

AGAINST THE ROUNDUPS OF UNDOCUMENTED PEOPLE

A new sting operation targeting undocumented people and involving around fifty police officers is meant to begin on July the 11th and last all summer. The operation will mainly take place at Gabriel Peri in the mornings and in the surroundings of Part-Dieu in the afternoons (train station and shopping center).

Last 17th and 18th of June this year, the police have conducted a huge campaign of identity checks and arrests of undocumented people in Lyon and all throughout France. More 600 people have been arrested. In Lyon, these operations have led to the arrest of more than 30 people in Jean Macé (just a few steps away from the resistance and deportation museum, the symbolism is strong), La Guillotière, Croix-Rousse, Place des Terreaux, Perrache... This roundups have a clear goal: to **make life impossible for people who have been refused regularization by the state**. If the operation has been launched and largely broadcasted by Bruno Retailleau who is always seeking more to the far right voters, it is part of the long history of the **racist, xenophobic and colonial policies led by the French State**. Since Retailleau's joining of the Ministry of Internal Affairs these operations have escalated. Numerous roundups have taken place in public transports late May. The pushbacks in the snow or at sea are a daily and deadly reality at the french borders.

Those arrested are place in **Administrative Detention Centers (CRA) and are in danger of being deported**. Even when they are not reported, they can remain locked up for up to **7 months** (it was still 3 months until the 8th of July!) in appalling conditions including: police brutality, insufficient and disgusting food, racist insults, overcrowding... Simply because they don't have the "right" papers... They then lose their jobs, they social relationship, their family ; in short, their whole life is destroyed.

What we have witnessed over the last few days crosses new linmits in police practices. Numerous testimonies recount police officers breaking into buildings and asking residents and passersby to report any undocumented person they know.

We cannot turn a blind eye to these racist and xenophobic operations!

If you run little or no risk of being stopped by the police because you are white or have french identity papers:

- **You can film stops and arrests.** It is not illegal, but you run the risk of being stopped which waste their time.
- **Keeps the cops busy and slow them down.** Here are some examples: ask for directions, make small talk, pretend you are feeling unwell...
- **Ask to see the prosecutor's requisition authorizing the checks.** Make sure to verify the time and place. Without this document, checks are illegal and people arrested can be released. Take the time to read in detail and if can take a picture.
- **Knowing the law on racial profiling** can help you keep your composure if you decide to talk to the police.
- **Warn people under threat of controls** in the vicinity of police operations in progress.
- **Remind people who are being checked of their rights** (even if it means shouting).
- Set off the indignation of passers-by by explaining the political context. In which these roundups take place and their racist and xenophobic nature.
- **Write down the name of the street and the time of the arrest** and pass these information onto the collectives supporting undocumented migrants in your town, along with the video of the arrest if you have filmed it, this could be useful for the proceedings.

If someone close to you has been arrested:

- **Find out where they are by calling police stations** (even better if a lawyer does it). Beware, you need to know if the person gave their real name or not!
- **Quickly collect any document that might show that the person has ties in France** and pass them onto the lawyer.
- In case of a placement in a detention center, attending the first hearing before the Juge des Libertés in large numbers can influence the judge decisions.

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WHAT CAN YOU DO IF YOU ARE UNDOCUMENTED?

Undocumented people should never have to hide or to be afraid of leaving their home or to look for every day strategy to protect themselves... Alongside these few tips to avoid the worse, we must fight relentlessly to demand freedom of movement and unconditional regularizations!

To avoid being arrested and placed in a CRA:

- The most common place to be checked are **SNCF railway stations, large underground station, places where people pass through, certain square**, etc...
- When using public transport, **have a ticket**.
- If you have to travel, **avoid international train and buses** and favor car pooling. If you still need to take the train, get off one stop before your destination if it is a major station. By car, watch out for major tolls (near major cities, borders, etc...).
- **Gather up all the documents proving your presence and ties in France** (certificates of AME entitlement, bank statements, tax returns, prescriptions, school certificates for you and your children, proof of address, civil partnership or marriage certificate, etc...). **Put them in a safe place and tell your friends and family where they are**.
- Note the name and bar of a trusted lawyer and the phone number of someone close to you.
- **Never carry your passport** (even a photocopy) **or a false official document**. Nor should you carry your AME card as it proves that you are undocumented.
- On the other hand, **you can have unofficial documents that proves your identity** and your links in France: student card, work permit, pax or marriage certificate, etc...
- If you plan to give a false identity in the event of an arrest, tell you friends and family in advance about this false identity.

If you get checked:

- Ask to see **the prosecutor's written requisition** to check that the time and address correspond to you arrest. **Remember the exact time and place of the stop**, as procedural errors could result in your release.
- **In the hands of the police, you have rights**. If they are not respected, this may constitute a defect in procedure that would allow you to be released. You therefore need to now that **you have the right to: an interpreter, a lawyer, a doctor, to refuse to sign the official report, to remain silent**. While in administrative detention, you can keep your telephone and contact your relatives. While in police custody, you may notify only one close relative and your employer. The police must notify you of each of these rights.
- Never tell the police that you refuse to be deported, as they may send you to the CRA under the pretext of "risk of escape".

If you are placed in a CRA:

- Go and see the members of the association (Forum Réfugiés in Lyon), give them the name of your lawyer or ask for the name of the duty lawyer for your hearing (so they can be given the information on your case) and tell them that you want to appeal against all the measures taken against you: placement in the CRA, OQTF, IRTF...
- You can use either one of those two strategies: (1) hide your identity and above all not give your passport (if you have no chance of having your OQTF overturned), or **(2) give your identity and ask for an assignement to residence** (if you have a chance of having your OQTF overturned) (which implies giving your passport).
- Try to get in touch with **support groups for people held in detention centers** in your town.
- **The mobilization** of your family and friends on the outside can sometimes lead to your release: rallies, petitions, media coverage... any form of pressure on the prefecture.

More resources on:

- the YouTube channel of @LyonAnticra and @abaslescras6917
- <https://crametoncralyon.noblogs.org/category/matots/>

Legal team antiracist: 07 80 99 99 82 (they can put you in touch with lawyers if necessary)

agantirafle69@riseup.net

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