

YouTube takedowns are making it hard to document war crimes | Columbia Journalism Review

By Mathew Ingram

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Like every other large social platform, YouTube has [come under fire](#) for not doing enough to remove videos that contain hate speech and disinformation. The Google-owned company has said repeatedly that it is trying to get better at doing so. But in some cases, removing videos because they contain graphic imagery of violence can be a bad thing. That's the case that Syrian human-rights activist and video archivist Hadi Al Khatib [makes in a video that](#) the *New York Times* published on Wednesday in its Opinion section. Khatib co-produced the clip with Dia Kayyali, who works for Witness, an organization that helps people [use digital tools to](#) document human rights violations. In the video, Khatib notes that videos of bombings the Syrian government has carried out on its own people—including attacks with barrel bombs, which Human Rights Watch and other groups [consider to be](#) a war crime—are important evidence, but that YouTube has removed more than 200,000 such videos.

[...]

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