

Hand-out Interrogation

Interrogation

Prevention

Objective: reduce the reasons that might cause or facilitate the interrogation of any member of the organisation.

- Establish checking in routines.
- Agree on steps to be taken in case of a 'no news' situation.
- Make sure you have the contact of a lawyer who would be willing to defend you in case the interrogation is followed by a detention.
- Memorise your lawyer's number and your security focal point's number.
- Create a cover story.
- Rehearse a mock interrogation with your colleagues.
- Agree in advance with colleagues and partners on what you can say and cannot say to those who have detained you. Discuss any red lines you are not willing to cross.
- Ensure that all legal documentation is correct, and carried by all staff as required.
- What is ultimately needed is a political action strategy aimed at deterring the authorities from interrogating you.

Reaction

Objective: reduce the impact of the interrogation on the detainee.

Short-term

Individual

- The most important consideration is to ensure that outside help is aware of what is occurring.
- Alert your security focal point within your organisation (if applicable). Communicate as much information as you could gather.
- Alert your embassy or consulate yourself if you can in case of official interrogation. Communicate as much information as you could gather.
- Identify yourself clearly as a representative of your organisation (if applicable).
- Know your legal rights and be persistent in requesting that you are granted them in case a detention follows your interrogation.
- Be prepared to be questioned about your activities in other countries/visas marked in your passport.

Organisational (if applicable)

- Establish an ad hoc working group to react to the interrogation.
- Determine where the staff member is being held and by whom.
- Determine why he/she is being held.
- Inform relevant authorities (embassies, consulates, etc...) in case of official interrogation.

