

## Sudan graphic video (2022-002-FB-MR)

### Case referred by Meta

Submit public comment [here](#).

*On December 21, 2021, Meta referred a case to the Board concerning a graphic video depicting a civilian victim of violence in Sudan. The content was posted to the user's Facebook profile page following a military coup in the country on October 25, 2021 and the start of protests against the military takeover of the government. The protests have been met with violence, with journalists and activists attacked and arrested by the security forces.*

*The video shows a person, possibly a minor, with a significant head wound lying next to a car. Voices can be heard saying in Arabic that someone has been beaten and left in the street. The post includes a caption, also in Arabic, calling on the people to stand together and not to trust the military, with numerous hashtags including #DocumentingMilitaryAbuses and #CivilDisobedience. The post was viewed fewer than 1,000 times and no users reported the content.*

*Meta's automated systems identified the content as potentially violating and, following review, removed the content for violating the Violent and Graphic Content Community Standard. The user appealed Meta's decision to remove the post. Meta reviewed the post again and applied the newsworthiness allowance to restore the post. When Meta restored the post, it placed a warning screen on the video marking it as sensitive and requiring users to click through to view the content. The warning screen prohibits users under the age of 18 years from viewing the video.*

*Under its Violent and Graphic Content policy, Meta states that it removes any content that "glorifies violence or celebrates suffering" but allows graphic content "to help people raise awareness." The policy prohibits posting "videos of people or dead bodies in non-medical settings if they depict dismemberment." According to its newsworthiness allowance, Meta allows violating content on its platforms "if keeping it visible is in the public interest."*

*In its referral, Meta states that the decision on this content is difficult because it highlights the tension between the public interest value of documenting human rights violations and the risk of harm associated with sharing such graphic content. Meta also highlighted the importance of allowing users to document human rights violations during a coup and when internet access in the country has been shut down.*

*The Board has not received a statement from the user responsible for the content.*

*The Board would appreciate public comments that address:*

- *Whether Meta's policies on violent and graphic content provide sufficient protection of users documenting or raising awareness of human rights violations.*
- *Meta's compliance with its human rights responsibilities around moderation of expression containing graphic and violent content, including whether the rights of all victims are equally protected and whether it sufficiently protects the rights of traumatized survivors and relatives or loved ones of depicted victims.*
- *Meta's moderation of violent and graphic content during periods of crisis, mass protests or internet shutdowns and what factors Meta should consider when determining whether to remove or apply warning screens and age-gating to such content.*
- *How the use of a warning screen on graphic content, including to restrict access to minors, may impact the rights of Facebook users (e.g. to raise awareness and document abuses, right to privacy, physical integrity, physical and mental health)?*
- *How Meta's content moderation, including the use of automation, impacts freedom of expression and documentation of human rights violations during a conflict, and how negative impacts may be prevented or mitigated.*

*In its decisions, the Board can issue policy recommendations to Meta. While recommendations are not binding, Meta must respond to them within 60 days. As such, the Board welcomes public comments proposing recommendations that are relevant to this case.*