



BELGIAN CRIMINAL CHARGES TEN THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW



LEGAL ASSISTANCE OFFICE
NORTHERN LAW CENTER
SUPREME HEADQUARTERS ALLIED POWERS EUROPE BELGIUM

- 1. BELGIAN POLICE CAN DETAIN YOU FOR UP TO 24 HOURS AT THE POLICE STATION.**
- 2. FOR THE FIRST 24 HOURS OF DETENTION, YOU HAVE NO RIGHT TO A PHONE CALL OR TO AN ATTORNEY.**
- 3. YOUR COMMAND REPRESENTATIVES WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO TALK TO YOU OR TO BE IN THE SAME ROOM WITH YOU WHILE YOU ARE BEING QUESTIONED BY THE BELGIAN POLICE.**
- 4. YOU WILL HAVE AN INTERPRETER. IF YOU ARE A SUSPECT, YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN SILENT. HOWEVER, YOU MAY NOT BE TOLD THAT YOU HAVE THAT RIGHT. ASK IF YOU ARE A SUSPECT AND ASK FOR YOUR RIGHTS TO BE EXPLAINED.**
- 5. WITNESSES HAVE NO RIGHT TO REMAIN SILENT. IF YOU ARE ONLY A WITNESS AND YOU DO NOT ANSWER QUESTIONS, YOU MAY BE CHARGED WITH LACK OF COOPERATION.**
- 6. DURING THE TIME THAT YOU ARE IN CUSTODY, EVEN IF IT IS ONLY A SHORT TIME, ASK FOR WATER, FOOD, BATHROOM, BREAKS, AND MEDICAL ATTENTION AS NEEDED.**
- 7. IF YOU ARE CHARGED, YOU WILL BE GIVEN A WRITTEN NOTIFICATION OF THE CHARGES EITHER IN FRENCH OR IN DUTCH. YOU WILL RECEIVE AN EXPLANATION THE MEANING OF THIS NOTIFICATION IN ENGLISH. ALWAYS REQUEST COPIES OF ALL PAPERS YOU SIGN. THE NORTHERN LAW CENTER CAN PROVIDE A TRANSLATION OF YOUR STATEMENTS.**
- 8. THE POLICE MAY MAKE YOU SIGN STATEMENTS EITHER IN FRENCH OR IN DUTCH. YOU MUST RELY ON THE INTERPRETER TO PROVIDE YOU AN EXPLANATION.**
- 9. YOU MAY ASK THAT A RELEVANT INVESTIGATIVE ACTION OR INTERVIEW BE PERFORMED. YOU MAY USE DOCUMENTS THAT ARE IN YOUR POSSESSION AND DEMAND TO INCLUDE THOSE IN THE REPORT.**
- 10. RESTRICTIONS MAY BE PLACED ON YOUR MOVEMENT BY A BELGIAN JUDGE. IF YOU WISH TO LEAVE BELGIUM FOR VACATION OR TDY, THE NORTHERN LAW CENTER WILL SEEK THE PERMISSION OF THE JUDGE TO ENABLE YOU TO DO THIS**