

Testimonial Moustafa

Basel, April 22nd 2020

The conversation took place in Arabic, was then translated into French, then into German for the documentation and now translated into English, among other languages, to make the documentation accessible to a maximum of people.

Content notion:

Physical violence, victim blaming, denial of rights, sexualized language

"The securitas¹ came to inspect after dinner at 9:50 PM. They make a round every night at the same time. We all had to go to our rooms, so I went to mine. There, an asylum seeking person from Algeria was trying to steal my stuff. He keeps doing this kind of thing so it wasn't the first time. It annoyed me and I shouted: *Put a madre!* Then right away the same securitas, who is also from Algeria, came back into the room and asked me: *Hey, "Moroccan", what are you doing again?* When he came, I told him to call the police to report the other asylum seeker. The securitas said: *no, we don't like the police* and slapped me in the face. He grabbed me by the collar and shook me. Then he left. The *Algerian* asylum seeker started provoking me again, he hit me with a cell phone's charger chord. It really hurt, that's why I yelled very loudly. The same securitas came again, seized me by the shoulders and brought me down the corridor to the office of the securitas. There he said: *Stay here and stay quiet until I come back!* I didn't understand what was happening, so I waited. When he came back I asked him to explain his reaction to me, why I had to be here and that it was his duty to defend me. I told him that I hadn't done anything wrong, but that the other asylum seeker had hit me. He just ordered: *be quiet and empty your pockets.* So, I had to empty my pockets but I wouldn't take any more of the situation. So, I told the securitas to call the police so I could complain about the *Algerian* asylum seeker. He reacted even harsher and slapped me repeatedly. Then he left. I went to his *boss* to complain about what had just happened. But the *boss*, in his role, what did he do? He hit me in the face. All of a sudden the *Algerian* securitas came back towards me. I was still insisting on calling to police and filing a report. There were three securitas in the office. None of them reacted to my demand but hit me instead. The door to the office was shut and there are no cameras in there.

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

They were all against me, it was a three against one situation. Mainly two of them hit me, the *boss* didn't hit me as often. They hit me right away, without considering my demand. I tried protecting my face. The *Algerian securitas* grabbed my face and brutally crushed my cheeks and my mouth with his hand. Then he pressed my face to the floor and insulted me. He sat on me, pressed me to the ground and hit me from behind. He hit me in the face from the right and from the left. I shouted: *careful, my hand is injured!* But he didn't care. Mainly one of the *securitas* did all that. I can't remember what the other one looked like, the beatings kept me from looking. After this I was very hurt and everything was painful so I tried to calm them down. But they said: *No, you have to leave the camp right away for at least one hour.* Then they started beating me again. Two of them were hitting me as the *boss* was standing right next to us, observing everything and doing nothing. They kept going on, slapping me left and right and beating me. This went on until they threw me out of the *camp*. It was about 10:30 PM. I spent an hour outside, then I went back to the *home*. I was back at the *home* at around 11:35 PM. I rang the doorbell. The *boss* of *Securitas* checked who was there, saw me, but didn't open the door. So, I gave him the middle finger and left. I had to spend the night outside."

When did all of this happen?

"Yesterday, Tuesday the 21st April 2020. But these scenes happen a lot."

Which one is your room?

"237, on the second floor."

In which office did this happen?

"In the office of *Securitas*."

What about the Algerian securitas, who is he?

"Yes, he's from Kabylia, his name is Ali.²"

Since when are you in Basel?

"I've been at the *camp* in Basel for a month and five days. During the first couple of days everything was fine, but then came my asylum interview and the violence began. I want to spend as little time as possible at the *camp*. Only me, a SEM employee and a translator (on the phone) were present during the asylum interview. I didn't want a legal counsel. What for? They don't help me anyway, they just put additional pressure on me."

² The name has been changed.