

# **INFORMATION ABOUT RETENTION** **IN ROISSY TRANSIT ZONE**

## **Who are we ?**

**The national association for border aid for foreigners (Anafé) acts in favour of the rights of foreigners who are or have been in difficulty at the frontier or in transit zones. It is independent of public authorities and is run mainly by unpaid volunteers.**

# INFORMATION ABOUT RETENTION IN ROISSY TRANSIT ZONE

## WHAT IS THE TRANSIT ZONE AND WHY ARE YOU BEING KEPT THERE?

You are held in a “transit zone” as a result of a decision by the French Border Police.

- The border police considers that **you do not fulfil the conditions for entering France or any other State in the Schengen zone**, and your entry is refused. You will be kept in the transit zone while your deportation is being organised, which may happen at any time.
- You have made an application for asylum: you will be kept in the transit zone **during the examination of your application** by the ministry of the interior.

## ENTRY REFUSAL ON YOUR ARRIVAL

On your first contact with the border police, you will receive a **written record of entry refusal** on to the territory, which explains the reasons for this refusal. This document must mention the language you understand, and specify whether you can read and write. **If you do not speak French, an interpreter must assist you throughout the procedure.**

**You have a right to refuse to be deported before the end of one whole day**, which allows you to make a few contacts (family, lawyers and organisations). If that is your case, you must ask for this sentence to be ticked: *“I do not wish to leave before 24 hours are up. I will spend the time in the transit zone, starting this evening at midnight”*. You may also renounce this right, and ask this sentence to be ticked: *“I wish to leave as soon as possible”*.

## YOUR RIGHTS IN TRANSIT ZONE

In addition to the entry refusal, the border police must give you a **“notice of retention and assignment to the transit zone”** which explains the reasons for this decision and **your rights whether you have claimed asylum or not:**

- The right to **accommodation**;
- The right to **medical assistance**;
- The right to **an interpreter**;
- The right **to request asylum**, at any time during the procedure.
- The right **to communicate with a lawyer or any person of your choice and to receive their visits.**
- **The right to leave the transit zone at any time for a destination of your choice other than France**, on condition that you have the necessary documents for entry to that country.

## IF YOU ARE SEEKING ASYLUM

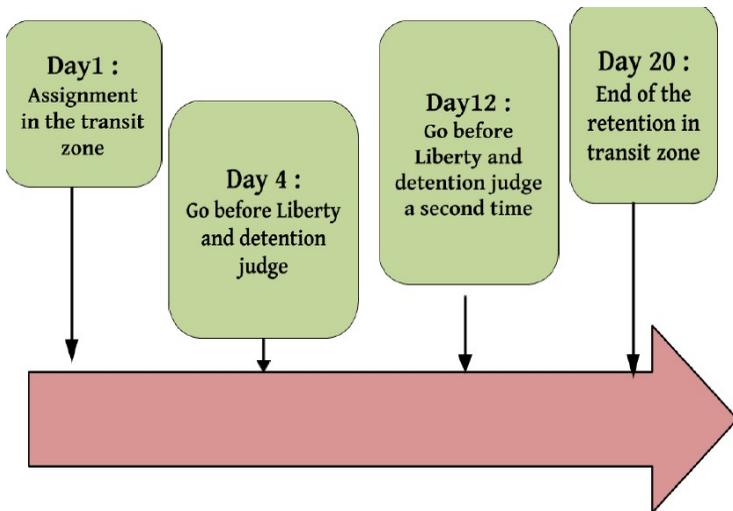
**If you wish to seek asylum**, you must inform the border police. An “asylum-seeker” document will be given to you. You will then be heard by an OFPRA protection officer. You may be accompanied to the hearing by a lawyer or a representative of an authorised organisation (remember to mention this to Anafé). Then, the minister of the interior will decide whether you may enter France or whether entry is refused.

**If your request is rejected** you have 48 hours in which to file an appeal against this decision before the Administrative Tribunal. The border police may not deport you during these 48 hours and if you have challenged the decision, until the judge comes to a decision within a limit of 72 hours.

## HOW LONG MAY I BE RETAINED?

You may not be retained in the transit zone **for more than 20 days**.

- On your arrival, the border police will decide to retain you **for 96 hours to begin with**;
- In order to prolong your retention beyond this time, the border police must present you **before the Tribunal de Grande Instance**. The judge may decide to prolong your retention or not, for a maximum of 8 days, renewable once (after 12 days’ retention). You may name a lawyer to assist you, whose fees will be charged to you, or you may receive the assistance of a free duty lawyer. You have 24 hours to appeal the judge’s decision before the Court of Appeal (Cour d’Appel) in Paris.



## LEAVING THE TRANSIT ZONE

a) **If you are allowed to enter the Schengen region**, the border police must give you a **'safe conduct'** document. If the judge is the person terminating your retention in the transit zone, you must return **immediately** to the ZAPI to pick it up. This document is very important because it authorises you to be on French territory for 8 days, thus giving you time to apply for asylum at the prefecture or to take the first steps towards settling in France.

However, it does not give you a right to stay. After this time, you will be an illegal alien, unless you have obtained a temporary stay document. If you are travelling as a tourist or for professional reasons, you may remain on the territory for the time authorised by your visa or by regulations.

b) During your retention in the transit zone, you may, at any time, **be deported back to the town you came from**. You may undergo several attempts to make you embark. If you decide to refuse embarkation, you may be prosecuted since this act is considered to be an offence. It is important that you communicate to Anafé the details of your contacts or people you are close to, so that we can help you in case of deportation.

**If you need information or if you know someone in difficulty in transit zones, you can contact the Anafé:**

**Address: 21 ter rue Voltaire, 75011 Paris - France**

**Phone : (00 33) 01 42 08 69 93**

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