

## Information on the Asylum Procedure (Interview)

Dear asylum seeker,

we are volunteer consultants from Amnesty International, which is an independent non-governmental organisation focused on human rights. We want to support you on your asylum procedure in Germany.

You have applied for asylum. If you want to get asylum in Germany, it is **very important** that you are well-informed about the procedure. In the following you will learn more about it and get some good advice.

Asylum may be given to people who are politically persecuted, i.e. people whose life or freedom is threatened because of their race, religion, nationality or social group. However, there are many restrictions in Germany that can make it difficult to get asylum.

If you have applied for asylum, there will be an “**interview**” (“**Anhörung**”), in which you will be asked several questions. This interview is **very important** for your asylum procedure!! The success of your asylum application depends very much on what you say in this interview. Therefore it is crucial that you are well-prepared!

The following is a **list of frequently asked question**:

1. What was the specific reason for your departure?
  - 1.1 Which specific reasons (persecution measures) lead to your escape?
  - 1.2 How much time passed in between the persecution measures and your flight?
2. Were you politically active in your home country?
  - 2.1 Were you a member of a party or other political organization?
  - 2.2 Which aims does/did your party or political organization have?
  - 2.3 How is/was your party organized; who were/are its leaders etc.?
  - 2.4 Which function or job did you have in your organization?
  - 2.5 What exactly did you do? (organization of meetings, demonstrations, distribution of leaflets, etc.)
  - 2.6 Which local branch did you belong to?
  - 2.7 What are the names of the branch's/ the party's operatives?
  - 2.8 What was your relationship to them?
  - 2.9 Who can answer/ give more information on these questions (name and address)? – are there other members of your party/ organization in Germany?

3. Are you still involved into political activities concerning your home country?
  - 3.1 In which organization? Which function do you have?
  - 3.2 What exactly have you done for this organization?
  - 3.3 Which aims does this organization have?
  - 3.4 Have you taken part in demonstrations or other activities against the government of your home country?
  - 3.5 Who can answer/ give more information on these questions (name and address)?
4. Which concrete persecution measures did you suffer from?
  - 4.1 When, where and under which circumstances did these persecution measures take place?
  - 4.2 Were you imprisoned? If so - when, where and how long?
  - 4.3 Is there an arrest warrant against you?
  - 4.4 Have you been sentenced by a court? Address of the Court?
  - 4.5 Have you been abused or tortured during your arrest?
  - 4.6 Did you get state aid against your persecution?
  - 4.7 Who can answer/ give more information on these questions (name and address)? – Do you know other people who have experienced such persecution for the same reasons?
5. Do you still have relatives in your home town?
  - 5.1 Do these relatives have to expect persecution measures?
  - 5.2 Do you support your relatives? (Do you send them money?)
6. Do you have relatives in Germany?
  - 6.1 What are their names and addresses?
  - 6.2 Have these relatives applied for asylum or been given asylum? From which court or administration?
  - 6.3 Is there a judicial procedure for asylum for your relatives going on? (At which court? What is the file number (“AktENZEICHEN”)?
7. What would you have to fear if you had to go back to your home country?
  - 7.1 What are the reasons for your fears?

7.2 Can you provide evidence for these reasons? Do you have any letters or other documents (e.g. an arrest warrant, a letter from a lawyer, a newspaper article, etc.)? Please hand in the originals and translations.

8. How did you pass the border controls of your home country?

8.1 When did you leave the country?

8.2 How did you leave the country – by car, truck, train or plane?

8.3 What did these means of transport look like (colour, type etc.)? How did the uniforms of the stewardesses/ the seats of the airplane look like? Which meals did they serve on board?

8.4 Which countries did you travel through on your journey to Germany?

8.5 Did you try to get asylum or a status that is similar to asylum in the countries you travelled through?

8.6 Where did you live during the last three years before you left your home country?

8.7 Do you have a valid (and not faked) passport from your home country?

9. Who suggested to you to go to Germany?

9.1 Have you applied for asylum in Germany before (in the past)?

9.2 Have you been to Germany before?

10. Do you want to provide further information on your reasons for flight?

You see these questions are a big issue. It depends on your answers, whether you can stay in Germany or not!

**Your interview is your chance! That's why it is very important that you prepare well for it!**

#### **INFORMATION ON THE PROCEDURE:**

If possible, try and see a lawyer or call on an advice centre **before the interview**.

You have to attend the interview personally even if you have a lawyer.

You should definitely keep to the deadlines. A lack of knowledge is no excuse and can be very bad for you. Keep all letters and documents you receive from official and administrative bodies.

It is best to prepare for the interview in writing. Write a curriculum vitae – it can be given to the federal agency. Pay attention to chronology and avoid contradictions by all means (e.g. when giving dates, times, place names, etc.). Credibility is essential!

In your application for asylum and in your interview, give all reasons for your application at length. Even if you are asked the same questions several times, repeat everything. Even if you are not asked, tell them about your experiences! It is important to give all details (locations, dates, people involved, etc.). Give as many details as possible. Your fear of political persecution or of non-governmental persecution must be made clear.

There must be a causal connection between these events and the escape. If there are several months in between the two, the connection won't be seen by the federal agency. Such an interim period must be explained very well! If possible, all statements should be supported by evidence.

You should only answer when you are sure that you have properly understood the question. If you do not understand something – ask! Don't let them push you or make you hurry. If you have problems with the interpreter say it. You have got the right to bring your own interpreter or another person you trust (also from Amnesty International).