

Testimonial Djamal

Basel, May 7th 2020

The conversation took place in French, was then translated into German and then into English.

Content notion:
physical violence, denial of rights

Since when are you at the asylum?

"Two months in Flumenthal, two months in Basel."

What kind of experiences did you have there?

"Basel was horrible, the securitas¹ are racists. Flumenthal is better, there are less racist securitas there. One of them works at both places. I feel like I'm treated in a racist way because of my language, my origins and my religion."

Did you personally experience violence at these places?

"Yes. In January or February. The securitas beat Nabil so I spoke to them and asked, why they had done this. Then one of them tackled and choked me. Then three of them beat me. They beat me with fists and feet.

They brought me from the first floor down to the ground floor in to that little room next to the entrance and beat me there. It doesn't have any windows and there's no lighting. It was a three against one situation. They let me there until 6 AM. Other securitas woke me up. Then I went to my room. I wanted to get medical treatment but they wouldn't let me. The doctor wouldn't send me to the hospital. They were afraid that I would file a complaint."

What language do the securitas speak?

"They speak German together. There are some good and some bad securitas. I recognize the bad ones. The "Russian" has no hair and a beard. He is tall and strong. His eyes are kind of weird, he's cross-eyed or something like that. We don't know their names, they just have numbers."

Were you hurt?

¹ Employees of the Securitas AG will be referred to as "the securitas" in this text.

"Yes, I've had bad injuries, you've seen the photos and videos². My ear was badly injured and had a big lump behind it. I went to get treated by doctors at UKBB³. They sent me to an ear specialist. I kept the medical report, I have it with me in Flumenthal. It lasted almost a month for my ear to recover."

Does the ORS⁴ know what's going on?

"Of course, they all work together. I told everything to the legal representation and showed her my injuries. She always just said: *Later, later, I'm responsible for the asylum procedure, nothing more*. I wrote a letter of complaint⁵ with the help of the OESA⁶, but I didn't ever hear back. He always just said: *wait, wait*. I've seen a lot of violence against many people, Nabil, Youssuf and others."

And how is it in Flumenthal?

"Yes, it's better than in Basel. But they even used mace. I wasn't there. 10 days ago I was listening to music, but the securitas didn't like the music and wanted me to turn it off. I was about to turn it off when he started to hit me. He put my hands behind my back and called other securitas on his radio. Four of them hit me. Two friends of mine filmed. The securitas saw this. Following this they threw me out until the evening, took the other's phones and deleted the video. There is no possibility to complain."

Did you call the police?

"Yes, in Flumenthal. They came and looked around. I told them, but they said they didn't believe me. I wanted to file a complaint, they said: *tomorrow*,- then they left. The next day they didn't come. I don't know why."

Did you speak to the ORS?

"I spoke to one employee of the ORS because he witnessed it. But he didn't do anything."

Do you know about the situation in other placements?

"I only know people in Basel and Flumenthal."

Do you have a message for the Swiss population?

² The mentioned photos and videos are at hand of our collective, such as a hospital report from February 2020 which explicitly states an "assault" and a "kick against the left side of the head".

³ Children's University Clinic Basel

⁴ The ORS Service AG operates the federal asylum camp in Basel. For more information go to chapter 1: camp structure.

⁵ This complaint letter is at hand of our collective.

⁶ OESA: oecumenic pastoral care for asylum seekers in the immediate vicinity of the camp.

"I don't know what to say. We've already survived violence through the securitas. But the arriving young people haven't yet, something's got to change for them. I guess there are just a couple of bad people who have to leave. The securitas are so weird [*bizarre*] here in Switzerland."

What about Ramadan, could you adhere to it?

"It wasn't possible to do Ramadan in Flumenthal. They didn't prepare or pay for anything. I bought some groceries myself and people gave me some food."