



**ZU·LAT**  
Equality and Human Rights

# **A CAMERA ON EVERY POLICEMAN**

**Exposing Police Violence,  
Protecting the Rights of Protesters**

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# SUMMARY

In this operative policy paper, we propose to enact general criteria for the sweeping use of cameras by police during demonstrations in primary legislation, in light of the possible chilling effect on the right to freedom of protest.

Body cameras have proved to be effective in reducing police violence in many places around the world. Unfortunately, for several years now we have been hearing serious complaints about police violence during protests and demonstrations, especially in the Arab, ultra-Orthodox, and Ethiopian sectors. We have also been witnessing aggressive arrests in the protests outside the prime minister's residence, as well as complaints about false arrests and police attempts to have detainees released under restrictive conditions that are later overturned by the courts.

All the above obliges us to address the issue of the use of body cameras by police officers in order to reduce the friction between law enforcement agencies and citizens seeking to exercise their democratic right.

In Israel, however, not only are there not enough body cameras for the police officers, but the procedures for using existing ones have been set by the police itself, rather than through primary legislation or the enactment of regulations.

Therefore, in this operative policy paper we propose to enact general criteria for the sweeping use of cameras by police in demonstrations in primary legislation, in light of the possible chilling effect on the right to freedom of protest due to the use of overly aggressive dispersal means. The legislative initiative will make the use of body cameras obligatory, set procedures for making the photographed information accessible to the public, and make the Ministry of Public Security responsible for formulating specific regulations for the use of body

cameras, which will then be submitted for approval to the Knesset's Interior and Environmental Protection Committee.

In addition, in order to generate an incentive for extensive documentation by body cameras, the legislation will establish that in the case of complaints against police officers about their conduct during demonstrations, the burden of proof will be on the police