a complaint with the Autoriteit Persoonsgegevens (Dutch supervisory authority under the GDPR).

Contact details data controller

Universiteit Utrecht:

Heidelberglaan 8
3584 CS Utrecht

More information

For participants in scientific research, Utrecht University has written a [general privacy statement](#). In it, you will find much more information on how we handle the personal data of people involved in our research.