

# Traveling to camps or actions

The action starts with the journey! Therefore, it makes sense to prepare yourself, exchange creative ideas with others and discuss different options together.

- It is possible that the police stops coaches and cars in order to search and check people's identity. Your bus/car could be searched at any point along the way, at the border, a service area alongside the highway, or just before reaching the camp. It is also possible, that the police searches you onboard a train or at a train station.
- In past years, a few coaches were checked at the border on their way to the camp. Cars were stopped in the vicinity of the camp. We were faced with massive controls during the arrival of the Ende Gelände special train in 2018. See **(1) Potential checks at train stations close to the destination**.
- The police can stop and inspect your vehicle for a number of different reasons: **(2) identity checks** (vehicle, bus, train, bicycle) for which they need a specific reason, **(3) general traffic control (vehicle)** which police is always allowed to do, and **(4) border controls** at the German border.

→ **Important: Inform yourself and discuss questions in your affinity group before departure!**

→ **In all cases: contact the legal team, if you find yourself in a police control or if you see other activists being searched. If needed, contact the legal team for advice when the police measures exceed the standard procedures (checking for car papers, warning triangle and first aid kit).**

## **(1) Potential checks at train stations close to the destination**

- Police checks are possible when trains arrive, at the train station, or at the station forecourt. In the past, the police used fences to cordon off the immediate area.

### How to prepare for potential checks at the train stations?

- Try to discuss different traveling options within your affinity group, like splitting up in smaller groups.
- Get organized with others, when larger groups find themselves confronted by police.
- Sometimes, it can be helpful to split into smaller groups on different trains, rather than travel as a huge group together, especially on the last leg of your journey.
- Try to mix in with the crowd and arrive as an inconspicuous tourist. In the past, it has sometimes been possible to simply walk past check points.

## **(2) How to deal with identity checks? (vehicle, bus, train, bicycle...)**

- Try to get the police to tell you what their reasons for searching you are, demand to see a written authorization stating the **legal basis** for the identity check. Object to what police are doing. Let them explain to you why you are supposed to be suspicious. You are on your way to a legal assembly (camp); because of that there is no reason to check your identity. Unfortunately, the police have and will make up reasons to justify their actions, so be prepared for harassment.
- Don't make any additional statements beyond what is written on your passport, except for maybe some very general information about your job (like "unemployed", "student"... ) and marital status ("single", "married"). You don't have to and shouldn't say any more than that.
- Another option is to refuse to state your identity. We advise to inform yourself about potential consequences beforehand (→ [www.ende-gelaende.org/en/action/legal-matters/](http://www.ende-gelaende.org/en/action/legal-matters/)).
- When feasible and OK for the involved persons, take pictures and videos of the checks or police abuse and send them to our press team ([presse@ende-gelaende.org](mailto:presse@ende-gelaende.org)) (Recordings are not for direct publication, but rather for documentation and will be treated confidentially).
- Oftentimes, police want more than just your ID. They also want to search your bags and pat you down, e.g. in order to look for dangerous objects. If you are suspected to have committed a criminal offence this is based on § 102 StPO (Code of Criminal Procedure), however, preventative police law also allows the police to search you under certain conditions (§ 12 Police-Law, refusing to give your name, or § 39 Police-Law, Search of persons).
- When you pack your bags, think long and hard, what you'll bring with you to the camp. Discuss with your affinity group how you want to react to inspections.

- As with many police measures: **refuse to make a statement! do not sign anything! file an objection!**

Simply demand that your objection is written down, ideally in the presence of witnesses. Also try to write down the specific reasons the police stated and the wording they used as soon as possible, as far as you can remember.

### **(3) What can the police do during a traffic control? (Car)**

- Only the driver has to give her or his name to the police, and show a valid driver's license, the passengers must not be checked without specific reasons.
- The Police can ask you to show vehicle registration, warning triangle, signal vests and the first aid kit, and also check the general road safety of your vehicle. Please check if your first aid kit is up to date, and replace it if necessary.
- The driving fitness of the driver may be checked. A urine test at police request is voluntary, but a blood sample can also be taken without a court order if there is a suspicion of offenses related to alcohol or drugs in road traffic. For example driving under the influence of alcohol or narcotics (§ 81a StPO)
- According to the new Police law in Northrhine-Westphalia (NRW), the Police can superficially check the boot and the inside of the car under certain prerequisites (§ 12a PolG NRW). For a more thorough search they need a search warrant (§ 102 StPO). They can also use an unspecified »imminent danger« to search you (§ 105 StPO). Always ask for specific reasons for their actions, why they have to search you, your car and your bags and what it is exactly they are so keen on finding. Asking for reasons can sometimes deter further searches.

### **(4) At the German Border**

- According to Art. 5 of the Schengen Accord a Person can be turned back at the border if they pose a threat for public safety and order, for example if it can be expected they will commit a crime in Germany. The Police must give specific reasons for this at the point of entry. The legal hurdles for this are very high, especially, when you are going to a demonstration anyone is allowed to attend.
- Only in the case of very big mobilizations is there a possibility of systematic border controls. Random traffic controls can happen, e.g., your car or bus is stopped, or you are checked on a train. Some officers have already asserted both in public and in court that the police is selecting people and vehicles based on racial profiling.
- During these controls, police may check your identity and look for matches in various databases, including the European database SIS (Schengen Information System) and in the criminal records of the Federal and State Criminal Police Offices (BKA/LKA). They might also contact the police in your country of origin.

#### What to do?

- Consider if there is a possibility of you being included in the database of the Schengen Information System (SIS). You can ask about this in advance using the SIRENE information bureau in your home country. Depending on where you live, this may take a while.
- If you suspect that you are at risk of being stopped at the border because you might be included in SIS or other databases, try to travel less conspicuous. Travel in small groups on a train like normal tourists and not on a bus that is obviously traveling to an action.
- Should you get turned back at the border, a lawyer may be able to appeal the travel ban. You can call the EA if you need assistance.

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**Further Information on refusing your id and other legal questions:**

[www.ende-gelaende.org/en/action/legal-matters/](http://www.ende-gelaende.org/en/action/legal-matters/)

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