

Interview with Tayeb

Anonymised in front of running camera
Basel, 8th of April 2020¹

The conversation took place in Arab and French and was translated into German during the documentation.

Content Notion:

humiliating admission control, physical violence, mentioning of injuries due to the described assault

For how long have you been at the camp now?

"For 2 months and 10 days."

What are your experiences with violence at the camp?

"I came here to seek asylum. But there [at the camp] we're suspected and regarded as a threat. They search me completely, head to food. I even had to take my shoes off, while the others only have to empty their bags at the entrance.

Once I recharged my phone. A Securitas came and ordered me upstairs. I said 'Okay, in a minute'. I just wanted to finish a call with my family. But he insisted, so I went upstairs. The Securitas followed me and suddenly pushed me from behind. I protested and told him, he had no right to just push me. The Securitas became angry. He pushed me harder and started calling [the other Securitas]. I defended myself and repeated that he had no right to treat me this way. But the Securitas didn't stop, instead he pressed me against a wall and kept calling his colleagues. Three of them dragged me downstairs, to the ground floor. They pushed me into the cell without windows and there they beat me up."

Was it three of the Securitas and you alone?

"Yes. It's not normal to beat up people like this. Something like that should not happen. When we come downstairs to fetch food, they tell us to keep a one-meter distance. But in our rooms we are with ten or twelve people."

¹ The Interview was led by a journalist and was being filmed simultaneously. In addition it was recorded by members of our collective and is now presented here in a revised version.

Were you injured after the assaults in the cell?

"My foot ached, my knee, I had bruises on my arm. But mainly they slapped me in the face."

What happened next? How did it end?

"They left me alone there after three hours. I wept. It's agony, abuse and injustice. I've always heard that Switzerland is a good and safe nation, a country of human rights. We came here to live in security but it's the contrary! I've NEVER experienced racism as bad as here. I just want to be treated as a human, not an animal."

Did you report the incident somewhere, for example the ORS?

"No. The ORS collaborates closely with the Securitas, they're accomplices. They say it's our fault, instead of the Securitas and they make up lies. I want swiss people to come into the camp and see the conditions there, to see what's going on and I want them to support us. I've thought about it a lot and I've had strong feelings. This has to end, I can't go on like that."