



**FREEDOM**  
**حرية**  
**LIBERTÀ**

**FROM ARREST TO  
DETENTION CENTER :**



**FACING THE  
DEPORTING  
MACHINE  
WHEN  
UNDOCUMENTED**

**CALAIS**

This brochure is an adaptation for the situation in Calais of the brochure 'Facing the deporting machine when undocumented', originally written for the Paris region.

It aims to collect legal and practical information useful for understanding your rights and how to try to get released in case of arrest and possible deportation. The brochure has been written on the basis of legal texts and first and secondhand experiences. The French legal system doesn't leave many opportunities for obtaining freedom in such cases, and some of the advice reported here are not legal or legally allowed. This guide is very dense, and practices change from one case to another, and from one prefecture to another. It is therefore not exhaustive.

Moreover, "it's you and your good luck," depending on the prefectur, cops, lawyers and judges that you meet. What happens to one person is not guaranteed to happen in the same way to another.

**These pages are not only a guide for those who can be deported, but also an act against national borders.** This text is not only concerned with providing tools to escape State control but also wishes to oppose it by blocking its deportation machine.

Taking part in a struggle, refusing to board a plane, spending time in jail, and everything that might happen to you while you are in a detention centre, is not necessarily going to be a problem if you try to obtain a residency permit later on.

If you want the PDF:

<https://calaismigrantsolidarity.wordpress.com/?p=15557>

If you want to share your experience: [calais\\_solidarity@riseup.net](mailto:calais_solidarity@riseup.net)

The version from Paris:

<https://abaslescra.noblogs.org/face-a-lexpulsion/>

[face-a-lexpulsion@riseup.net](mailto:face-a-lexpulsion@riseup.net)



## CONCLUSION

This brochure covers a lot of procedures, but as new laws against foreigners are passed, there are fewer and fewer legal means to get away from their implementation. In this context, it is particularly important to establish a lever of power. The institution does not treat you the same way if you react. If isolated, you are always more vulnerable: this machine is overwhelming, but it is embodied in multiple individuals (civil servants, judges, cops, lawyers, etc...) on whom, if organised and supported, you can have an impact. It also unfortunately happens that collective initiatives are more targeted by repression, but this is precisely because they are stronger.

We know that many people who are arrested near the Franco-British border want to leave France to go to the United Kingdom as quickly as possible and do not necessarily have the possibility of organising themselves in the long term here. However, being part of groups of undocumented migrants, organising inside the detention centres between detainees as well as outside with people in solidarity, often makes it possible to get out of this machine.

**Mars 2024**

## SOME PRACTICAL INFORMATION :

There are 2 CRAs in the Hauts-de-France region, where more than 3300 people were imprisoned in 2022. Every CRA is divided in different areas. Therefore, you will have to call the phone booth of the relevant area to get the person you're looking to contact. If you don't know the area in which the person is imprisoned, you can ask the organisation or the police as a last resort. (be careful to not compromise the person if you are not sure about the identity they gave to the police).

Since the Coquelles and Lesquin CRA do not have specific areas for families, women and/or children who were arrested near the franco-british border may be sent to the Oissel CRA, near Rouen (Normandie).

### **Calais-Coquelles:**

Address: Hôtel de police, Boulevard du Kent (62231 Coquelles)

Police phone number: 03.21.19.58.90

Organisation on site: France Terre D'Asile ([cracoquelles@france-terre-asile.org](mailto:cracoquelles@france-terre-asile.org) / 03.21.85.28.46 / 03.91.91.16.01 / 03.21.34.48.22)

Phone Booth numbers: Area 1 (green) : 03.21.00.91.55

Area 2 (red) : 03.21.00.82.16 Area 3 (blue) : 03.21.00.96.99

Area 4 (yellow) : 03.21.19.89.92 / 03.21.19.88.94

### **Lille-Lesquin:**

Address: Rue de la Drève (59810 Lesquin)

Police phone number: 03.20.10.62.50

Organisation on site: Assfam ([cralille@groupe-sos.org](mailto:cralille@groupe-sos.org) / 0320852559)

Phone Booth numbers: Hall Phone Booth: 03.20.44.74.13

Area A: 03.20.32.76.20 Area B: 03.20.32.70.53

Area C: 03.20.32.75.31 Area D: 03.20.73.82.85

Area F: 03.20.32.75.82

### **Rouen-Oissel:**

Address: École de police, Route des Essarts, BP11 (76350 Oissel)

Police phone number: 02.32.11.55.00

Organisation on site: France Terre D'Asile ([craoissel@france-terre-asile.org](mailto:craoissel@france-terre-asile.org) / 02.35.68.75.67)

Phone Booth numbers: Woman/family area : 02.35.69.11.42

Male area : 02.35.68.61.56 / 02.35.68.77.09

Collective for visits and support of the Oissel's prisoners: 07.83.76.53.45

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# GENERAL SUGGESTIONS BEFORE ARREST

## Highly risky places:

It is possible to be arrested anywhere but there are some places where police controls are more common. These are **bus and train stations** (to avoid more controls: avoid escalators, one-way corridors. If possible, have some money with you to pay the fine); the **city centre** of Calais ; and **around the living areas** (jungles, squats...) according to the prosecutor's orders. Since controls can occur without any specific order in an area of 10 km around the port of Calais and the one of Dunkirk along with a band 20km wide along the Belgian border, this covers almost the entire cities of Calais and Dunkirk. Police arrests can also take place after failed crossing attempts/missed tries to go the United Kingdom, by boats or trucks, especially in the restricted area of the port. **If you are controlled or arrested, try your best to make it visible. Especially in case of a raid, so that people around you can be aware and possibly intervene.**

## You are summoned to the prefecture:

If you are summoned to the prefecture, be alert. Ask someone to translate the summons paper to you. If the summons paper says "en vue de votre éloignement" (in order to proceed with the expulsion):

- If you are asylum seeker, it may possibly refer to a deportation within the "Dublin agreements"
- Otherwise, if you have been denied papers from the prefecture for residency permit (OFPRA or CNDA) **it is surely an expulsion procedure** (you can be under an OQTF\* without knowing it). **So do not go to the summons!**

## Based on your own strategy:

You can choose to give a **fake identity**, to avoid giving away your nationality. In this case, avoid (in general) to have with you any paper that could identify you (like your passport or a documentary copy of an application).

- **After five days:** In case of re-examination without new and real evidence after the 5 days, OFPRA will reject your application without examining it, it will state that your request is inadmissible (if new facts, see "within 5 days"). If the nationality of your asylum request is considered as a 'safe country', your request will be automatically rejected by the prefecture within the same day or the next day, regardless of possible new evidence. In this case, the prefecture does not need to make a new detention order (AMR); it is not possible to gain time or avoid a flight by this method.

The detention centre and the prison go hand in hand, and it is common to be taken from one to the other. Indeed, **at the CRA, during your detention or after 90 days, you can be prosecuted for ‘evading a deportation order’ following a refusal to meet the consul, an attempt to escape, or a denied boarding.** Thus you might find yourself before the criminal court, and endure a prison sentence. This practice has become common.

On release from prison, people are very often transferred directly to the detention centre. So you can go back and forth between prison and detention centre.

## **Asylum Application:**

You can apply for asylum in the CRA. In the following 5 days, your request -first request or reconsideration- will be examined, in theory in 96 hours (but in practice, it’s more like a week in Calais).

In any case, **its primary goal is to avoid a flight.** But beware, if OFPRA (the authority responsible for deciding asylum claims) considers that you are only making an asylum claim to obstruct a removal flight, the claim will be rejected and sometimes the prefecture deports people before the decision on the claim has even been handed down and the prefecture is sure the claim has been rejected. During the examination period by the OFPRA, you can’t be deported. To keep you in detention, the prefecture will take a detention order (AMR); you have 48 hours to dispute it at the TA. This appeal is also suspensive. The hearing before the TA takes place at the same time as the one disputing the deportation decision, if you appealed. It will take place 96 hours after the decision of the OFPRA (or more depending on the court). In case of a rejection by the OFPRA and in case of appeal before the CNDA (asylum appeal court), the court will decide to keep you in detention or not.

- **Within five days:** OFPRA summons you normally between day 4 and 10, and sends the decision 3 to 6 days later (sometimes before). OFPRA rarely summons people in a re-examination procedure and can assess its decision on written documents only.

If the cops have access to a document that helps them verify your identity, it will make your deportation easier, because they can possibly have a laissezpasser from your consulate or embassy faster. **If they have your passport, cops may not even need the laissezpasser.** If you are in police custody, cops may look in your phone to see which country you called, and therefore guess your nationality ; erasing your phone call history on a regular basis can be a good strategy.

**CAUTION:** the Algerian embassy issues laissezpasser for anyone regardless of their nationality, you may be deported to Algeria even if you are not Algerian; you may face prison in Algeria and in France when you come back.

Some people travelling in the north of France may carry passports from their country of origin, whether or not they used it to travel. If your passport does not give you the right to travel or stay in France, it will not prevent you from being arrested during an identity check. **The police can seize your passport if they find it on you.** Most of the time, they do it while giving you an OQTF document (obligation to leave the French territory). If the police seize your passport, they have to give you an attestation or a document. Except in the case of formal execution of an OQTF, it is very difficult to retrieve your passport, especially if you go to the United Kingdom in an irregularised way. However, the passport of your country of origin might be useful for an asylum application since it is a way of proving you really come from the country you are saying you are from. Give real consideration to the best way to protect your passport while you're traveling and moving around Calais.

If you have a fixed address or if you are hosted by someone, the passport can also allow you to be under house arrest and not being held in detention. It is a guarantee of representation. There is still a risk than even with a passport, the judge decides to keep you in detention. You must consider if it’s wise to give your passport according to your situation.

In any case, if you already know that you don’t want to give your passport, **never talk about it** to the police during the hearing. If you have it at home and the Prefecture knows you have one, they can establish it as an “obstruction to the removal measure”.

# ARREST

**Everything that happens during an arrest may be used by your lawyer to obtain a discharge during your first hearing with the judge (if your rights have not been respected).** This is why it is important to ask for your rights at the moment of your arrest. Cops will tell you that you will be released earlier if you do not ask for them but this is not true. They are not the ones who decide. **Insisting on having all of your rights is a strategy to multiply the possible errors made by the police which may become useful to you later on.**

## At the police station:

There are two types of procedure: *La retenue administrative* (administrative detention) & *la garde à vue* or GAV (police custody)

**IDENTITY CHECK:** before being put in GAV or retenue administrative, you can be held for identity check for up to four hours. During this time, you don't have the same rights as you have in GAV or retenue. Sometimes, in the case of a raid, cops and the prefecture organise so that in the 4 hours you can be put in CRA. In this case, when you are summoned to the JLD (see below), your lawyer has to look into the legal terms of your arrest.

**Do not sign any document that you do not understand.** Do not believe cops. You can write *je ne comprend pas* (I do not understand) on papers. As a general advice, avoid signing any paper they give you. If you live with other undocumented people, do not give your real address so as not putting them in danger. You can also specify other reasons to explain why you refuse to sign. For example 'the information is wrong'; 'I didn't get access to a lawyer or a translator despite my request'...

**You should never say that you don't want to leave the country** (except in the TA -see below-). If you are asked the question "Do you want to leave the country?" you can answer "Yes I want to leave", or "If I don't have other options, I will leave," or "I want to leave, but by my own means". What you say to cops or judges is not going to commit you to anything.

It is better to have a good lawyer specialised in immigration law. There is no possibility to have a free lawyer that the court chooses. However, you must have access to a lawyer on duty during the hearing. Again, the presence of trusted people during the hearing and external support is important, because it demonstrates your ties in France.

## Flights:

At the Coquelles CRA, most of the flights take off from Paris and sometimes from Lille. **It is possible to try to refuse to board this flight. Discuss with others about individual or collective practices** that can work to avoid deportation.

The flights might be announced or hidden. You might be taken by force for the first flight even if you didn't especially express a refusal. It is also possible that by refusing a first flight, the police force you to sign a document explaining that you refused the flight. This will give them the written proof of your refusal and enable them to keep you in detention.

Not all police escorts work in the same way in case of refusal to board a flight. In general try to communicate your refusal as late as possible (the best way is to do so in the plane in plain sight of the other passengers), so that the cops can't anticipate that you are going to rebel. Moreover, you are not alone with the cops, they can't be as violent. Some passengers may intervene or be outraged.

**People that you trust can go to the airport** to talk to passengers at the check-in and encourage them, for example, to ask the pilot (and not the cops) to refuse to take off with someone being deported on board.

Sometimes, there is no escort. In this case, it is possible to refuse the flight before leaving the CRA (see with other detainees). To make you accept a flight, cops may pressure you and lie to you saying that there will be an escort.

## Prison:

**If the judge releases you, the prefecture and the prosecutor have 10 hours to appeal the decision of the court. You will be held in the tribunal until you know if there is an appeal or not.**

**Most of the time, the hearing is really quick and the judge simply extends the detention time.** If your lawyer has raised a lot of issues regarding your detention procedure and the judge still keeps you in detention, **it is worth appealing the extension. You have 24 hours to do so**, and you have to ask your lawyer to proceed with the appeal. The appeal will be heard the next day or the day after. For the Coquelles CRA, you are convened to a hearing in the Douai court of appeal (sometimes by video conference, sometimes the police bring you in person).

**To appeal means spending another day in the waiting rooms of the tribunal cell.** If your lawyer didn't say anything (or not much), it won't be possible to say more in the appeal, no matter the lawyer, and the result will be the same.

Even **if you are released**, the decision of your expulsion is not cancelled (see TA below). In case you are not released, you return to the detention center for 28 days.

**Next JLDs:**

**The prefecture has to request a new extension from the JLD on the 30th, 60th and 75th day of your detention.** Your lawyer will then have to demonstrate that the prefecture has not attempted to deport you (has not contacted the consul, booked a flight, etc...) and that your detention is abusive. Most of the time the prefecture wins the case and your detention is extended.

## **The Administrative Tribunal (TA) :**

You will have a hearing at the TA of the same department that has issued the OQTF in the days following the appeal. In the meantime, you can't be deported. Here again it is a lottery... The judge has to confirm or cancel your deportation order and your ban on returning to the French territory. **So it is at this moment of the procedure - and only in this administrative tribunal - that you have to explain why you want to stay in France** (family life, ties in France, work, school, risks in the country of origin, illness, etc...).

**When you arrive at the police station, in GAV as in retenue, you have rights.** Ask for all your rights, if they are not respected, this could be used to obtain a discharge later on:

- **Ask for a translator in your mother tongue:** cops are not translators, even if they speak your mother tongue. *Be wary of the translators since they work hand in hand with the prefecture and the police. Sometimes, the translation is limited so you must insist on getting the whole translation of all the documents. If the translation is not clear, you must clarify when they ask you to sign : I refuse to sign because of a bad or incomplete translation, or you must repeat : 'I didn't understand the translation.'*
- **Ask for a lawyer appointed by the court, or a lawyer you trust:** preferably a lawyer specialised in immigration law. If you ask for a lawyer appointed by the court, s/he will not be the same person throughout the whole procedure. Give your lawyer all the useful documents, ask him/her to get them. If there is a decision to be disputed (like an OQTF -see below-) ask your lawyer to dispute it. CAUTION: a lawyer is not necessarily a good advisor!
- **Ask to see a doctor:** you can ask him/her to witness any violence you may have suffered (try to make him/her produce a certificate). CAUTION: doctors are not allies, don't tell them anything more than necessary!
- **Ask to have a trusted person informed:** this may help people to organise support outside. CAUTION: if you want to use a fake identity, it has to be known by the trusted person you want to inform, because s/he will be talking with cops on the phone. You can ask to call him/her by yourself but cops may refuse.
- **You can ask to inform your employer:** do so only if you think this might be useful.
- **Right to food and water:** in administrative detention, you have the right to eat and drink, these are basic needs. A lack of food and water for more than 12 hours might be considered as a procedural error.

**Specific features for persons declaring themselves as underage:** Often, the police are the ones who assign a date of birth to make people appear over the age of legal majority. Sometimes, it is because the translator estimates by him/herself that the person is not underage: if you suspect that the translator is acting in bad faith, do not sign and say "I am underage".

**Retenue**

**Garde-à-vue**

<b>administrative</b>	
In retene administrative cops check for your identity & nationality	In garde à vue, cops suspect you of committing a crime; they can accuse you of any crime
It lasts 24 hours	It lasts 24 hours maximum and can be extended once by 24 hours (it can last up to 96 hours in case of serious accusations)
You do not have the right to remain silent. Try to speak as little as you can. If you are asked if you are willing to leave, a good answer is: 'Yes, by my own means', or 'No, I'm an asylum applicant' or 'I want to apply for asylum in france' if it's your case.	In this case, you have the same rights that in retene administrative (see left), but you also have the right to remain silent, so do it!
They can at any time decide to put you in GAV. The total duration of your detention has to be the same	
You should be kept in a separate cell from the people in garde à vue	
You are not supposed to be handcuffed	
You can keep your phone but you have very little chance of being able to use it.	

➔Reminder : If you have been handcuffed and placed under retene administrative or if they refused you some of your rights : you can refuse to sign the official report of the retene administrative ending/expiry, by explaining the reasons for your refusal.

If people close to you, collectives and supportive people are aware of your arrest, they may express their solidarity by holding a rally in front the police station, for example. If you can show the authorities that you have external support, this may change your relationship with cops in the police station, as well as with all the other people you will meet during the procedure.

**FINGERPRINTS:** if you've asked for a French visa in your home country and you've provided your fingerprints (VisaBio database) or you've been or are under a

If your lawyer is specialised in migration rights, they will more likely look for *vices de procédures* (procedural errors). CAUTION: paying a lawyer a high fee is not a guarantee of being properly defended, the lawyers who are activists are often the cheapest If your lawyer is provided by the court (free), a good defence is not guaranteed. Some people don't give a shit about your situation and won't make any effort to help you, while others will work harder. Tell the lawyer in detail everything that happened since your arrest. (e.g. you asked for a translator, and you didn't get it...).

For the judge, it's also a lottery. Some judges don't release anyone... Normally, they should not look at your personal situation in France or the reasons for your asylum application, but they still often ask questions. The court expects two contradictory speeches from you. In any case, the judge will ask you if you do not want to stay. You can answer 'Yes, I want to leave', or 'If I don't have choice, I will leave', or 'I want to leave but by my own means' ...

The judge can ask you how well integrated you are in France. Beware, it might be a trap. Depending on the judge, being well integrated may mean that you can be entitled to a residence permit, or indicate that you don't want to leave. Before the hearing, ask your lawyer if they know this judge in order to choose a good strategy.

Often, lawyers offer to ask for an **assignation à résidence (house arrest)**. This implies that you will give your passport to the judge, who will give it to the prefecture. This is a very dangerous strategy, because once your passport is in the hands of the authorities there is no need of laissezpasser to deport you. This strategy is worth it only if the prefecture has your passport already, or if you have very strong guarantee of representation (proof of residence, promise of employment, school certificate, marriage certificate, ...) and thus there is a good chance that the assignation à résidence will be granted.

If you have support from trusted people, they can bring you guarantees of representation and ask to meet the lawyer. The presence of the people who support you before and during the hearing is important because it puts pressure on the lawyer and the judge.



## The consul :

If the French police doesn't have any of your documents, they have to introduce you to a consul so that they can confirm your nationality and issue the laissez-passer. If the consul doesn't identify you, cops can take you to other embassies.

If you think that the consul will identify you, it is always possible to insist on the ties that you have to France, so that they might refuse to issue the laissez-passer. Again, you can discuss with the other detainees about more or less risky strategies to avoid being identified by the consul.

Going to the consul and refusing to talk to them will not prevent them from issuing a laissez-passer. You can refuse to see them, but there is a risk to be sent to *garde à vue* (this is not systematic) and/or your refusal may be used to justify an extension of your detention.

## Freedom and detention judge, *juge des libertés et de la détention* (JLD) :

**Fourty-eight or seventy-two hours after your arrival at the detention centre, you will be taken to the *juge des libertés et de la détention* at the *Tribunal de grande instance* (TGI) of the department of your detention centre.** The case is referred to the judge by the prefecture, who requests that you remain in detention in order to deport you, because they consider that you will not leave the national territory on your own (this is why it's better not to say that one doesn't want to leave).

Some JLD take place in a building next to the CRA. It is the case in Coquelles. In the court's annexe, showing ID is not always required to attend hearings, it depends on the police. Before entering the court, there is a check (a more or less thorough physical search at the discretion of the police).

The judge is expected to look at whether the procedure has been rigorously respected since your arrest. It is therefore the task of your lawyer to show that the procedure has not been respected, to obtain your release from the judge.

*so-called Dublin procedure (EURODAC database), your fingerprints may be tracked down as well as your identity and country of origin.*

*You can refuse to give your fingerprints - it constitutes an offence, but most of the time cops will not make you give your fingerprints by force.*

*Caution: if you are prosecuted for refusing to give your fingerprints and you go to comparison immediate (fast-track trial), you can ask for the trial to be postponed. However, there is a chance you will be put in pre-trial detention. If you give your fingerprints in prison, they may be tracked. **If you keep refusing to give them, it may impact your prison life, but it will avoid giving them to the prefecture.** You might also not be prosecuted but placed in detention.*

## If you are given an OQTF and IRTF when you leave the police station:

At the police station you may receive an additional summons (for a possible trial), a *rappel à la loi* (a formal reminder of the law), but also **an order to leave the country (like an OQTF)**. An OQTF *Obligation de Quitter le Territoire Français* (obligation to leave the french territory) is an administrative decision ordering you to leave the country. Most of the times, the OQTF has no delay, meaning that **you have 48 hours to dispute it**. The OQTF is nowadays always paired with an IRTF *Interdiction de Retour sur le Territoire Français* (Ban on returning to the french territory) for two or three years. The IRTF period starts the day you have officially left the country: as long as you stay in France, the IRTF is still valid in its entirety.

***The OQTF has a validity period of 1 year:** Beyond this period, you can't be placed in detention from one day after the validity expires. Hence, the IRTF is also lapsed, which means that after this date, you may for example try again to get papers. Even so, this also means that the prefecture is able to give you a new OQTF later on. **Be careful,** if your OQTF has expired and you are coming back to France while you still have an IRTF, you can be detained for "non respect of the measure" and the prefecture can increase the duration of the IRTF.*

**If you are liberated, go as soon as possible ask an association specialised in immigration rights to translate the documents and, if possible, to dispute the OQTF and IRTF.**

## **THE DETENTION CENTRE**

Some people call it "the depo". **The detention centre (CRA) is a prison for undocumented people, where someone can be detained up to 3 months while the state tries to deport them.** Authorities are willing to keep you there because they suppose that you don't want to leave the country on your own. To hold you in detention, the prefecture must have taken an administrative expulsion decision about you (OQTF, "Dublin" transfer decision, ...).

## Arrival at the CRA:

If the OQTF decision has just been taken and you have been notified at the police station, or you are being Dublined, you have 48 hours to appeal against it.

**Immediately contact the organisation responsible for defending your rights inside the detention centre** (in Coquelles, it is present from Monday to Friday from 9am to 7pm and on Saturday from 9am to 5pm). If you arrive after 5pm on Saturday, contact the organisation as quickly as possible on Monday morning. If you can't meet with the organisation, go to the CRA clerk office in order to have your appeal recorded in writing : *Je conteste toutes les décisions dont je fais l'objet* (I challenge all decisions made against me). Ask (insist until they do it) the authorities to fax your appeal to the administrative court (*Tribunal Administratif*, TA). If you can't do it, you can ask a trusted person to do it for you, by adding the sentence *la requête de l'intéressé sera régularisée par la présence de l'intéressé à l'audience* (the request of the interested party will be regularised by the presence of the interested party at the hearing). Your appeal has to be sent to the same administrative court of the department of the prefecture that issued the OQTF. If your appeal is accepted, you will have a hearing at the TA (see TA below) .

Mobile phones with cameras are not allowed in detention centres; all other types of phones are.	As in police detention, it is useful to take note of any information your lawyer could use.
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**The OQTF decision may have been taken many months before you are held in a detention centre, even if you were not aware and did not receive a notification. You can't dispute the decision in the TA if the deadline for appeal has already passed.**

In the detention centre, cops decide everything and everything is based on who has power. **Talk with other detainees to know about the practices in the centre** (regarding the operations of the centre as well as the deportation practices, deportation flights which are not communicated to detainees, fake summoning, etc.). If possible collectively organise to gain power against the administration. You will also meet doctors and nurses, **that unfortunately are not there to make sure you are healthy**, but rather to calm you and assure the power of the cops inside the centre, and to sedate you before the deportation flight. **Beware of the drugs they want to give you.**

In the detention centre, you can contact the organisation for your administrative procedures and be assisted for your appeals (collect information on your case, ask for a lawyer's name, receive legal advice on your case, ...). The state relies on the presence of organisations in the CRA to make people think that detainees can defend themselves legally and that you have allies within the centre. It is the humanitarian alibi of the deportation machine.

In practice, they are legal guarantors: most of the time, they will not give practical advice outside the law. Moreover, they are not numerous and have neither time nor means to follow up all the case. They are therefore forced to sort out "good" from "bad" case. Whatever they tell you, insist that even if there is little merit in the appeal, it may buy you some time. Other people can also pressure them from the outside.

During the time spent in detention, **the administration will try to know your nationality** (or to assign you one):

- **If the administration has your passport**, they do not need a laissez-passer and they will try to deport you quickly, possibly before a hearing with a judge.
- **If you are "Dublined"**, the laissez-passer is issued at the same time as the decision of expulsion.
- **If they don't have your passport**, they need to receive a laissez-passez from a consulate to allow your deportation:

If they have another identity document or a copy (found on you or from previous procedure at the prefecture) the consul doesn't need to see you to send a laissez-passer.	If they don't have any document on you, the consul must then meet you to decide if they will send on a laissez-passer or not.
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