

# AFP FACT CHECK

Fighting disinformation in Asia



@AFPFactCheck





**SLAUGHTER IN SYRIA**

NEWS TONIGHT

## *ABC Apologizes for Showing Video From U.S. Gun Range in Report on Syria*

The video appeared in a report on Turkish attacks in northern Syria. ABC News did not specify how the error had occurred.

By Heather Murphy

Oct. 14, 2019



ABC News apologized Monday for mistakenly running a video that apparently was taken at a gun range in Kentucky with a report about Turkish attacks in northern Syria.

"We've taken down video that aired on 'World News Tonight Sunday' and 'Good Morning America' this morning that appeared to be from the Syrian border immediately after questions were raised about its accuracy," the network said in a statement on



This video shows a shooting range in the US, not 'destroyed Turkish tanks' in Syria

# AFP Fact Check

- AFP Fact Check launched in early 2018
- Now 20+ countries globally. In Asia: Australia, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Pakistan, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand
- Eight languages including French, Arabic, Indonesian
- Fake news global -- see same content multiple languages eg [HK facial recognition](#). [This](#) video was circulated in English and Polish.



# AFP + Facebook

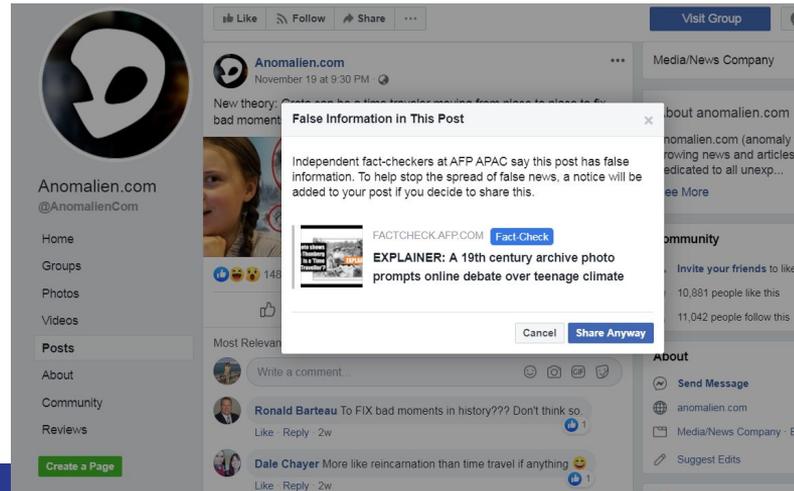
- Facebook Third Party Fact Checker
- Facebook provide AFP Fact check with feeds of potentially misleading content
- AFP fact checks on merit
- Once fact check is written, add back to FB ecosystem
- Facebook take steps to stop fake news spreading

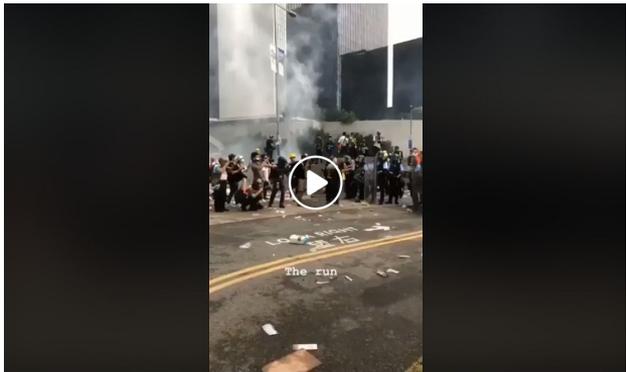
Photo shows Greta Thunberg is a 'Time Traveller'?

EXPLAINER



A 19th century archive photo prompts online debate over teenage climate activist





Christy Lam

Like Comment Share ...

2 2 Comments 1 Share

43 Views · about an hour ago ·

A woman shot in the head by the Hong Kong Police.

Chat (17) Share Settings

A woman stands defiantly against the Hong Kong police, demanding they stop the violence. Moments later they shoot her at point range with a riot gun

Why are people protesting in Hong Kong?  
Find out more in our article:

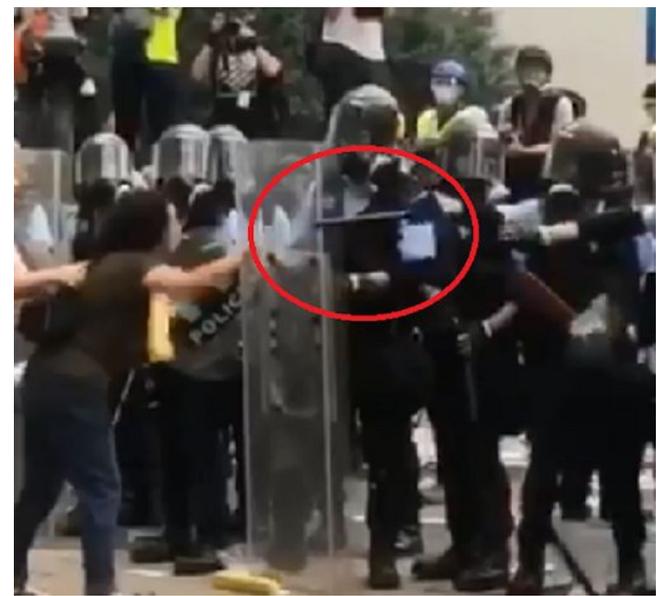
[redflagonline.org/2019/06/hong-k...](https://redflagonline.org/2019/06/hong-k...)



# Hong Kong protests



No, this video does not show Hong Kong police shooting a female protester



# Man mauled by bear?

 **Daily Mail**  
June 26 at 5:30 PM · 🌐

'It preserved me as food for later' 😱



DAILYMAIL.CO.UK  
**Man 'looking like a mummy' is rescued after spending a MONTH in a bear den**

😱👍😭 12K      2.1K Comments 8.1K Shares

👍 Like      💬 Comment      ➦ Share



13 days ago — 961 Shares

## Russian Man Found 'Mummified' After A Month In A Bear's Cave



Amelia Ward in **NEWS**



# After our fact check report was published...

## Revealed: Doctor says Russian man 'in bear attack' was actually Kazakhstani suffering from severe psoriasis

- **WARNING GRAPHIC CONTENT**
- **UPDATE:** Latest [report](#) reveals that the man suffers from chronic psoriasis and was never mauled by a bear

By [WILL STEWART](#) and [DANYAL HUSSAIN FOR MAILONLINE](#)

**PUBLISHED:** 09:31 GMT, 26 June 2019 | **UPDATED:** 13:11 GMT, 9 July 2019

[f](#) Share [t](#) [p](#) [F](#) [m](#) [e](#) [s](#) **72k** shares [2.4k](#) View comments

A Russian man looking like a living corpse has been rescued from a bear den after he claims the animal broke his back and left him there for a month.

## Viral Story Of Man Being Trapped In Cave By Bear In Russia Is Fake



**AMELIA WARD** in **NEWS**

Last updated 11:51, Tuesday 09 July 2019 BST

# METRO

NEWS... BUT NOT AS YOU KNOW IT



135.6M SHARES

TRENDING

UK WORLD WEIRD TECH

MORE



## Son 'buries his dad in £66,000 BMW after lifelong promise to buy him a nice car'

Marlene Berg Olsen Monday 11 Jun 2018 8:01 pm



MUST READ



'Push hat war' teens spotted jail because they wouldn't log on a nation

They were told they had been spotted all by a whisker at Oxford Court

## Nigerian man buries father in BMW?

**FALSE**



AFP

No, a Nigerian man was not buried in this \$90,000 car — it's a scene from a movie

# Tackling misinformation

**FIRSTDRAFT**

## 7 TYPES OF MIS- AND DISINFORMATION



### SATIRE OR PARODY

No intention to cause harm but has potential to fool



### MISLEADING CONTENT

Misleading use of information to frame an issue or individual



### IMPOSTER CONTENT

When genuine sources are impersonated



### FABRICATED CONTENT

New content is 100% false, designed to deceive and do harm



### FALSE CONNECTION

When headlines, visuals or captions don't support the content



### FALSE CONTEXT

When genuine content is shared with false contextual information



### MANIPULATED CONTENT

When genuine information or imagery is manipulated to deceive

[First Draft is an excellent organisation dedicated to researching and tackling misinformation](#)

# Why is online fact-checking becoming more important?

- Increasing amounts of unverified content online globally
- Media job cuts can lead to decline in standards
- Pressure to be first can result in mistakes
- Increasing scrutiny on media accuracy/scepticism about mainstream media



# Fact checks on our wire

- Asia fact check reporters add value to AFP's regional coverage -- writing sidebars, focus pieces, contributing key info to breaking news wraps
- Eg -- Indian elections  
Christchurch shooter video verification; Hong Kong disinformation analysis

## Surge in false online videos of Chinese military crackdown in HK

AFP Cat Barton, Rachel Yan, AFP · July 30, 2019



## 'Cyber warriors' sway Indian election

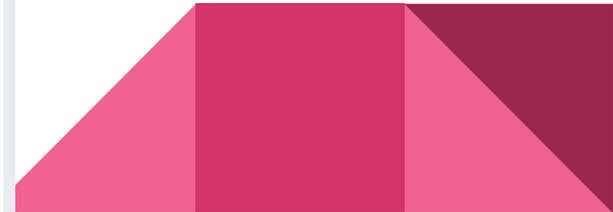
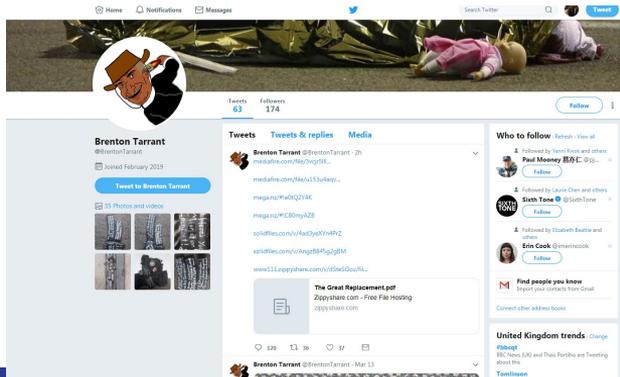
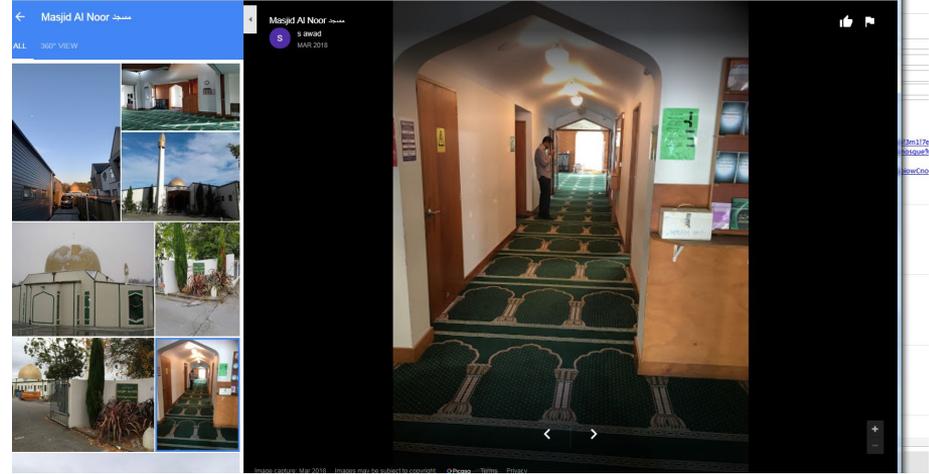
AFP Uzair RIZVI, AFP · May 16, 2019



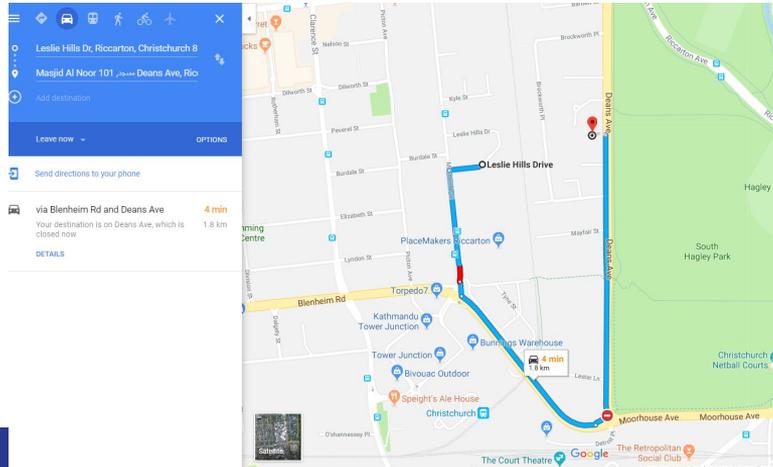
## New Zealand mosque gunman livestreamed shooting, published manifesto

AFP AFP · March 15, 2019

# Verifying UGC in the newsroom: Christchurch mosque shooting



# Christchurch mosque shooting: geolocation



- The footage shows the gunman drove less than 2 kilometres in the video

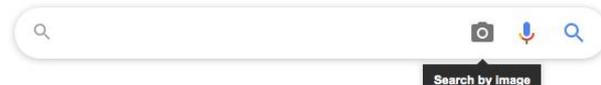
## Key tools for fact checking: Reverse image search

- Upload the image to [Google Image Search](#), [Yandex](#) or try the [RevEye extension](#)
- Google will provide you with a list of search results which you can analyse to try to establish where and when the image first appeared online
- Example: [Hong Kong protest pictures?](#)

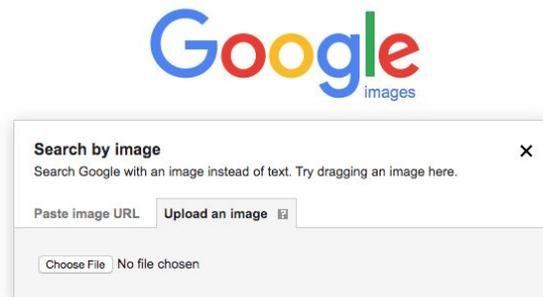




**STEP 1:** Choose your image to investigate, save it on your desktop



**STEP 2:** Run it through an image search on Google



**STEP 3:** Check the results, look for examples of the image being used in the correct context

Google Screenshot: 33.48.png Yellow vests movement

Pages that include matching images

- Yellow Vestiges: Inside the Riots of March 16 ... - CrimethInc.**  
<https://crimethinc.com> › 2019/03/22 › yellow-vestiges-inside-the-riots-of-...  
1400 × 933 - Mar 22, 2019 - Facing all these changes and the erosion of momentum, would the **yellow vests movement** be able to survive the national debate? During the ...
- Yellow vest protesters ransack Paris boutiques and restaurants**  
<https://www.thelocal.fr> › major-yellow-vest-rally-turns-violent-in-paris  
640 × 427 - Mar 16, 2019 - Saturday's turnout is a test for the "yellow vest" movement, which ... But many "yellow vests" dismissed the consultation as a smoke-screen.
- Yellow vest protests banned from Champs-Elysees and Paris ...**  
<https://www.standard.co.uk> › News › World  
2500 × 1667 - Mar 18, 2019 - France's prime minister has banned yellow vest protests on the Champs-Elysees Avenue in Paris ... repeated destruction has occurred since the protest movement began in November. ... **Yellow vests** on March 16 - In pictures.
- Yellow vest protests: Thousands of demonstrators take to ...**  
<https://www.standard.co.uk> › News › World  
2500 × 1667 - May 4, 2019 - Thousands of yellow vest protesters took to the streets of France for the 25th ... Yellow vests gathered for the 25th week in a row/

Google Screenshot: 33.48.png Yellow vests movement

About 3,470,000,000 results (1.09 seconds)

Image size: 500 × 332  
Find other sizes of this image: All sizes - Small - Medium

Possible related search: **Yellow vests movement**

- Yellow vests movement - Wikipedia**  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yellow\\_vests\\_movement](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yellow_vests_movement)  
The **yellow vests movement** or yellow jackets movement is a populist, grassroots revolutionary political movement for economic justice that began in France in ...
- What France's 'yellow vests' can teach Hong Kong activists ...**  
<https://www.scmp.com> › Comment › Opinion › Hong Kong  
Riot police clash with protesters wearing yellow vests on December 8 near the Arc de ... Polls conducted during the Occupy movement put public support for ...

Feedback

Yellow vests on March 16 - In pictures

6/21  
Yellow Vest protesters hit by a water cannon during clashes with riot police forces  
AFP/Getty Images

**STEP 4:** If the image is credited to AFP, check our archive to confirm!

# Verifying after reverse image search

Yellow vests on March 16 - In pictures



×

6/21

Yellow Vest protesters hit by a water cannon during clashes with riot police forces

AFP/Getty Images

- Check date news report was published; does it make sense in the context of the image? Try [this](#) handy tool if you can't find the web page date.
- Check the web page source; is it reliable?
- Does the image appear on other pages which will help you verify it?
- Can you geo-locate the image?

# Geo-location of UGC

Key clues to look for:

- Shop signs
- Landmarks
- Style of buildings
- Logos
- Street signs
- Ethnicity of the people featured
- Clothing/props
- Languages spoken
- Background music
- Terrain/style of cityscape





We can geolocate the image to [here](#) on Google Street View, on Rue Arsène Houssaye.



# Video verification: InVID/WeVerify

- For videos, eg [this](#) misleading tweet, use [InVid](#) -- breaks down videos into keyframes then runs a reverse image search



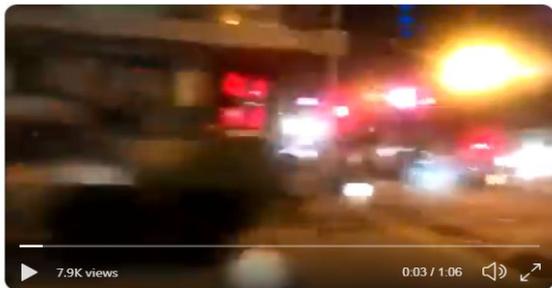
终南山云少侠2  
@Parker8899

Replying to @RFA\_Chinese

昨晚，共产党的军队进驻香港

Translated by Google

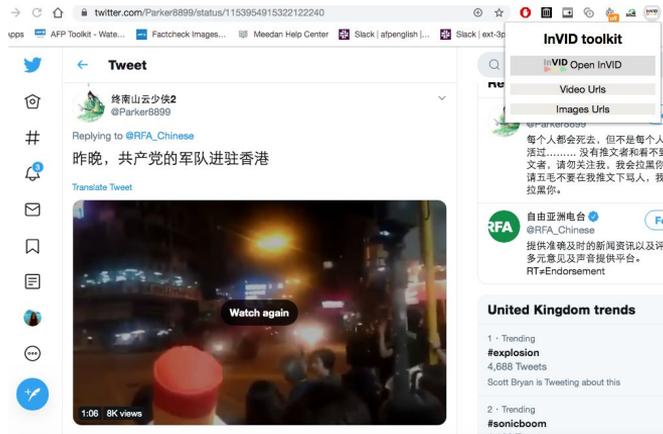
Last night, the Communist army entered Hong Kong.



5:07 PM · Jul 24, 2019 · Twitter for iPhone



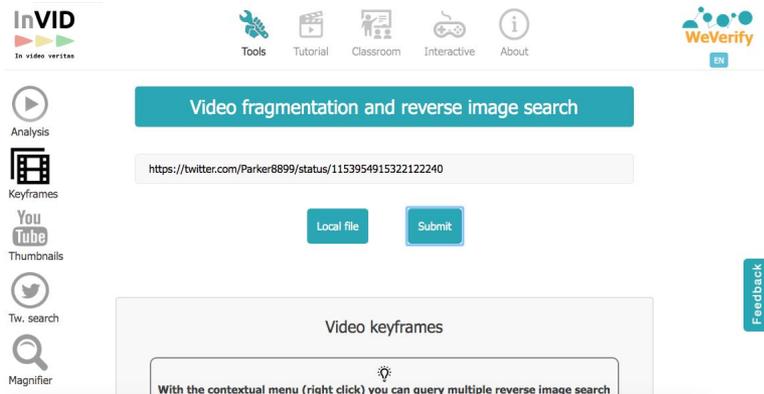
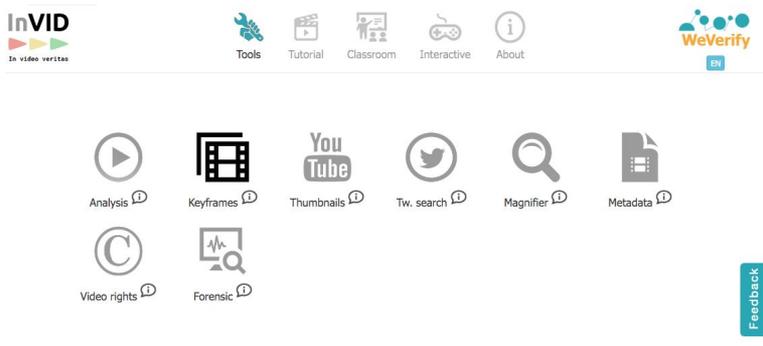
You will often locate [news reports](#) about the video, or at least clues about where and when it was filmed and what it features.



**STEP 1:** Download the InVID/WeVerify Google Chrome extension

**STEP 2:** Open the video you want to verify in Google Chrome. Click the InVID extension (top right) and select 'Open in InVID'.

**STEP 3:** Select 'Keyframes'. Input the video URL and click 'Submit'.



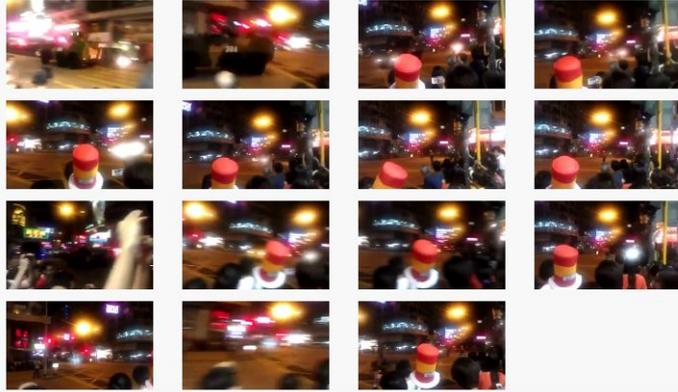


Video rights



Forensic

+ Show detailed view



Feedback

**STEP 4:** InVID will give you a selection of keyframes. Click on a keyframe to reverse image search it on Google

Chinese APC rolling down streets of Hong Kong - YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch>



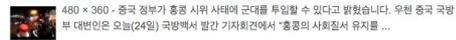
Chinese APC - cinemapichollu

<https://cinemapichollu.com/results>



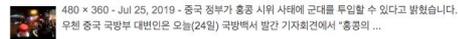
중국, 홍콩 시위에 군 투입 시사 - 스쿼어 카테고리 - 더쿠

<https://theqoo.net/square> - Translate this page



전체 게시판 - 중국, 홍콩 시위에 군 투입 시사 - 더쿠

<https://theqoo.net> - Translate this page



**STEP 5:** Analyse the results as you would do for a normal reverse image search. If you get no results for one keyframe, try another

# More video verification tips

- Is the video high quality footage? If not, it is less likely to be an original source
- On YouTube/ Facebook, you can toggle on the video settings to check if the video is available in high definition
- Is the purported video taker based in the country where the video was filmed? If not, is there a reasonable explanation for why they would have been there? Can they send you the original file to check the metadata?
- Does the clip play a continuous scene or has it been edited? Is the audio consistent with what you can see on the clip?



# Establishing when photos/videos were uploaded

- **YouTube data viewer:** provides specific time video was uploaded to YouTube
- **Instagram posts:** choose public image/video, select 'embed' and find the time it was uploaded at the very end of the code
- **Twitter/Facebook:** expand post and hover over date to see the upload time. Remember it will normally be set to your timezone.

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

### Youtube DataViewer

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AbSvWuurl> Go Clear

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AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

### Youtube DataViewer

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AbSvWuurl> Go Clear

Fireball Caught on Video.MTS

Actual footage of a lightning strike from only 100 feet from where I was standing. I just happened to be enjoying a thunderstorm on the laral with my new camera and using the movie feature when lightning struck! And my new puppy just stood there!! The electrical lighting is what caused the fireball! This video is being managed by Newsflare. To use this video for broadcast or in a commercial player go to: <http://www.newsflare.com/video/476131weather-nature/massive-lightning-bolt-creates-fireball-in-florida-back-past> or email: [newsdesk@newsflare.com](mailto:newsdesk@newsflare.com) or call: +44 (0) 8432 895 191

Video ID: AbSvWuurlFA  
Upload Date (YYYYMMDD): 2013-01-22  
Upload Time (UTC): 18:46:17 (convert to local time)

Thumbnails:

[reverse image search](#)

Xinqi Su 蘇新琪  
@XinqiSu

Pepper spray deployed within 2 meters in the face of an unmasked man. Not sure why the police came up to the walking crowd. The man, with his face covered by pepper spray, said loudly he did nothing.  
[#TSTmarch](#)

0:06 793 views

4:39 PM · Dec 1, 2019 · Twitter for iPhone

# Establishing when photos/videos were captured

- Can you find corroborating sources/witnesses to pin down when the photo/video was taken?
- Can you find local media reports from the time the photo/video was taken?
- Have you found the original photo/video source? If so, can they send you the original file to check the metadata?
- Is the photo/video consistent with other photos/videos of the same incident shared on social media?

← Thread



Metropolitan Police ✓  
@metpoliceuk

Police were called at 1:58pm to a stabbing at premises near to London Bridge.

Emergency services attended, including officers from the Met and [@CityPolice](#).

A man has been detained by police. We believe a number of people have been injured. Further info to follow.

10:50 PM · Nov 29, 2019 · [Twitter Web App](#)

4.3K Retweets 7.8K Likes

# What if I still can't verify the image/video?

- Sometimes social media footage is scraped (copied and re-shared) so many times, that you will struggle to find who filmed it through reverse image search alone
- [This clip](#) went viral in Indonesia shortly after the Lion Air flight 610 crash in October 2018 near Jakarta
- Google Image search for this video screengrab only suggested this was a Boeing 747 plane, but gave no detail about the location





- Conducting a quick search for Boeing 747 crashes suggests there have been many over the years
- But how many have been filmed crashing into the sea? Perhaps worth conducting a search for 'plane crashes into sea' on YouTube?
- News reports and other archive footage tally with this news footage from the event



# Other handy online fact-checking tools

- [Checkusernames.com](https://checkusernames.com); gives an assessment of which platforms a particular username is used on
- [The WayBack Machine](https://www.archive.org/): online archive, useful for finding web pages which have been removed
- [Trendsmap.com](https://trendsmap.com) or [Google Trends](https://trends.google.com/trends) show you to what extent certain keywords are trending worldwide
- [Carbon Dating the Web](https://carbondatingtheweb.com): free tool which gives you an estimated date that a web page was published
- [Get-Metadata.com](https://get-metadata.com): check the metadata of a video or photo to see if it is an original file



# Contact me



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