

Informations about the interview

1. general points

- The interview at the Bundesamt is the first and most important step in the asylum procedure. Prepare yourself for the interview. You are asked about the reasons why you left your home country; the interviewer is an employee of the Bundesamt, not a judge, and an interpreter is translating the questions and answers.

- If you don't trust the interpreter: you have the right to ask for another interpreter. If such a demand is refused, this has to be noted in the protocol. You can also apply for being accompanied by somebody you choose.

- Women have the right to ask for a female interviewer and a female interpreter. If you want to be interviewed by a woman, you should tell this to the Bundesamt at the time - before the interview.

- It's your right to tell everything about your personal and political persecution during your interview. If the interviewer or interpreter is interrupting you by saying you should only answer the questions, so please don't get confused and hold on to your right to tell everything. Things concerning your persecution history you add afterwards, after the interview, are usually not accepted by the Bundesamt.

- Documents - papers about arrest in prison, newspaper reports, medical certificates or other important papers - should be given to the Bundesamt. But you have to make sure that you can keep a copy of these papers for yourself. If you don't have the documents at the moment, but it's possible for you to get them later, this should be noted in the protocol.

The protocol ends with the re-interpretation of the protocol and a signature. You have the right of a re-interpretation of all points you mentioned during the interview.

If there is anything missing in the protocol, it should be mentioned that the protocol is not complete and it should be completed.

You should only sign the things you understood in the protocol.

2. The interview

You can insist on telling your persecution reasons for yourself. Also when you are told that you only have to answer questions, you can first tell your history. The interviewer then will ask you his questions afterwards.

There are questions to the following fields:

a) Your way to Germany; your departure from your home country; your

entry to Germany.

It's important to decide before the interview which facts you tell about your travel to Germany. Different statements - for example: at the police during a control and then later at the Bundesamt - make a bad impression (although the interpreter may be responsible for such misunderstandings).

Often there are questions like: in which way did you leave your home country? Did you use a wrong passport? How was your name in this wrong passport? Where is this passport now? What's the name of the escape agent? How much did you pay for it? Where did you get the money from? Do you have relatives in Germany or in other European countries?

b) When you arrived in Germany by airplane

How does the place of your departure look (airport etc.)? How many controls have there been? How does the place you arrived look (airport etc.)? Where were there interruptions/stops during the flight? Which airline? Where is the boarding-card?

It's important to answer these questions in detail - also because of the credibility concerning the statements to the reasons why you left your home country!

c) When you travelled without airplane

Which route did you take, through which other country did you enter? (often, refugees arrive in closed containers in Germany: then it is accepted that there are no statements possible in this question.) The questions about the travelling route have their cause in the new law concerning asylum since 1.7.1993. This law says: who travelled through one of Germany's neighbour countries, could have asked for asylum there. But a deportation in one of these countries is only possible, if there are found any proofs during a control through the police. Such proofs (tickets, money from these neighbour countries, telephone cards, citymaps,...) show that you really travelled through such a neighbour country.

d) Reasons why you left your home country: Reasons like unemployment, civil war, hunger etc. are not accepted from the Bundesamt, if there is no connection with: personal reasons of political, religious, racial persecution. The general situation in a country is usually not sufficient for being accepted; there always has to be a clear personal relation to this general situation. About the conditions of the persecution should be told with exact dates, names of places and other backgrounds.

There are for example questions like the following: which were your activities; please tell details; have you been member or sympathizer of a party; which functions did you have; have you been arrested; how often; how long; what happened in your arrest; have you been examined/tortured; when did you decide to leave the country; have relatives been persecuted,...

You should insist on telling all things you want to tell. The people at the Bundesamt are usually good informed about the home countries. They know the major political or religious parties, also the names of leaders and the aims of the organisations. Therefore it 's good to have answer to these questions. So it's important to think about the things you want to tell before the interview. Perhaps you can write down some points, so that you don't forget important details: for example how the prison looked, how the cell looked, when the housing examination has been. But it's better not to take these notes with you during the interview. At the end of the interview you are asked about what you are afraid of if you had to return in your home country. Here again you should describe the personal threat detailed and concrete.

3. Further development of the asylum procedure

After the interview you will receive a protocoll of the interview: check carefully if it contains all points! We can help you with the translation and completion of further points. Most of the requests for asylum are rejected. You receive a information with the rejection. The time-limit for the complaint is two weeks when you got „unbegründet“ („unfounded“). When you got a rejection with „offensichtlich unbegründet“ („evidently unfounded“), there is only one week time for the complaint and the obligatory necessary request for legal protection to the Verwaltungsgericht.

We try to help you in this procedure.

Info-Asyl

Phone in urgent cases:

Our info-office-times are:

Wednesday and Friday (see homepage)