

Refusal to present ID

During political protests it can happen that the police will demand to take your personal ID, e.g. if they suspect you of committing a crime and to start investigating. Some activists try to protect themselves from this form of repression by refusing to show the police their personal ID. This can prevent the police from identifying you. It will make legal consequences after the protest much less likely.

successfully refuse to give ID:

Refusing to give the police your personal information has to be consequent from start to finish.

- Don't take personal objects with you (notebooks, ID-Papers, Phones, etc.)
- Don't talk to the cops and use pseudonyms
- Make physical identifiers (e.g. fingerprints) unrecognizable

Note: in follow-up meetings and other actions or demonstrations the police will try again to get your ID



Advantages and reasons to refuse ID:

- Without your identity the police has a very difficult time investigating or charging you with crimes (they can't send you letters for example)
- Making it difficult for the police to identify you increases their effort in general
- This can enable people with unsafe residency status to take part in the action
 - Refusing to give ID can have a **collective function**

Disadvantages and dangers when refusing:

- Legally it is much easier to arrest people in order to identify them (in Hessen up to three days)
 - Carefully consider if you are willing to take this risk
 - The arrest can always be ended by giving the cops your ID however
- Heavier accusations can result in pre-trial detention!
- There is also an increased chance of police violence in custody as you have a harder time legally defending yourself afterwards
- Refusing to give your ID is an administrative offense – for people without EU/CH citizenship it is even a criminal offense

How to prevent the police measuring physical identifiers?

- Face and ears:
 - Draw on your face and ears with a sharpie
- Fingerprints
 - Carefully change the skin for example with a safety pin
 - Then: cover your skin with superglue, glitter, sikaflex, etc.
- Skinpatters / Tatoos:
 - Cover with make-up(oil-free), sharpie or sikaflex
 - Also cover other random areas to throw off the cops

Aborting the refusal:

- If you eventually do decide to give the police your ID (e.g. you are facing a longer pre-trial detention), than you can do this at any point and must be released immediatly
- Sometimes the police doesn't believe you or needs some time to confirm the information you gave them is accurate
- The easiest option is for someone you trust to bring your ID or passport to the location you are being detained

Complications on the trip to and from the protest:

- The police might try and search busses and the way to and from the protest
- If the police finds people without an ID during this search they can stop the entire bus
- On the journey to and from the protest , registers can be created during ID checks – this makes it easier to verify identites afterwards!

widersetzen recommends everyone have their ID with them on the buside



- If you are plan on refusing to show your ID during the action, think about where to store you ID or passport during the protest
- Widersetzen will not be providing a central storage location for these types of documents

**Activists refusing to give their ID will always be supported by our structures!
During the trip, the action itself, police custody and afterwards!**