
GUIDELINES WHEN DEALING WITH SECURITY PERSONNEL

“When they bring you before the synagogues, the rulers, and the authorities, do not worry about how you are to defend yourselves or what you are to say; for the Holy Spirit will teach you at that very hour what you ought to say.” - Luke 12:11-12

CPTers are often in contact with security personnel in situations of conflict and are asked questions. As a general principle, we tell the truth. CPT's main currency is the truth of our eye witness accounts and that must not be devalued. Another guiding principle is “do no harm.” We try not to make things worse by our presence or testimony. So at times we may not answer questions put to us even if that has consequences for us. Some guidelines for CPT workers in such situations are:

1. CPT policy prohibits the giving of names of people with whom we work to security personnel.
2. When called in for questioning, discuss the call with our local partners first if possible.
3. Take someone with you as a witness and/or translator. Local clergy or other church officials can be very helpful in this role.
4. Do not provide notebooks, tapes, logs or other materials which might be misused by security personnel. If officials confiscate materials, insist on knowing what authority they claim for the seizure and ask for a receipt and a copy of the materials before surrendering them.
5. Lawyers may be needed for advice on the law and court procedure, but rarely should they speak for us.
6. Sign no papers that you do not understand or with which you do not agree. Do not sign a confession.
7. We expect all security personnel and peace officers to follow international law and conventions.
8. We work to defend the human and civil rights of all individuals. We will expose any abusive act or any torture used to extract information.
9. Be aware that your refusal to comply with security personnel may have consequences for you like detention, charges for contempt of court, deportation etc.

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