

## **How to deal with accusations, arrests and police interrogations?**

### **For Your own safety and for the safety of others: NO cooperation and talks with the police! NO rumors!**

The protest movement of refugees in Austria is confronted with different forms of attacks and repressions from the side of the state: Some refugee activists have been deported and others are facing deportation threat. In this situation, several people from the refugee movement have been arrested by the police, accusing them of so-called “human trafficking”. The police and some politicians are trying to use these accusations to criminalize the refugee protest.

We must be aware: More accusations and arrests can happen! And: The police are strongly interested in every piece of information they can use against people from the refugee movement!

Some basic legal points to protect ourselves against police repression:

- 1) In case that You get any accusation or any letter from the police: Don't keep it for Yourself, talk to your friends and to a lawyer or legal advisor!
- 2) Police interrogations: It can happen that police officers come to You to ask you some questions. And it can happen that the police invite You for an appointment of interrogation. In this case: Don't talk to the police, don't answer any questions, don't deliver any information to them! ANYTHING You tell the police can be used against You or other persons! It is Your right to refuse talking to the police and police officers must accept this! If police officers tell You that you must answer their questions, this is a lie!
- 3) Don't go to a police appointment without a lawyer or legal advisor!
- 4) It is Your right to refuse talking to the police – making use of this does not affect Your asylum case!
- 5) Don't trust the words of a police officer and don't trust the words of a translator working for the police! Don't talk to any police translators!
- 6) If You want to make a statement in a court case: Prepare this carefully with a lawyer or legal advisor and don't tell anything in advance to the police!
- 7) Rumors: Avoid spreading rumors about any accusations against other people! Be aware that the police are interested in information spread through rumors,

no matter if they are right or wrong! Rumors can be very harmful for other people and for the movement in general!

- 8) Telephone and internet communication: Be aware that telephone and internet communication can be listened and watched by the police – even if You use other languages than German or English!
- 9) If the police hurt you: Take a medical report from a doctor or hospital, but don't go there alone. Report the case to a lawyer or legal advisor.
- 10) If You get arrested: An arrest is an extreme experience for everybody. Try to stay calm and try to calm down others.

At the police station: You just have to tell them your name (first name and surname), date of birth and registration address (not any other). Don't answer any further questions!

You've got the right to make one successfully completed phone call.

The maximum length You can be kept in prison is 24 hours, under very difficult circumstances it can be 48 hours. Then You have to be set free or a judge has to decide if You stay in prison.

NO statements during arrest, no "small talk" with the officers! This is an extreme situation and there will be better opportunities to tell the "truth" afterwards. In many cases people get sentenced because of the statements they made during the first 24 hours.

Don't believe what the police might promise you ("Just tell me, we know already, your friend told us, then we will set you free"). Never believe a police officer!!

If you don't have your own lawyer: There is a lawyers' emergency service that you can reach 24 hours per day.

Hotline: **0800 376 386**

<http://www.rechtsanwaelte.at/www/getFile.php?id=54>

