

How to stop your own deportation?

Deportation is a big threat for every refugee living in Austria without a safe legal status. Many people think that in case of deportation, there is nothing you can do, because the police is too powerful. Yes, the police is powerful, but there are still things you can do to defend yourself against deportation. The following advice is based on practical experiences of different people – chose if it is useful for your own situation:



1) You are still free, but you are threatened by the authorities with deportation:

Don't hide your problem, inform your lawyer, your legal advisor and your good friends! Discuss with your friends what they must do if you get arrested! Make sure you have phone numbers of people you can call at any time, day or night, if you get arrested!

Always keep in mind: Your friends have much better chances to support you against being deported if YOU are also ready to resist!

2) You have been arrested and brought to deportation prison (Schubhaft):

You have the right to call a friend and your lawyer. Make clear to the police that they must allow you to call! Tell your friends and your lawyer where you are and if you want to get visits! Some people start hunger strikes in prison or injure themselves to get themselves out. This CAN be successful in some cases, but it is never a guarantee and it is always a high risk - hunger strikes and injuring oneself can produce long lasting health damages. If you are sick in prison, demand to see a doctor! Inform your friends and your lawyer about your situation in prison and tell them if you are sick or injured!

3) You received an appointment for getting deported

Inform if your friends and your lawyer immediately! Tell them exactly when they want to deport you and where they want to deport you! Tell them the number of the flight! Tell them if THEY shall do any actions to stop the deportation and tell them if YOU are ready to resist against the deportation!

4) The police want to bring you to the airport for deportation

As long as you are only with the police, it is very difficult to resist. The police can use force against you. Sometimes, people who resist get beaten up or abused by the police. Better: Stay calm as long as you are only with the police – start your resistance when you get to the plane!

5) Resistance at the airport (If you are deported with a normal passengers' flight, not with a charter flight!)

When you are brought into the plane and have a chance to talk to airline crew members, it is the right time to start your resistance! You can refuse walking up the stairs leading into the airplane or you can wait until you are inside the plane. Try your best to talk to any members of the airline crew and also to other passengers! Tell them that the police wants to deport you and that YOU DO NOT WANT TO FLY! Tell them that you are going to resist if they deport you! Refuse to sit down before the plane starts! If the police doesn't want to allow you to talk to airline crew members, you can shout out loud to let everyone know about your situation.

Keep in mind: Airline crew members want to have no disturbance during the flight and they are afraid of any trouble inside the plane. It is often very easy to convince them not to take you on the flight if you make clear to them that YOU DO NOT WANT TO FLY!

Also keep in mind: As soon as the doors of the plane are closed, the police has no more special authority – only the pilot is responsible for what is happening inside the plane!

6) Emergency exit

Sometimes, the deportation flight is no direct flight, but you have a stop in another country. Outside Austria, the Austrian police doesn't have the right to use force to get you deported. This means: Refuse to enter the connecting flight! Tell the police officers of the other country that you do not want to continue your flight and that they should bring you back to Austria!

7) You have stopped your deportation – what next?

If the police have no custody order (Schubhaftbescheid), they must let you leave freely as soon as the deportation has been cancelled. If they have a custody order (Schubhaftbescheid), they will bring you back to deportation prison. The next step: Contact your friends and your lawyer as quickly as possible – discuss with them what can be done to get you out!

Keep in mind: If you have stopped your deportation, it can always happen that the police will try again to deport you until they succeed. But there is also the chance for you to win more time to do something to get your freedom and a better legal situation!



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