

# **VIOLENCE IN THE FEDERAL ASYLUM CAMP BASEL – PART 2**

New reports about violent assaults  
by the security staff



3 Rosen gegen Grenzen  
Februar 2021



FIGHT

SCHOOL



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# THE VIOLENCE CONTINUES – LET'S NOT LOOK AWAY

## *Introduction*

*«From my experience as a lawyer and human rights activist, the only way to get the attention of the public and international human rights organizations is to publish my report through as many media as possible.»<sup>1</sup>*

**We take this assessment of an eyewitness from the Federal Asylum Camp Basel seriously and publish further reports on SECURITAS-violence against inhabitants of Camp 50 Basel<sup>2</sup>. The camp remains a place of violence, especially since in November 2020 the SECURITAS-employee who everyone described as the most violent one returned to work in Camp 50<sup>2</sup>.**

**After the media releases of the 3 Roses, the WOZ and the SRF Rundschau in Mai 2020, he disappeared from the camp. Now he is back – apparently without any consequences regarding his workplace.**

In this second brochure we publish the report of a new incident of extreme SECURITAS-violence in Camp 50 in November 2020. The assaulted asylum seeker had to be brought to hospital twice after the incidents. Further we publish an eyewitness report about the SECURITAS-violence in Camp 50 last spring. An asylum seeker who stayed there in spring wrote his report half a year later for broad publication and distribution. He explicitly lists violations of international conventions by the Swiss asylum system. Since the assaults became public nothing worth mentioning has happened on the level of the responsible authorities and the camp organisation. The situation seems to be the same as back in spring 2020 – but it isn't.

### **The authorities deny everything**

In the interview with the SRF Rundschau the State Secretariat for Migration (SEM) simply denied all violent assaults. SECURITAS never publicly commented on the allegations. The private company ORS – responsible for the camp management – passes on the responsibility in case of any criticism to its employer, the SEM. Enquiries to the camp management are referred to the SEM media office. So, the responsible authorities and their employees remain silent about the violent assaults. Maybe they are hoping for the grass to grow over the matter soon since the victims have no financially strong lobby group supporting them.

Did anything change for the victims after the media releases in Mai 2020? So far, we haven't heard of any criminal consequences for the perpetrators – the most violent one is even back at work in Camp 50. In a situation of testimony-against-testimony, the asylum seekers have no chance – less weight is given to their statements. Due

1. From our correspondence in December 2020. The eyewitness's full report is published in this brochure.

2. The official name is Federal Asylum Center Basel.

to the ban on taking pictures and filming in the camp it is practically impossible to collect evidence against SECURITAS. The reports in our last brochure as well as in this one describe this difficulty. But the criminal charges against SECURITAS (and PROTECTAS) are piling up, and not only in Basel – there were several charges in Giffers (Fribourg), too. Still, there was one direct and very real change for the inhabitants of Camp 50 after the media releases in Mai: the spiral of violence that had been stirring up in the camp in spring was interrupted and the situation calmed down somewhat. Even if this was only a temporary improvement, it still shows that publicity does not suit the responsible authorities. They need peace and quiet and invisibility to carry out their asylum regime.

We don't want to give them this peace and quiet. The violence continues in the camps but our resistance against it, too. And as many in the camps say, publicity is key for resistance.

### **Resistance continues**

The living conditions in Camp 50 Basel worsened drastically. Breakfast was rationed, people are being terrorised by constant transfers and the minor asylum seekers for some obscure reasons were transferred to Reinach. These are only a few points. So, there is much work to be done for a diverse resistance against federal asylum camps and bunkers as well as the Swiss migration regime as a whole. Optimistically, we could say that slowly but steadily a counter-public is developing in which those most affected are speaking out. There were some important moments in 2020: the public discussion about physical violence by security staff in the camps of Basel and Giffers, the very visible protest of the group StopIsolation in Berne, several actions and articles on Corona cases as for instance in the bunker of Urdorf (Zurich) or in the deportation camp in Aarwangen (Berne), the protest against the construction of a new deportation prison in Geneva as well as actions and statements by migrant self-organisations such as ROTA or Migrantifa. Now more and also new eyes watch SEM, ORS, SECURITAS and the other players in the asylum business. Activists, human rights organisations, support groups, associations, initiatives, collectives, journalists as well as politicians and individuals have the conditions and structural problems of the asylum system on their radar. Now this attention must be converted into concrete action – to exert pressure on the responsible authorities, companies and persons, and to show that a world without camps and borders is a better world.

Physical and psychological violence belong to the nature of camps.<sup>4</sup> No violence-prevention-concept can

prevent violence in camps<sup>4</sup>. This is probably why the SEM and the parliament refuse to acknowledge the documented cases as a structural problem. Together with thousands of affected people throughout Switzerland, we are therefore demanding the abolition of the forced placement of people in bunkers and camps. Constant surveillance, periods of imprisonment, extreme dependencies as well as diverse life realities and mental states in a very confined space asks for and promotes violence. Camps and bunkers can never provide a self-determined, dignified and healthy life.

*Together with thousands of persons affected by the Swiss asylum regime we therefore demand the end of forced placement of human beings in bunkers and camps.*

**Close bunkers and asylum camps!  
Freedom of movement for all!**

**#FightSECURITAS**

**#Gegenlager**

**#ShutDownORS**

**#Leavenoonebehind**

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3. When the national commission for the prevention of torture in 2021 drew attention to the fact that there sometimes is violence between security staff and asylum seekers, the SRF announced violence concepts for the federal Asylum Camps.

# EYEWITNESS REPORT

*(the eyewitness wishes to remain anonymous)*

*September 2020*

I apologize at first because of my poor English.

I am a lawyer and human rights activist. I escaped from my country (my country is one of the member states of the Gulf Cooperation Council, I cannot mention her name specifically for security reasons and I fear that this site is monitored by the intelligence services), I escaped because I am politically wanted by the agency Intelligence and my government is pursuing me because I exercised freedom of expression, and I applied for asylum in Switzerland several months ago, and witnessed incidents of human rights violations in one of the federal asylum centers in Switzerland, and I would like to inform you of this so that my conscience is relaxed.

I applied for asylum at BAZ Zurich in mid-February 2020 and stayed there for a couple of days. Then I was transferred to BAZ Basel and stayed there for around three weeks, and then I was finally transferred to BAZ Flumenthal in mid-March 2020 and stayed there for the duration of the asylum application process.

At BAZ Zurich and BAZ Flumenthal the security personnel had very exemplary and humane interaction with refugees, but the security staff (SECURITAS) at BAZ Basel I did not know what was wrong with them, they were very aggressive and violent towards asylum seekers, I will tell you in detail what I saw with my own eyes.

SECURITAS employees at BAZ Basel systematically and deliberately target and provoke some categories of asylum seekers, they do not provoke families, they only provoke, hurt and beat single asylum seekers. I was lucky because I was with my wife, so my wife and I were family and therefore no Targets for them. There is also a security man among them sexually harassing women. The employees of SECURITAS at BAZ Basel are smartly

and racially hunting down their victims, I will tell you about two incidents that I saw that happened before my eyes:

## **The first incident**

Asylum seeker: The asylum seeker sits on the chair and browses his phone.

SECURITAS employee: He was wandering inside the camp and then stopped and looked at the asylum seeker with hostile gaze and muttered racist words, then kicked one of the chairs towards the asylum seeker.

Asylum seeker: *What's wrong with you? Why do you do that?*

SECURITAS employee: *It is none of your business, and if you don't like it then go back to your fucking country.*

Asylum seeker: The asylum seeker becomes very angry and begins to swear and speak out loud.

SECURITAS employee: He punches the asylum seeker in the face.

Asylum seeker: The asylum seeker strikes back.

SECURITAS employee: A security man hurts an asylum seeker with pepper powder and summons more SECURITAS staff over Walkie-talkie.

SECURITAS employees: SECURITAS employees arrive quickly and beat the asylum seeker severely and with revenge, as if he had killed their children.

SECURITAS employees at BAZ Basel use asylum seekers as boxing training bags, they train on the heads and bodies of asylum seekers from time to time, they carefully hunt their victims and it is preferable that the victim meets the following conditions:

1. The victim is single and not family.
2. The victim has a low level of education (to be easy to provoke).
3. The victim is from North Africa.

### The second incident

The second incident that I saw with my own eyes is as follows: There is a security man (Kurdish-Turkish) of SECURITAS, this man was harassing women, let me tell you what happened in detail: There was a woman who wanted to go outside the camp and she went to the window of SECURITAS to check out of the camp, this man asked her when she will be going back to the camp? She said, *«I will not be late. I will come back before five,»* he recorded it on the computer and then returned her identity card and told her *«Do you know that you can go out all weekends outside the camp? I can host you at my house if you want»*, and then he handed her the identity card and touched her fingers in a sexual suggestion way, this woman was in a state of severe daze and shock at what was happening!

Several weeks after I moved to BAZ Flumenthal, I was talking with a girl asylum seeker, and we were talking about that the security staff at BAZ Flumenthal were very friendly. She said yes to me, they are good people unlike the security staff at BAZ Basel. While chatting she told me that when she was in BAZ Basel, a security man sexually harassed her. She said that she was talking to him sometimes spontaneously as if she was talking to a brother. She said that because she was talking to him sometimes, this made him think that he could bypass his boundaries with her. She said he touched her ass and said to her: *«You have a beautiful ass, what do you think we hang out with each other?»*

When I asked her to describe the man, she described the same man that I had seen sexually harassing another woman, she said that he is a little tall, and he is Turkish-Kurdish.

This girl is a victim of human trafficking in Libya. Shame, shame, shame. This girl escaped from human trafficking in Libya to Switzerland to seek protection, but instead she was sexually harassed in a federal center !!!!!

Unfortunately, asylum seekers who flee their country because they are persecuted or victims of human trafficking are being persecuted and tortured in Switzerland, as well as being sexually harassed.

### New Guantanamo (BAZ Basel):

- ▶ Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948) has been violated.
- ▶ Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees (1951) has been violated.
- ▶ The Convention Against Torture (1984) was violated.
- ▶ The International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (1965) was violated.
- ▶ European Convention on Human Rights (1950) has been violated.
- ▶ Violence and Harassment Convention (2019) has been violated.
- ▶ The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (1979) was violated.

Notice: (In my country, when you exercise freedom to speak or report violations, you are immediately suppressed, and the government tracks you and put you in prison. Now I exercised my right to expression and I wrote this report, so I hope the situation will be different in Switzerland with regard to freedom of expression and that it will not be repeated With me what happened in my country here in Switzerland.)

In conclusion:

*«It is said that no one truly knows a nation until one has been inside its jails.»* (Nelson Mandela)

Note: All these events took place in Switzerland, Yes, Switzerland, which is supposed to respect human rights, and which, by the way, also is the place where the Geneva Refugee Conventio of 1951 was signed !!!

# VIOLENCE IN CAMP 50 IN NOVEMBER 2020

## *Said's case*

**This is an interview with a friend of Said who spent six months in Camp 50. He has heard Said's story many times.**

*You heard Said's story so many times. Could you tell us what happened and in which order? Just everything you remember.*

The incident happened on Friday, 13th of November 2020, between 6.30 pm and 7 pm. Said came back to the camp from outside. He had been drinking alcohol. When he arrived, the SECURITAS working at the entrance control told him:

*«You are drunk. Go away and come back at 11pm or 12pm.»* But it was very cold outside, so Said came back at 9 pm. He wanted to go inside but the SECURITAS told him that he is not yet allowed to. They had a dispute, a discussion. Said took his phone and opened the camera. He wanted to make the SECURITAS think he was filming. By doing this, Said wanted to prevent the SECURITAS from becoming violent. The SECURITAS saw it and took the phone away from Said. Then he brought him in the room without windows, the cell. He pushed him inside and closed the door. Said slept in this room that night.

The next morning, Said went out of the room and stayed in the camp. The SECURITAS kept the phone until Monday. On Monday at 2 pm, while Said was working in the kitchen of the camp, the same SECURITAS came and told him to come with him. They went to the office of a woman from SEM and she told him: *«Here is your phone.»* The phone was in a plastic bag together with a SECURITAS report about what happened. In the report was a list of forbidden things that Said supposedly did. Said took his phone. When he turned it on, he realised that there was nothing left on the phone. Everything had been deleted.

On the same day, Said went outside like every day and

came back at the same time as Friday, between 6.30 pm and 7 pm. Again, the SECURITAS told him that he was a little bit drunk and therefore had to stay outside until 10 pm. He came back at 9 pm. Said went to the checkpoint and wanted to go inside. They checked his ID card, and said:

*«OK, go inside.»*

After the entrance procedure, one of the SECURITAS told Said:

*«Hey, give me your phone.»*

Said asked:

*«Why do you need my phone? The SEM gave it back to me today. And they gave it back with everything deleted.»*

The SECURITAS said:

*«No, you took a photo, we need to check your phone again.»*

Said replied:

*«No, I cannot give you my phone. The SEM gave it back to me. You are not allowed to take it from me again.»*

Suddenly the SECURITAS pushed him and took the phone from him with force. Said started to shout:

*«Why do you take my phone like that?»*

Then two SECURITAS started a physical fight with Said, while he defended himself. This happened in the controlling zone. This is not a safe place for the SECURITAS to fight because there are cameras. One SECURITAS pushed him on the ground. The two others took him under the arms and took him outside, where there is no camera. There they can do everything they want. They pulled Said over the floor and hurt his elbows and knees heavily, his foot was hurt too. Outside Said stood up and the SECURITAS continued to beat him. One SECURITAS punched him in the face and he fell down on the ground. Said tried to catch himself with his hands. Like this he



hurt his hands. The right hand was severely sprained, the left one a bit less. When Said was on the ground, one SECURITAS kicked him in the face with his boot and hurt his jaw. Said's face was bleeding. After that, the SECURITAS went inside and called the police. The police came and saw Said on the ground, covered in blood. They told him to be quiet and stop making problems. They just talked and didn't render him first aid. Said said:

*«It's ok, I won't make any problems, I just want my phone back.»*

The police and the SECURITAS pushed Said into the cell. Said didn't want to stay inside the cell without his phone. After the police left, he started to knock at the door. Two SECURITAS came into the cell and beat him again. Then they called the police again. This time the police took Said to the police station. There they called the ambulance, which took Said to the hospital.

Said left the university hospital at 0:30 am. They sent him back to the camp. He asked for the report of the hospital but they told him that they won't give it to him but send it to the police and the camp directly. At 1.30 am he arrived alone at the camp and went to sleep.

The next incident happened on Wednesday the 18th of November. When Said came back to the camp this evening, he asked for his phone. He wanted it back. They told him:

*«No, we keep it here, you will get it back when you get transferred.»*

Said started to shout that he wanted his phone now. One SECURITAS pushed him in the chest with two fists. Said fell down on the floor and lost consciousness. When the SECURITAS realized that Said didn't react anymore, they called the ambulance.

Once the emergency doctor arrived, he reanimated him with a defibrillator. Now we have one report from the ambulance and one from the hospital. We don't know which one is true. One says he was unconscious for eight minutes, the other one for twenty minutes. So, he must have been without life at least for eight minutes. He spent one night at the hospital.

The next day he went back to the camp. When he arrived, he still didn't get his phone back. Some days later he went to see the camp doctor because of the mental consequences of the two incidents. He couldn't sleep for two nights and wasn't able to contact his family or friends because he still didn't have his phone. Said told me that he never experienced something like this, even though he has stayed in so many camps in different countries. He has been in Europe for thirteen years and this was the first time he experienced something like this.

After the second time at the hospital, he was given the report. He didn't bring it to the camp but brought it to his friends because he was afraid that in the camp it would be taken from him.

*The cell, the small room in the camp, do you know if it has cameras? What else do you know about this room?*

I never saw a camera in this room. I was often in this room while I was in the camp.

The room has three locks. When you are inside and call the SECURITAS, they don't open the door completely, just the first lock. It's like a prison cell. I only saw one of these rooms, I don't know if there is one or more of them. Sometimes they put one or two beds inside, sometimes there is no bed. The cell is sometimes used for people who come back late. They have to sleep there.

*Someone told me that the office of the camp director is right beside the cell.*

Yes, exactly, all the administration offices are on the ground floor of the camp, also the director's. The offices of HEKS and similar organisations are on the first floor.

*You said that during the first fight, they pushed Said outside. Where exactly did this happen?*

Next to the doors beside the checkpoint, then they pushed Said outside, to the entrance of the camp. There the floor is asphalt, that's why Said's knees and elbows got hurt.

*Do you know if there were people from SEM or ORS around when the violence happened?*

During the first fight, an ORS worker saw everything.<sup>5</sup> He didn't do anything. In some incidents, people from ORS don't do anything. Others tell everyone to calm down, but then the SECURITAS don't agree about that and send them away. One rule in the camp is: If there is a problem happening in the camp, someone from ORS has to come directly and stand next to it to witness it. The SECURITAS have to call them, and they have to file a report. There has to be a report from ORS and one from Securitas.

Those two reports have to be coherent. That's why the SECURITAS don't want an ORS person who feels with the people. That's why the SECURITAS only call ORS people who are on their side, who are also aggressive against the people in the camp.

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4. The person's name is known to us.

*Do you know which SECURITAS were involved in the incidents described?*

One of them, the one who kicked Said in the face, is very tall and thin, without hair at the forehead. He has a tattooed arm. He was involved in both incidents but he wasn't the one who pushed Said the second time. The one with the tattoos, I know him well, because I was in the camp for a long period. He is not very aggressive, but also not a good person.

Some SECURITAS are very aggressive, about seven of them. Others are even friendly. And there are some that are not ok with the violence, but they don't say anything, they just do their job.

Others are more aggressive. If these six or seven guys lose control, they make a disaster inside the camp.

Once there was a woman working for SECURITAS and she helped the people a lot. One month later she was out. This happened about four months ago. They don't like people like this in the camp. They are looking for SECURITAS who fight and not for the ones who help. SECURITAS are not allowed to talk to the people in a good way.

*Does it sometimes happen that all aggressive SECURITAS work together?*

It's rare that all of the aggressive ones work together but at least two of them are always there during one shift.

*Do you know when the shifts start?*

The shifts are:

5:30 am or 6 am until 3 pm

3 pm until 9 pm (this is the shift with the most SECURITAS)

9 pm to 5:30 am or 6 am.

*Can you tell us more about the way the SECURITAS are acting in the camp?*

When there is a problem, they all come together. Only one stays in the camp. This one usually goes on the bridge between the camp and the villa<sup>6</sup>, so nobody can film the scene from up there. All the others are where the problem happens.

95 % of the problems happen in the entrance door, because this is a space without camera. This is the only place in the camp where there is no camera. I have never seen any home or company building where they put

cameras everywhere except at the front door. I think it's to have a safe place for the violence.

*I want to tell you also something about the work of ORS:*

The ORS meets three or four times a week at two o'clock. They talk about everything concerning their work, all the problems that happen, about the food etc. But in these meetings, they just discuss how to improve their situation, not the people's in the camp. They talk about how they can make the work easier for themselves.

5. The Villa is the building in Camp 50 where the unaccompanied minor asylum seekers live.

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[kontakt@3rgg.ch](mailto:kontakt@3rgg.ch)

[www.3rgg.ch](http://www.3rgg.ch)

#FightSecuritas

## **MORE**

- ▶ Documentary brochure by the 3 Roses from Mai 2020 and media reports:  
<https://3rgg.ch/securitas-gewalt-im-lager-basel/>
- ▶ Videos by victims:  
<https://asile.ch/temoignages-video/>  
→ „Cyril“ and „Koffi“ describe the violence in the federal asylum camp in Giffers (FR)
- ▶ Fiasko Magazin. Critical intervention against migration regimes:  
<https://www.fiasko-magazin.ch/>

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