

## **YTV Protests Armenia**

### **Data Documentation for DiscussData**

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The team at the Department for Politics and Economics at the Research Centre for East European Studies at the University of Bremen has compiled the collection of protest videos “YTV Protests Armenia”. It is part of a larger and ongoing collection of videos on protest events in the post-Soviet region. We collect videos on protests from particular sources; in this case from the video platform YouTube for the following protest events: the protests in 2015 (Protests Armenia 2015) and in 2018 (Velvet Revolution 2018). We collect all videos that are 1) event related AND show actions of this event, 2) downloadable, 3) we can find with our search words during a particular period.

The collection “Protests Armenia 2015” contains 104 videos (mp4) on protests in June 2015 (mainly Yerevan area) triggered by a hike in electricity rates. The collection “Velvet Revolution 2018” contains 219 videos on protests in April to October 2018 (mainly Yerevan area). We have downloaded all data in March to Mai 2020 and February to April 2019 and made screenshots (pdf) of websites so that the discussion and comments on the single video posts can be followed. All data is processed in a MS Excel database with metadata. A list of metadata and its description (codebook) are placed at the end of this documentation.

As this project is part of a broad comparative endeavour, there is no narrowly defined guiding research interest or question that stands behind this project. It is rather our attempt to offer researchers of various disciplines a data collection on protest events that allows them to work on a broad range of guiding research questions according to the design of our comparative project. This project is part of the research project “Comparing protest actions in Soviet and post-Soviet spaces” which is organized by the Research Centre for East European Studies at the University of Bremen with financial support from the Volkswagen Foundation and entails similar collections on protest events from Ukraine, Russia, Kazakhstan, Georgia, and Belarus.

We strictly aim at a systematic and objective selection and an organized storage of protest related videos. Therefore, we have systematically collected videos on protest. We identify particular event related search words after an intense research on the event. According to the snow ball principle, we then start the collection of videos with the help of these search words and try to download as much relevant content as possible. However, we cannot guarantee the completeness of protest videos on the particular event out of two reasons: there is a natural fluctuation of posted videos on the platform with uploaded and deleted videos by e.g., the users. We search the videos and include them into the collection until a particular degree of saturation has been reached, i.e., no new videos can be found for a while and/or only extremely short videos of few seconds can only be found and/or only videos with content worthless to analyse can be found such as recordings of black screens without any comments or talk. After this point, we do not plan a second or third wave of collection at this stage of the project.

The videos have been posted mainly by the participants of the events. Therefore, the material is only an extract and biased by the perspective of the single creator.

Some videos contain violent scenes. We do not censor this. However, in our database we make a note on intense violence in the “further information” section. While collecting the videos, we do not do a preselection. We do not search explicitly for oppositional videos or police violence neither do we prefer videos posted by particular organisations or participants. We do include video collages or edited videos as well as reports of small and or local broadcaster. The search is not guided by particular questions or

normative ideas. Instead, we try to collect all related and accessible videos that visualise impressions of the event.

Due to copyright restrictions, we are only allowed to give access to the database of the collected video files including the hyperlinks with its metadata and not to the videos themselves.

Codebook:

- Actors/Organizers of Event	particular organisations, parties, institutions, individuals, or groups, e.g., citizens, that have initiated the event; mostly blank
- Type of Event	Arrests, Concert, Demonstration, Interview(s), March, Petition, Political Mobilisation, Police mobilization, Police preparation, Police violence, Protest, Public Speech, Workers Protest, Rally
- Topic	the overall topic of the event, varies with the event e.g., election fraud, police violence, rally for a particular person, i.e. politician, journalist, activist, etc.
- Date of Event	the date of the event that the video is showing; not to be confused with "Date of Posting"
- Event Description	few descriptive keywords on the event
- Involved Groups	if identified, naming of involved groups such as e.g., particular political parties or police; mostly blank
- Number of Participants	very rough estimation of number of participants ranging from 1 to several people to few hundred or thousand people, mostly with greater than or less than signs, always as estimated numbers of participants
- Place of Event	in the very most cases the city the event took place, partly the actual place such as particular squares, districts or region; partly blank
- Video Title	the name/title the video was posted with, never blank, doubling possible as it is possible to post two different videos with the same name on YouTube; not to be confused with "File Name"
- Publisher/Channel	the name of the person who or channel which has posted the video; never blank
- Type of Video	various types such as most often private mobile phone video, collages of images, interviews, broadcasting
- Source Type	source the video was downloaded from, at this stage always YouTube
- Date of Posting	the date the video was posted; in the following format dd.mm.yyyy; never blank; not to be confused with "Date of Event"
- Views	views or clicks as total number at the time of archiving; never blank
- Likes	likes for the video as total number at the time of archiving; never blank
- Dislikes	dislikes for the video as total number at the time of archiving; never blank

-	Comments	total number of comments for the video at the time of archiving; never blank, partly named “deactivated” if the comment function was turned off
-	Further Information	various additional information on the video such as note on violent scenes, further links or short descriptions of the video; partly blank
-	URL	URL of the particular video file on YouTube at the time of archiving; never blank
-	Duration	hh:mm:ss; duration of the video; never blank
-	File Path	path within the internal network where the collection is stored, never blank
-	File Name	name of the file; a file consists of the downloaded video file as mp4, a screenshot of the website as pdf and the entry within the database, all components have the same file name which can differ from the video title; not to be confused with “Video Title”; never blank
-	Entry Date	dd.mm.yyyy; the day the video has been saved, never blank
-	Search Words	words that have been used to find the video; entered as “yt: word, word”
-	Keywords	keywords of the collection, equal for all entries of the same event