

No Nazis!

EA: 01578.1756244

What do you do in critical situations?

The fact-finding committee (in German: “Ermittlungsausschuss” or EA)

At activities, there is often an EA whose phone number is spread by mouth or handbill. The EA mainly sees after arrestees and gets attorneys for them. Whoever gets arrested should therefore contact the EA. If you are witness of an arrest, try to assure the name of the person arrested. Inform the EA of that arrest to enable it to help the arrestee. Persons released after an arrest should get back to the EA immediately and write or tape an aide-mémoire.

Such an aide-mémoire can be very useful if proceedings are instituted a couple of months later. (The police also keep records on everything!) Witnesses of abuses should also prepare an aide-mémoire. Such a document should contain at least: Locus, time and mode (arrest, beating, dragging away) of the abuse, name(s) of the victim(s), witnesses, as well as number, service unit and appearance of the abusers (“beard on upper lip” is not sufficient!). This aide-mémoire is only for the EA, if there is one; if not, store in a secure place for the time being.

In case of arrest

Make people aware of you (e.g. by shouting “shit” at the top of your lung!), shout your name and the place from where you come to enable people to inform the EA about your arrest. Once you realize you can’t escape, try to retrieve your calm as soon as possible, and most importantly, don’t say anything to the police from that moment on! After release, contact the EA immediately. Once you’re back home, write down the circumstances of your arrest as precisely as possible, as well as anything else you remember in that connection, especially possible witnesses of the incident. Contact the EA, a trial defense group if there is one, a “Bunte Hilfe,” or the “Rote Hilfe” .

At the police station

Vis à vis the police, you only have to give information about your person. This information is restricted to:

- Name, first name, and if applicable, name of birth
- Registered address
- General profession (e.g. “student”, “salaried employee”)
- Date and location of birth
- Marital status (e.g. “unmarried”)
- Nationality

(You can of course also refuse to give even this amount of information, but by this, you only offer them a cheap pretext to photograph you, to take your fingerprints, and to hold you for up to 12 hours – which, however, they can do anyway if the

want to. Apart from that, not giving that kind of information is just a summary offense with a fine of a couple of hundreds of Euros). That should be the absolute maximum you say, and nothing beyond that! Nothing on parents, school, employer, the weather: just nothing! After arrest, you are entitled to two phone calls. You should use these to call up the EA and/or an attorney. Harass the police till they let you make a call, and threaten them with reporting them to the courts. In case of injuries, ask for a doctor, and ask the doctor for a certificate of his findings. After your release, go to another doctor you have confidence in and get a second certificate. If possessions were damaged, demand written confirmation. If subjected to criminal identification (photos, fingerprints, etc.), register protest and have it taken down. But don't sign anything yourself!

During interrogation

Don't be fooled. Be neither intimidated by the brutal types nor let yourself be talked into talking by the understanding "uncle"-variety. Don't think you can outfox the cops. Being caught in the police station is the worst precondition for coming up with a smart response. Whatever – and absolutely whatever – you might want to say, you can say later on after you've communicated with comrades and lawyers, even when the cops tell you it's better for you to make a statement right away: that's a lie! No "harmless" chat "outside" of the interrogation, e.g. while waiting somewhere in the station, no "political discussions" with the guards: Whatever you say after your arrest counts as a statement!

Even when you think you're being accused of things you know nothing about or would anyway never do – keep your mouth shut. What exonerates you may incriminate someone else; if of two suspects, one has an alibi, the other one takes the fall. Even information about what you didn't do will help the State Security (in German: "Staatsschutz") to develop a general picture they will turn against you and others.

They have to release you...

...if you were arrested to determine your identity: immediately, after you've given your personal data and if you have valid papers with you; however, they can hold you for up to 12 hours in order to "check" the data you give them.

...if you were arrested as a suspect: at the latest at the end of day following the day of the arrest, i.e. maximally 48 hours – unless you are brought before a judge and the judge orders either 1) imprisonment on remand (possible only for severe crimes and if there is a "danger of flight and collusion," and then for up to 6 months but possibly also longer), or 2) so-called "summary proceedings".

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