Tipsheets Guidelines

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«Uncovering War Crimes in Occupied Territories of Ukraine: Developing New Methods»

Safety when working with sources:

1. Use secure messengers whenever possible. Since using WA or Signal is often impossible or may arouse suspicion, it is better to use secret chats in Telegram and ask your source to enable two-factor authentication and delete messages after correspondence. Also, ask your contact not to sign you as a "journalist", the name of your media or your real name. If possible, use Russian or Belarusian online SIM cards for communication - in case your source has any problems when checking their phone.

2. Always take care of the safety of your source or witness who remains in the occupied territory. If the information you are going to disseminate may pose a threat to him or his family, you need to minimize the risks or refuse to publish some of the data.

3. It is difficult to find a source in the occupied territory: people are afraid to speak out, as this may lead to intimidation by the occupying authorities, illegal arrests and convictions. It is best to look for contacts through your acquaintances who know you and can recommend you to those who remain under occupation.

4. Discuss with your source all possible risks and methods of communication. Ask him to write to you when the source feels as safe as possible.

Telegram bots and services that can help in identifying Russian war criminals:

1) For searching by photos: search4faces (searches in Russian Odnoklassniki, Vkontakte and by avatars in TikTok, works for free), PimEyes (searches in publications, Russian social networks, on YouTube, but is paid).

2) Bots in Telegram: https://sherlokbot.com/(searches by photo, name, phone number, email, passport data, nicknames in Telegram, Instagram, Vkontakte and TikTok), @Jesnndbot (searches by name, phone number, email), @VKHistoryRobot (gets photos even from deleted pages in Vkontakte), https://funstat.info/(gets correspondence in open groups in Telegram by user ID).