

SESSION 5

VERIFYING THE INFORMATION

International Protocol on Documenting Violations of Religious Freedom

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM INSTITUTE



THIS SESSION

1. The importance of verification
2. Closer scrutiny of verification of documentary materials and testimony
3. Verifying social media, digital photographs, videos, etc
4. Verification activity

VERIFYING INFORMATION COLLECTED

Verification = is the information gathered about a particular incident credible and reliable?

- If not considered so, info will not be given as much importance as it deserves.
- Consider requirements for evidence and high-quality information.

Verifying information is necessary before sharing information, but not always possible: **assess risk.**

- Circumstances may not allow verification.
- Corroborating every detail may not be possible.
- Information to corroborate is not accessible (medical or police reports, other witnesses or locations).

IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS FOR DOCUMENTERS WHEN ASSESSING INFORMATION

- Whether the source is reliable
- Whether the information is
 - credible
 - consistent and
 - coherent with the broader context

WHAT DO JUDGES – ACROSS LEGAL SYSTEMS – LOOK FOR?

Origin

Content

Corroboration

Truthfulness

Voluntariness

Reliability

Example: how to assess reliability of a person?

Consider:

- Direct witness or victim, or received information from third party?
- Motives for sharing information? Hidden motives?
- Account consistent and coherent with broader context?
 - Detailed and clear?
 - Naturally-flowing narrative, or recited and controlled? ≠ chronological or orderly.
- How do they behave when communicating?
- Do other witnesses, victims, stakeholders have similar accounts? Do they describe the same facts?
 - Corroboration from family, friends, neighbours: only proceed with such verification if safe. Only non-confidential information can be corroborated, with source's prior informed consent.

Example: how to assess reliability of testimonial information?

- Two key questions:
 - Is the person reliable as a source of information?
 - Is the information they provide credible, consistent, and accurate?
- Verify through corroboration, and support by documentary or physical evidence.
- Consider:
 - Multiple consistent narratives: multiple narratives of the same event, from people all being interviewed separately, unprompted, and without specific knowledge of what other persons interviewed have said.
 - Requires as many corroborating narratives as possible (protest ≠ sexual violence).
 - Level of detail: high level of detail is hard to invent.
 - Details may be missing from inaccurate information.
 - Careful: survivors of trauma and vulnerable individuals may be unable to remember details. Memory can also be unreliable and unrealistic: consider the state of mind of the interviewee.

Example: how to assess authenticity of a document?

- Documentary information needs to be authentic to be considered.
- Authenticity = of undisputed origin, in its original form, and genuine.
- To rely on documentary information, you must establish its source.
- **To establish the source**, identify: the author, the author's organisation, the ultimate source of the information that the author relies on.
- **To authenticate**, determine: what was produced;; when and where was it produced; by whom; and for what purpose.
- **To ensure original form**: restrict access and transfers of information, store securely, and keep a log of who had access and why.
- See ICC Guidance on Authentication in Manual.

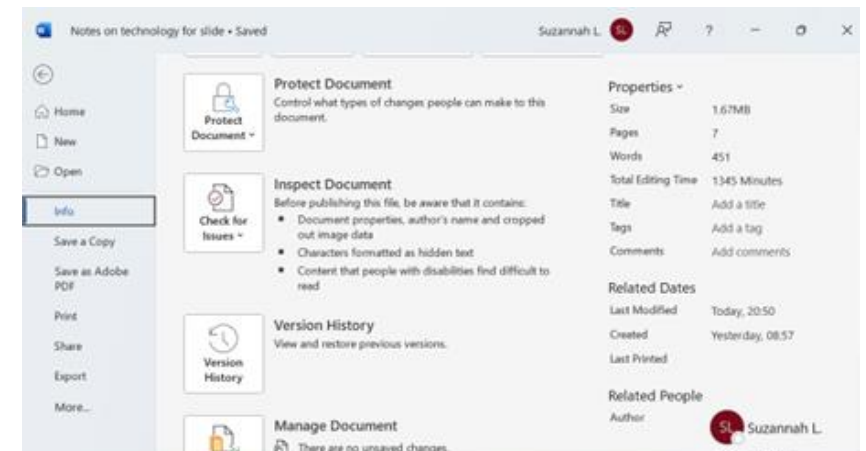
FINDING OUT BASIC DATA ABOUT A SOFT COPY OF A DOCUMENT

Check the 'Properties' in MS Word or Acrobat, but the creator may have removed data



Regards,
Rahul

• Upvoter • Translate • Report



Properties	
Size	1.67MB
Pages	7
Words	451
Total Editing Time	1345 Minutes
Title	Add a title
Tags	Add a tag
Comments	Add comments

Related Dates	
Last Modified	Today, 30:50
Created	Yesterday, 08:57
Last Printed	

Related People	
Author	Suzannah L.

VERIFYING PHYSICAL DOCUMENTS

- Check for obvious mistakes
- Check for spelling mistakes and inconsistencies
- Look at whether the page numbers and headers flow correctly
- Look out for strange formatting or text that's more blurry than the rest
- Check documents against an official database or some other benchmark
- Use computer software to help check PDFs

This document is a Chinese harvest licence

- it's a forgery

Can you spot how we know that? Hint: you don't need to know any Chinese to spot the problem.

采伐类型: 主伐 采伐方式: ／ 采伐强度:
采伐面积: 231亩 公顷(株数: 9332 株)
采伐蓄积: 2115 立方米(出材量: 立方米)
采伐期限: 2016 年 4 月 16 日至 2016 年 6 月 16 日
更新期限: 年 月 日
更新面积: 公顷(株数: 株)
☐ 占限额 ☐ 不占限额

Did you see it?

Have a closer look at where it says 9332.



This number is the number of trees that are allowed to be harvested. Look at the magnified version and you'll see the first number – the 9 – appears to have been pasted in. We can see that because the line underneath the 9 does not line up with the rest of the line.

Sometimes documents can end up looking a bit strange because of artefacts that get introduced when the document is scanned. But our suspicions are raised in this case because adding a nine to the beginning of the maximum harvest volume is exactly the sort of alteration a forger would want to make.

Figure 1: A forged Chinese harvest licence

COMMERCAIL INVOICE

SOLD TO :

INVOICE NO. 259864

VIETNAM

OUR ORDER NO. 259864

FAX: +84

TEL: +84

DATE: AUG. 24th, 2015

ORIGIN: U.S.A.

DELIVERY: CIF FOR POT HOCHIMINH CITY, VIET NAM

PAYMENT: D/P AT SIGHT

AGAINST THE FOLLOWING NEGOTIABLE DOCUMENTS:

2/1 NEGOTIABLE BILLS OF LADING

1/1 SIGN OF COMMERCAIL INVOICE

1/2 PACKING LIST

CERTIFICATE OF ORIGIN

PHYTOSANITARY CERTIFICATE

GRADE CERTIFICATE

CCLU CONTRACT: GH-VN-019

12 BUNDLE * KD 4/4 FSC WHITE OAK #* 26.843 CMB @ USD

TOTAL DUE IN U.S. DOLLARS

* ITEMS ARE FSC MIX CREDIT. CER# COC
PRODUCT FROM MANAGED & CONTROLLED SOURCES

THIS SHIPMENT IS CONSERVED WAREHOUSE TO WAREHOUSE UNDER TREVALERS INSURANCE
OCEAN CARGO # OCT FOR 110% OF THE INVOICES VALUE.

The analysts examined the document and found that almost all of the text had been pasted over an old invoice. The only original parts of the document were the American company's name and logo at the top, and the company president's name and signature at the bottom. The text of the original invoice could be seen – it had been issued from the American company to the Vietnamese company in 2012.

Figure 5: A fake invoice, supposedly from an American company.

PDF FILES ARE SAFE.

REALLY?

Adobe Document Reader can be used to manipulate PDF files.

A document created in Word and saved in PDF can be manipulated by being saved by a recipient in Word.

Can manipulate a PDF by using Google Drive and Google Docs.

Acrobat DC can be used to manipulate a PDF.

SOCIAL MEDIA



WHO AMONG YOU HAS RECEIVED
VIDEOS OR PHOTOS ALLEGEDLY
DEPICTING RELIGIOUS VIOLENCE OVER
THE LAST FEW DAYS?

Open Source Materials

THE VERIFICATION PUZZLE

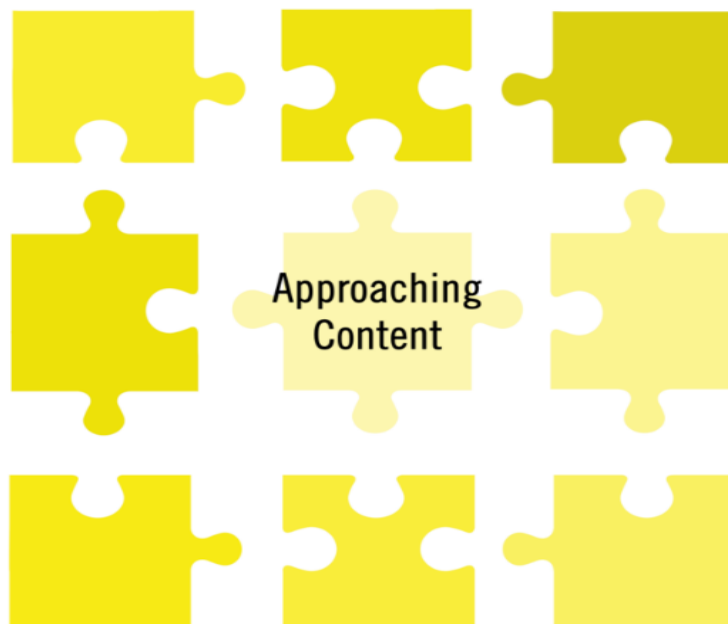
Approaching your content and applying verification techniques

● ORIGINAL CONTENT?

● WHO IS THE UPLOADER?

● CAPTURE DATE/TIME?

● CAPTURE LOCATION?



● CORROBORATING EVIDENCE?

● MOTIVATION FOR SHARING?

● CONCLUSION?

● SELF CARE?

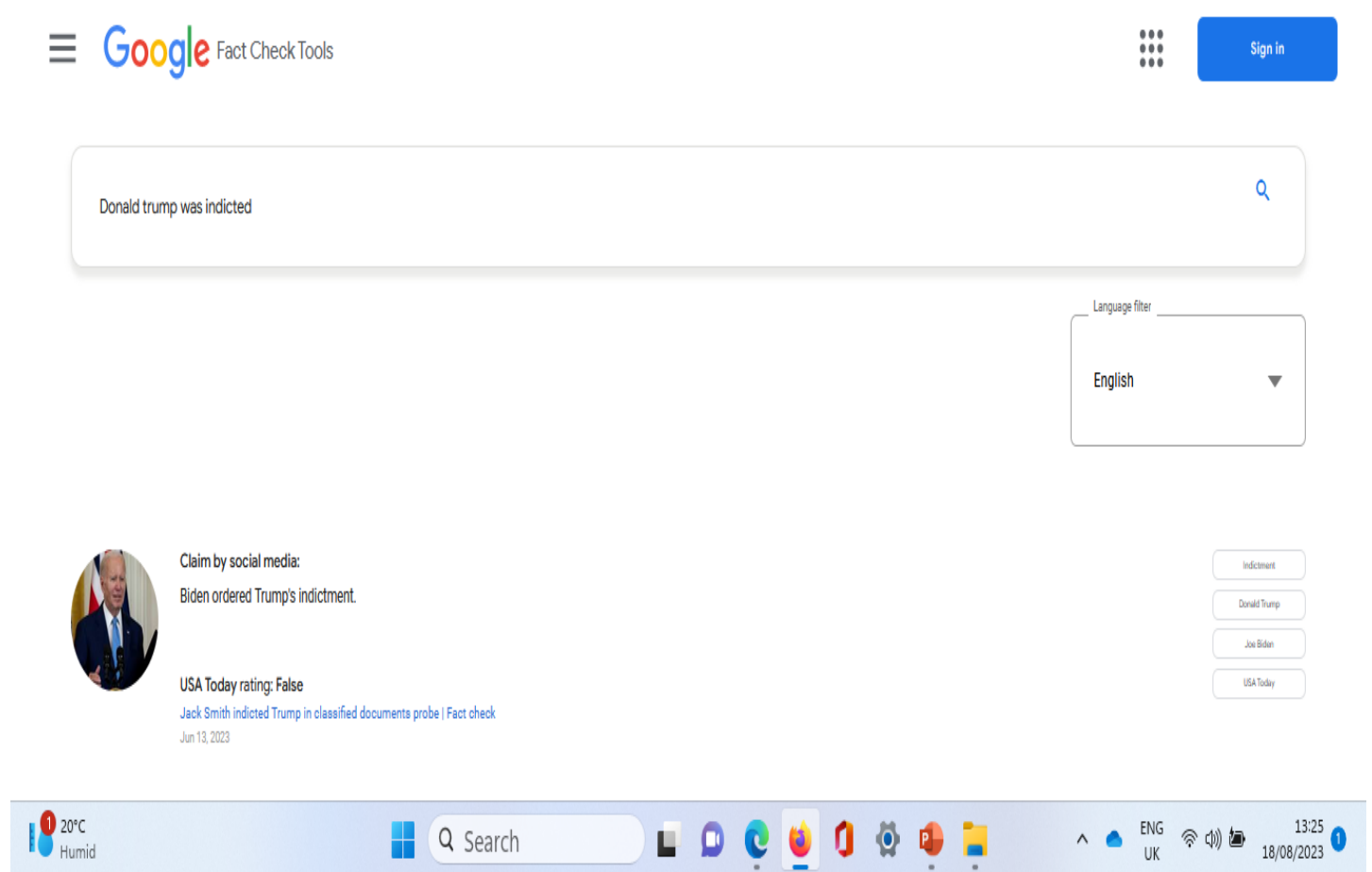
AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL



HOW TO TELL FAKE NEWS FROM REAL NEWS?

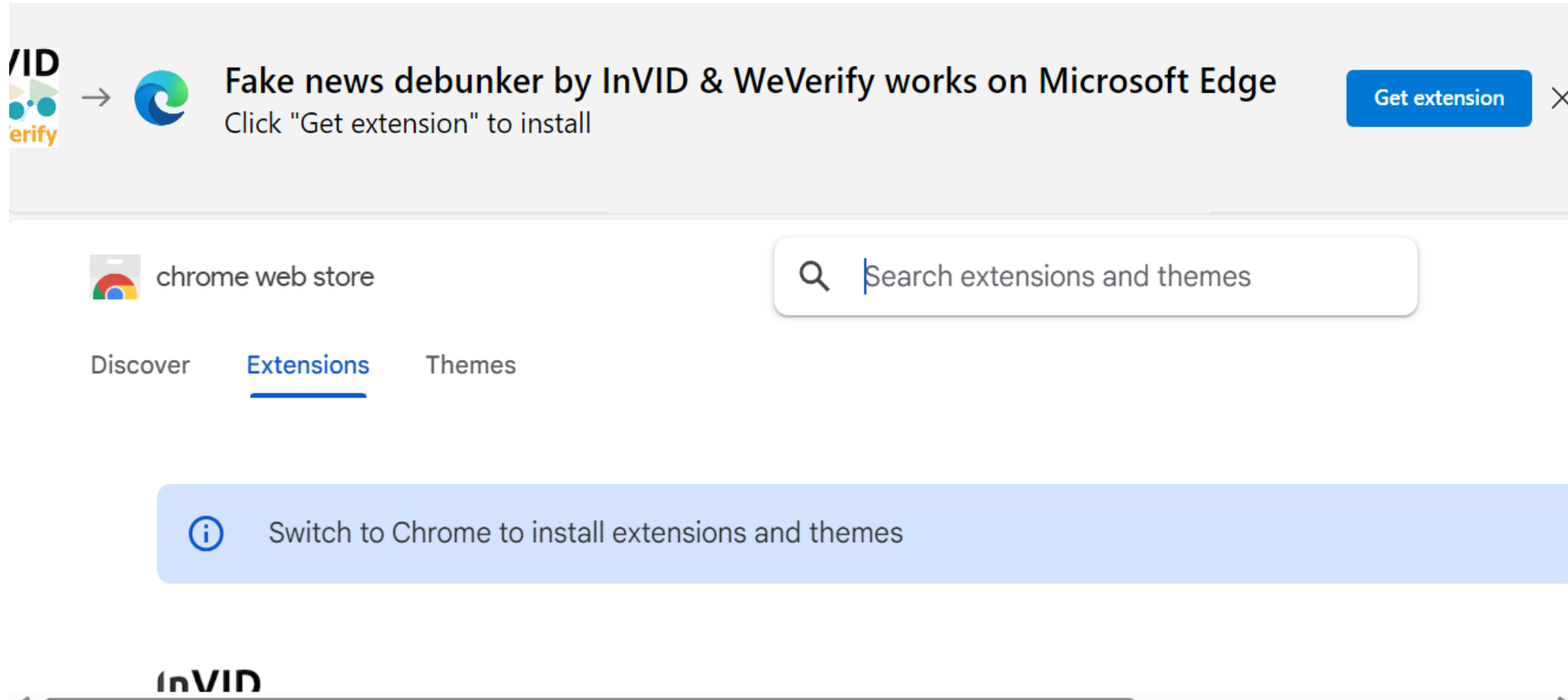
Google's fact check tool:

<https://toolbox.google.com/factcheck/explorer>



The screenshot displays the Google Fact Check Tools interface. At the top, the Google logo is followed by 'Fact Check Tools'. A search bar contains the text 'Donald trump was indicted'. To the right of the search bar is a 'Language filter' dropdown menu set to 'English'. Below the search bar, a result is shown with a circular profile picture of Jack Smith. The text next to the picture reads: 'Claim by social media: Biden ordered Trump's indictment. USA Today rating: False. Jack Smith indicted Trump in classified documents probe | Fact check. Jun 13, 2023'. On the right side of the result, there are four buttons: 'Indicement', 'Donald Trump', 'Joe Biden', and 'USA Today'. The bottom of the screenshot shows a Windows taskbar with the date '18/08/2023' and time '13:25'.

InVID-WeVerify verification plugin is one of the most powerful tools for spotting misinformation online. Works on Chrome and Edge browsers as an add in.





OPEN TOOLBOX

OPEN ASSISTANT

ASSISTANT FOR CURRENT PAGE

OPEN CLASSROOM



The assistant will help you to analyse a webpage, an image or a video file and suggest which WeVerify tools are useful for each case

Choose what you want to analyse

Webpage link

 Insert the link of a webpage, and the assistant will suggest the most useful tools for the contents of the given page.

Local file

 The assistant will suggest the most useful tools depending on if the file is a video or image

Give the URL of the page to analyse

Paste the URL here

<https://twitter.com/Khurshi82355647/status/1454636170386677767>

REMOVE



Warning

Some elements of this content have been flagged

Feedback



TOOLS



ASSISTANT



TUTORIAL



DEMO



CLASSROOM



ABOUT

English 



 Advanced tools

The advanced tools are unlocked

LOGOUT

 Video

 Image

 Search

 Data Analysis

 Image analysis

NEW

It brings you contextual information of an image posted on Facebook or Twitter

 Magnifier

It provides a magnifying lens and a photo editor to help you examine an image thoroughly

 Metadata

It extract metadata for jpeg images and videos (in mp4 or m4v format)

 Forensic

NEW

It provides an enhanced toolkit to detect image forgeries

 OCR

NEW

It provides optical character recognition for texts in images

 CheckGif

NEW



It compares an original image and a tampered one (including if the image has been cropped) and generates a GIF as output

Feedback



terrorists who killed thousands of Americans on 9/11 as "some people who did something".

Unbelievable.



Imam Mohamad Tawhidi 

@Imamofpeace

Follow



Ilhan Omar mentions 9/11 and does not consider it a terrorist attack on the USA by terrorists, instead she refers to it as "Some people did something", then she goes on to justify the establishment of a terrorist organization (CAIR) on US soil.

HOW TO VERIFY A DIGITAL PHOTO?



IMG_1861.CR2 - EXIF Info

EXIF Tag	Value
Filename	IMG_1861.CR2
ImageWidth	320931328
ImageLength	1024
BitsPerSample	8 8 8
Compression	6 (JPG)
Make	Canon
Model	Canon EOS 20D
StripOffset	9728
Orientation	Top left
StripByteCount	375994
XResolution	72
YResolution	72
ResolutionUnit	Inch
DateTime	2016:08:06 10:30:41
ExifOffset	270
ExposureTime	1/400 seconds
FNumber	5.60
ExposureProgram	Shutter priority
ISO Speed Ratings	100
ExifVersion	0221
DateTimeOriginal	2016:08:06 10:30:41
DateTimeDigitized	2016:08:06 10:30:41
ComponentsConfiguration	
ShutterSpeedValue	1/400 seconds
ApertureValue	F 5.60
ExposureBiasValue	-0.33
MeteringMode	Multi-segment

Copy to clipboard

Exit



Social media providers automatically remove the metadata from images taken and sent within the App. So how do you verify the image?

Reverse image searching

- [Yandex](#) – Russian company – very highly regarded by open source investigators
- Google Chrome browser plug in and Google images
- Microsoft Bing
- [Baidu](#) – Chinese company
- [Metapicz](#)
- [Jeffrey's Image Metadata Viewer](#)
- [Metadata2Go](#)
- [Tin Eye](#)

→ No need to go through all of them, INVID can do it. See [InVID Verification Plugin - InVID project \(invid-project.eu\)](#)



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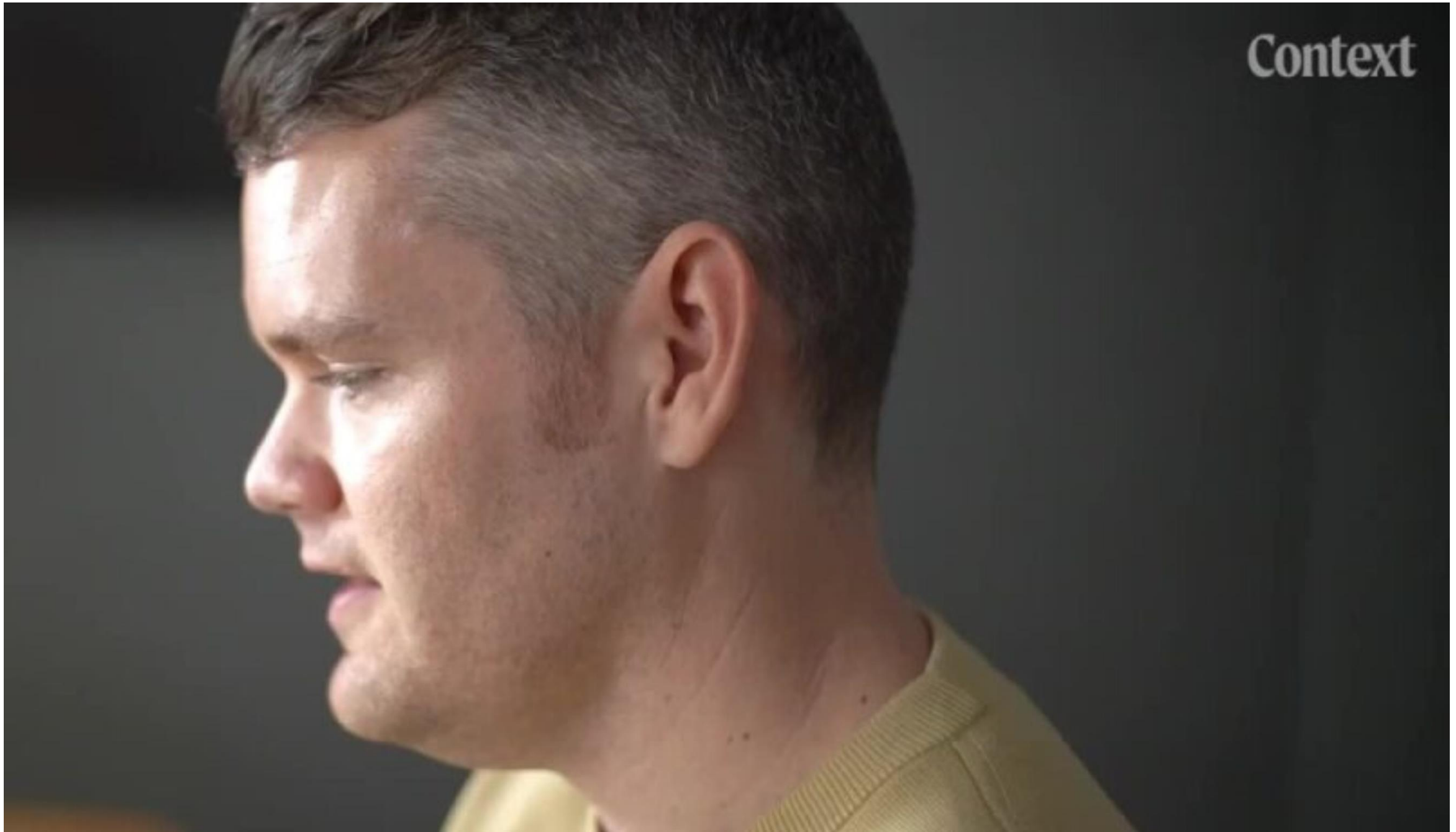
HOW TO VERIFY VIDEOS?

We are going to watch two short videos:

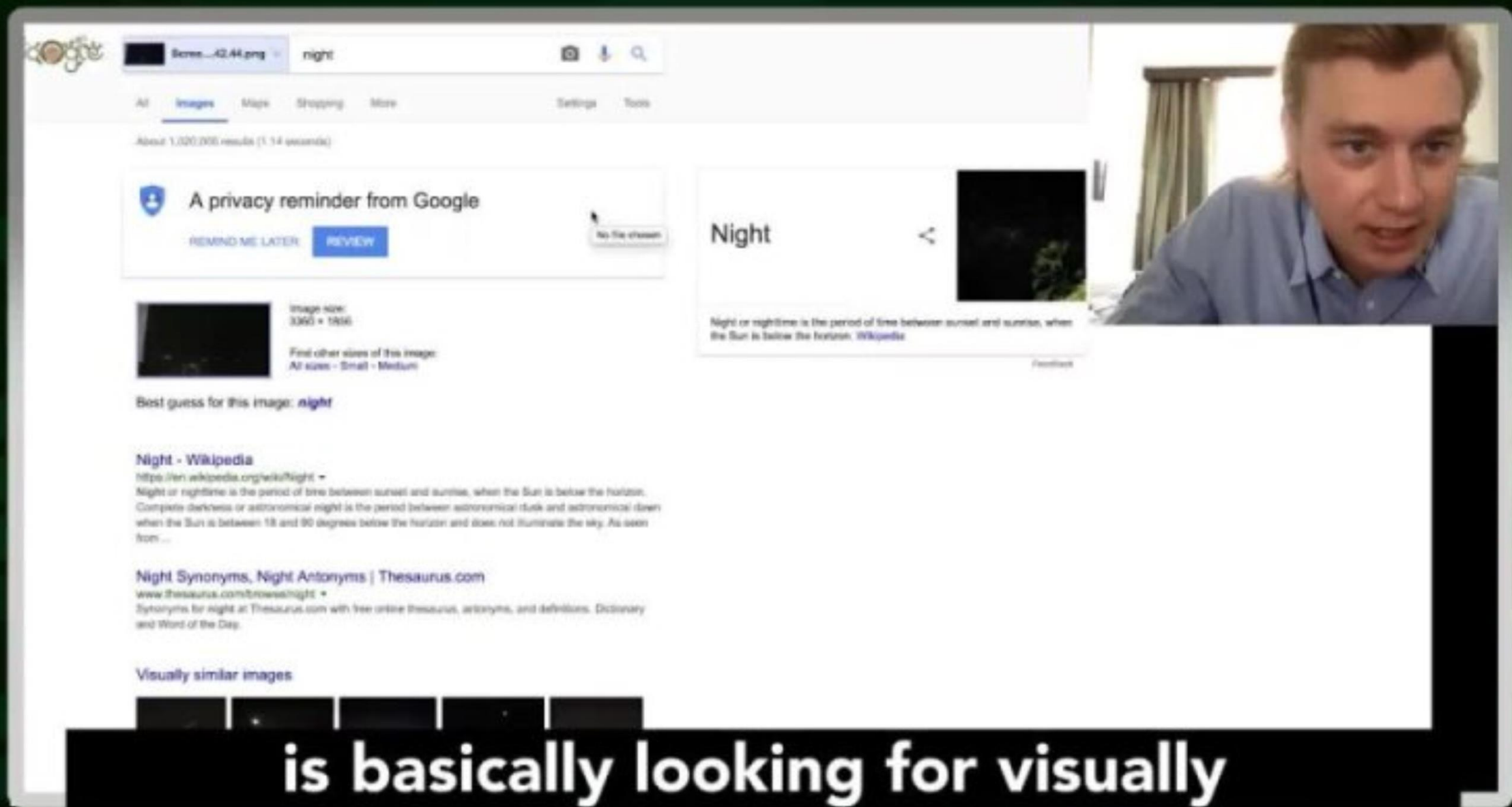
[How investigators spotcheck facts in Ukraine](#) [5.35 mins]

[How to verify viral social media videos](#)
[3.39 mins]

Context



**WHAT ARE YOUR THOUGHTS
ABOUT THIS?**



is basically looking for visually

**WHAT ARE YOUR THOUGHTS
ABOUT THIS?**

A FEW MORE TIPS

WolframAlpha

can check weather
on a particular day
to help interrogate
or establish dates
and times

https://www.wolframalpha.com...

FROM THE MAKERS OF WOLFRAM LANGUAGE AND MATHEMATICA

WolframAlpha

weather in Bokkos 16 September 2023

NATURAL LANGUAGE MATH INPUT

EXTENDED KEYBOARD EXAMPLES UPLOAD RANDOM

Input interpretation

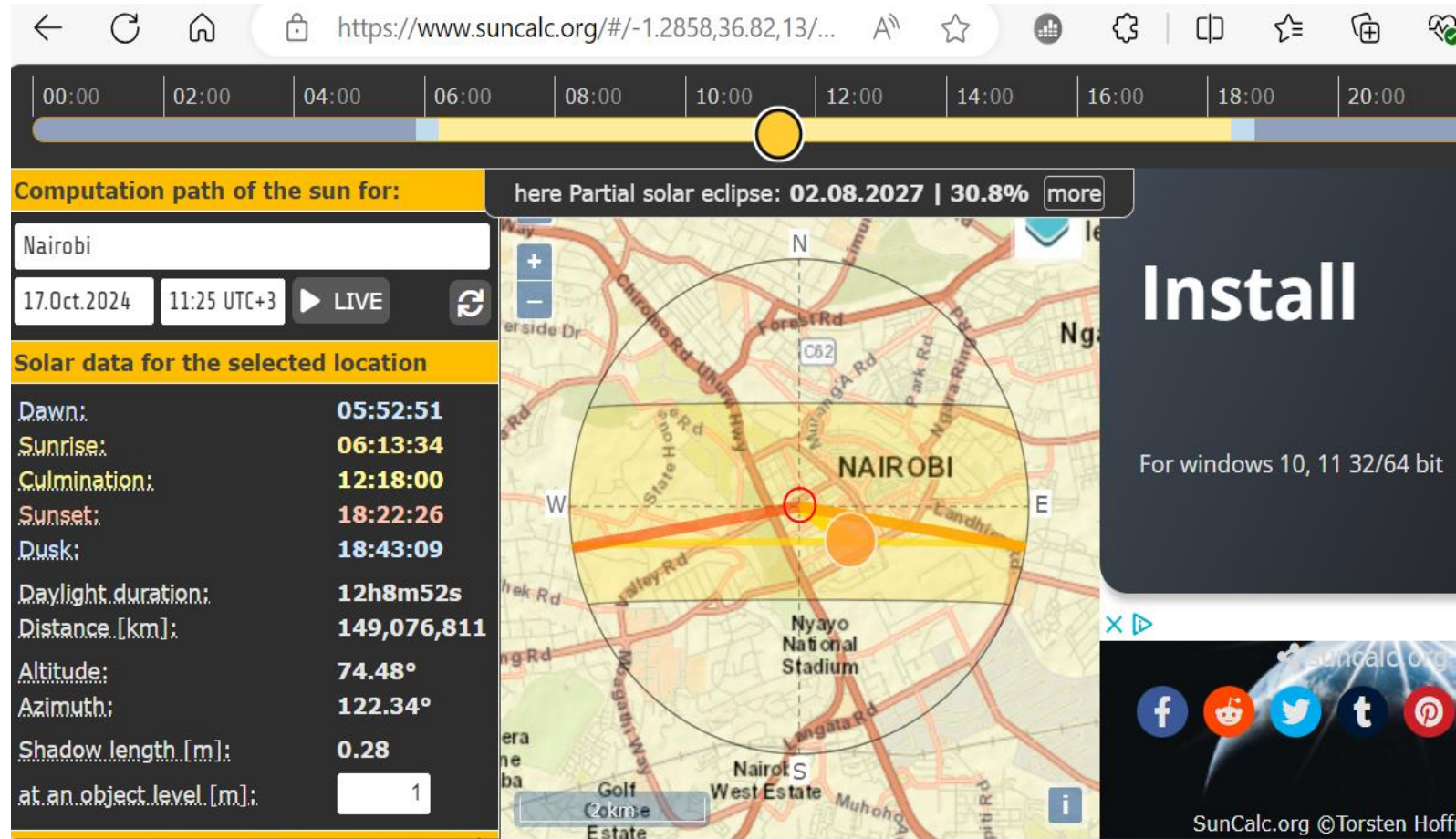
weather	Bokkos, Nigeria
	Saturday, September 16, 2023

Recorded weather near Bokkos, Nigeria

British units More

time range	day of Saturday, September 16, 2023
temperatures	(24 to 30) °C (average 26 °C)

Photos and videos taken outdoors often have shadows. **SunCalc** can check the position of the sun at a location and see what the shadows would have been at a particular time of day. Can corroborate information from the ground.



Finding geolocation of a building

Possibilities:

- Do a Google images search on something distinctive
- Do a reverse image search on something distinctive using Yandex
- Check against Google Earth pRO
- Google maps, Bing maps
- Street views
- Yandex maps can show traffic flows
- Wikimapia (non commercial)
- Mapillary (non commercial)

ACTIVITY

WARNING: GRAPHIC CONTENT

Zelevet video verification [Cameroon]

[10:50 mins followed by 10 mins discussion]



BBC NEWS | AFRICA

Somalia video verification

[1.46 mins followed by 5 mins discussion]

**WE THEN IDENTIFY THESE FEATURES
USING SATELLITE IMAGERY**

