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observatoire romand du droit  
d'asile et des étrangers

Feuilleton d'info migrants (traduction anglaise)

## Information for Immigrants

### Your story interests us!

If you are reading these lines it is that we have learned through the intermediary of a person of confidence that you have lived through or are living a difficult situation, partially caused by the Swiss law or its application by the authorities.

Your story is of interest to us: We would like to use it in our fight to obtain laws more favorable to foreigners living in Switzerland, be it for reasons stemming from asylum or the said "illegal" immigration.

### Our mission

The Observatory of asylum and foreigner rights has been set up to show and highlight the reality of what people in exile in Switzerland undergo. We present to the Swiss population cases where the application of the legislation in place leads to injustices and has severe human consequences. We are convinced that the more people know the problems caused to foreigners, the more awareness will be raised and consequently laws will improve. You are undoubtedly aware that some politicians spread all kinds of lies concerning foreigners in order to scare the population and get votes from these frightened electors. It is exactly these lies that we want to fight.

To succeed, we need to describe concrete cases. With descriptions, we will take political action; we will reach the media and implement an action plan to sensitize the Swiss population.

### A Word of Caution

Our objective is **not to defend your individual case** but to use it as an example to improve the situation collectively. We will not take action in the legal procedure for your current situation. Our work focuses only on communication.

The description of your case will be used to communicate the reality of immigrants. This means that by sharing your story, you accept that it could later be used in public debates (newspaper articles, politicians' speeches, organization reports...) Your name will not come up as such (we use fake names), but be aware that our descriptions are detailed and that your story could be recognized by the authorities. However, we have noticed that the publication of a case has never done any harm to the people involved. Upon request, you have the right to see our document before its publication and we can modify certain details if you judge it important in order to protect your privacy.

### How to Proceed?

In order to write the description of your case, it is indispensable that we have a copy of the principal documents in your file:



- Decisions of the authorities (immigration police in the “canton” where you live, Immigration Office, “canton” or federal court)
- Appeals against these decisions
- Other documents you judge useful for the comprehension of your case: letters from the authorities, report of your interrogation with the immigration police, minutes of the testimony (asylum procedures).

Do not hesitate to ask for help from a person of confidence (for example, your lawyer) to copy these documents. These documents will be preciously kept on our premises and only the Observatory co-workers will be allowed to consult them.

We invite you to send a copy of these documents to the following address:

Observatoire du droit d'asile et des étrangers (ODAE)  
Case postale 270  
1211 Genève 8

At any time, you can contact us to find out where we are at in using your story:  
Aldo Brina, 022 310 57 30, [info@odae-romand.ch](mailto:info@odae-romand.ch)

We hope you have understood the usefulness of our initiative. I thank you in advance for your future collaboration. Please receive my compassion and support for the difficulties you are facing.

Aldo Brina  
Observatory on the rights of foreigners and of asylum

