

No talking to the police

**This is just policy, you are also obligated to follow that.**

**No, that is not true.**



**But it is true, you are a police officer sir.**

Transcriptions of conversations between dominantly white, Dutch-speaking people who are doing something activist and the Dutch police, published as plays.

**Trigger warning: Repression**

### Small **note from the author**

Talking to police is a privilege. The less privileged you are, the more likely the police is to skip the talking and just beat and/or arrest you. This is why I put skin color and what countries are on your passport to the front in this booklet, as well as gender identity and clothing style. Police is inherently classist and racist, as well as anti-anarchist.

Still talking to police is a skill anybody can learn, no matter your race, gender or whatever. It's just a different kind of risk you take and a different set of skills you need.

Meanwhile, **I highly discourage people from talking to police**, for it can pretty much only be used against you, unless you are in a very specific situation.

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*The parts in cursive are supposed to be read out loud by an all-knowing narrator. Have fun reading or playing these plays! :)*

## **Eviction play**

### **Characters**

#### Friend

A tall, white man that is in his late twenties. He is wearing informal but neat clothing. He's from Rotterdam.

#### Cop

A large, white man that is around forty years old. He is wearing a uniform.

*This situation takes place in Tweebosbuurt, Rotterdam around November 2019. Housing corporation Vestia has informed the police about squatters in a flat. Earlier that day, the police had come by to share that they were going to evict the squat at six o'clock. It is right now six o'clock. Police comes walking up the stairs. On top of the stairs, they find a young white man, a friend of the squatters. He is the spokesperson of the squatters.*

Cop: Good evening.

Friend: Good evening.

Cop: Did you gather your stuff?

Friend: Well, partly, yes.

Cop: Partly?

Friend: Yes.

(You can hear a walkie talkie sound in the background)

Cop: So, you will pack some more stuff later.

Friend: Erm, I don't know. Then- yes, there is a part of the stuff still inside right now. But what is your plan today?

Cop: Well, we came to an agreement that the stuff would be out at six.

Friend: Erm. Yes. I just spoke to my lawyer and he has talked to the public prosecutor, and the prosecutor says he doesn't know anything about an eviction of this particular building and his colleagues don't know anything either so I don't know what you are doing here but I certainly don't think that you have an order to evict today.

Cop: But that is not the question.

Friend: Then what is the question?

Cop: I was talking to someone else earlier.

Friend: Yes.

Cop: So who are you?

Friend: I am a friend of the people who live here.

Cop: I would like to talk with the person I talked to before. Because I was talking to him earlier.

Friend: Yes.

Cop: And I have been pretty clear to him.

Friend: Yes. But I am also pretty clear to you right now, saying that you have no right to evict this building.

Cop: We shall see.

Friend: Okay. Because if I understood my friend well, you have got the idea-

Cop: I don't need a public prosecutor.

Friend: Actually, you do need a public prosecutor. This is also apparent in the letters my friend showed you- this is just policy sir. You are also supposed to obey the rules.

Cop: No, that is not true.

Friend: It is true, you are a police officer, sir.

Cop: Listen, I want to speak to the man who I talked to before.

Friend: He is inside.

Cop: Well, ask him to come outside.

Friend: I don't want to do that.

Cop: We can also take the door out.

Friend: You can only do that with an order from the prosecutor.

Cop: I've got that with me.

Friend: Are you sure? Can you show it to me please?

Cop: I would have to ask for it and I'm not going to.

Friend: Please do it for me. Because you have no right to evict this building, those are the rules.

Cop: I think you don't have the right to go enter the building in the first place. So, if we're talking about rights, you guys lose.

Friend: That is not how it works, sir. The people

living here got the right to live here, they are protected by the law, and it is not up to you to break it.

Cop: Well maybe you should take a better look at the law, article 138 a of err, criminal law.

Friend: Hmhm. Do you mean the law that prohibits squatting?

Cop: Yes.

Friend: The law about squatting and vacancy.

Cop: Yes.

Friend: The same law that says the vacancy of hundreds of empty buildings within this neighborhood is forbidden.

Cop: No no no that is not the criminal law 138a. It says, without permission, you are not allowed, to err, squat a building.

Friend: It says here, in this addition to the law in question, that you are not allowed to evict if there was no court case before the eviction.

Cop (pedantic): Noooo...

Friend: It literally says so in here.

Cop (mumbling): No...

Friend (reading out loud): Rekening houdend met het arrest is besloten dat ontruiming op basis van artikel 151a strafrecht in beginsel aan de bewoners van het kraakpand wordt aangekondigd en dat er in beginsel wordt gewacht met ontruimen totdat de voorzieningsrechter zich heeft voorgenomen de ontruiming door te laten gaan.



Cop: It says "beginssel"

Friend: Yes.

Cop: That is not there.

Friend: ...it is there? What "beginssel" are you talking about?

Cop: I am going to call the prosecutor.

Friend: I'll call my lawyer.

Cop: You can do that.

\*the cop walks away\*

You hear his talking in the background: "Probably through the lawyer that lives over there somewhere, one of your colleagues, it is a house, yes absolutely, well I don't know exactly why it's vacant, no, if it's up to me it's fine, we'll go into the other procedure, the corporation will have to make one, that's fine, De man Michel de Man. 54036521. Yes. No not yet, we're not inside yet. No, goodbye. We have good contacts at the corporation. I'm fine with both. Thank you for your time. Bye."

Cop (to the friend): I don't think I'll have to explain, you have heard it all I suppose. The prosecutor is going to have a consult, she just came back from some class and she's going to consult her colleagues about the situation. That's the problem right now.

Friend: Okay. For your advantage, I wanted to explain the 48-hour rule. It doesn't matter when the owner discovers the squat, the moment of squatting the building is the thing that matters.

So, if they live here shorter than 48 hours, you'd have had the right to enter the house. But I can show you the Instagram account of my friend who lives here. And this is really a picture of six days ago. So if we count from the moment of squatting onwards, the 48 hours are already over. And because of that the corporation should start a court case if they want the squatters to be evicted.

Cop: Can I register that in some way?

Friend: You can take a picture of my phone, of this picture.

Cop: Then we at least got a bit of proof.

Friend: Hmhm.

Cop: I think we should leave it this way; they should follow a longer procedure.

Friend: Yes.

Cop: I'm going to be called by the prosecutor later. And I'll say there was proof that the squatting happened already. So, can I take a picture?

Friend: Yes, that's okay.

Cop: The camera has trouble focusing.

Friend (his hands are shaking): I got a bit of trouble holding it, I notice.

Cop: Maybe you can lay it down.

Friend: Okay.

Cop: Now it's okay. Thank you. Have we written down your name yet? Do you have your identity card with you?

Friend: No. And I don't think you got the right to ask for my ID.

Cop: What do you mean? You want to do it like that? We just want to know who we are dealing with!

Friend: Hmhm.

Cop: We are in a normal conversation here.

Friend: You can call me John.

Cop: We want to know who you are. You just mentioned your involvement with this squatting action, a criminal action, and, and instead of that we are-

Friend (interrupting): But eventually I am standing here-

Cop (interrupting): -only asking for information-

Friend (interrupting): -only in a communal hallway-

Cop (interrupting): -You show a picture of your friend-

Friend: Yes, they are other people.

Cop: No...

Friend: They are people that I know.

Cop: If you want to act like that, that's fine by me. Show me your ID right now. I want to know who you are.

Friend: Hmm. So this is a claim?

Cop: What kind of person are you? Why are you like this? Why do you do this?

Friend: Because I know my rights! And so, I know-

Cop: Yes yes that is nice for you that you know your rights but the question is, what are you going to do with that? Do you want to spend useless time in jail or no?

Friend: If you claim my ID-card, I am willing to give it. Because you can ask it and I can refuse it.

Cop: Well, I claim your ID card!!

Friend: Okay, no problem. Here you go.

Cop: What the hell is wrong with your brain??

Friend: This is very... I don't know what to say.

Cop: It's weird man! How you act? Do you think this is necessary?

Friend: I think it is weird you guys run into this hallway, thinking you can just evict this home while you don't even know the rules.

Cop: We DO know the rules!

Friend: Yes, because the public prosecutor just explained them to you.

Cop: She said that if they've been living there for longer than the corporation knows then it's okay! And you've got proof that that is the case, things change and that's fine. And that's fair, right?

Friend: Yes, sure.

Cop: I'm not going to violate the law either. So, I wonder why you are being such a pain in the ass.

Friend: That's my job.

Cop: It's your job to be a pain in the ass???

Friend: As the person in front of the door, it's my job to be a pain in the ass.

Cop: Incredible. You are going to have a very tough life this way.

Friend: Yes.

Cop: Yes! You're weird! It's not necessary, right? You got a nice set of brains, right? Why are you acting so weird?

Friend: I am acting weird because my friends are being threatened with eviction.

Cop: We are simply doing our jobs.

Friend: And I have been able to prevent this eviction. Because I know the rules.

Cop: But squatting is already weird to begin with, because squatters are of course very good at putting the problem in someone else's hands,

but in fact it's already weird, I also said this to your little friend, to break into a vacant house and claim it. It's illegal! So, it already starts with that.

Friend: People sleep on the street everyday while hundreds of homes are empty.

Cop: I also think this situation is very unpleasant. But I'm not going to try to do anything about that.

Friend: Well... I wish you had more ambition.

Cop: I wish YOU had more ambition!

Friend (chuckles): Anyway, you took my ID...

Cop (annoyed): Well, you shouldn't have been standing here standing in front of the door defending your rights like a bitch.

Friend: It was nice to-

Cop: If you really had ambitions, you should have gone into politics, change the world from there.

Friend: Well, maybe I'm planning to.

Cop: I'm thrilled for you.

Friend: Yes, I'm probably going to be running in the elections. Just keep your eyes open. 2021. You'll see when you get the list through the mailbox.

\*Cop grumps annoyed\*

Friend (smirks): I cannot say this with certainty of course.

Cop: You must have been born yesterday?

Friend: Who knows. Have a nice evening, sir. Have fun with your walkie-talkie conversations.

\*Cop walks away without saying goodbye\*

## **Up the tree**

### **Characters**

Annabel

A white woman in her mid-twenties.  
She is wearing a dress and has some  
musical instruments with her. She lives in  
Tweebosbuurt, in Rotterdam.

Representative of the municipality

A white man in his forties.  
He is wearing a municipality uniform. He is not  
very big and bald.

Cop

A white man in his late thirties.  
He's wearing a police uniform. He is big and has  
short blonde hair.

Mustapha

A brown man from Rotterdam. He is  
around forty years old. He is  
wearing casual but neat clothing. He  
has roots in Morocco.

Bystander

A woman that is around fifty years  
old. She has grey hair and a  
colorful dress.



*In preparation of the demolition of the Tweebosbuurt, a neighborhood in Rotterdam, trees are being cut down. This is happening while it's not even clear if the neighborhood is being demolished! The current inhabitants of the area still got a court case running against the corporation that wants to demolish the neighborhood, Vestia. They organized a loud protest where one inhabitant, Annabel, climbed up a tree in order to protect it with her body.*

Mustapha (talking on the phone): The zoning procedure still needs to be arranged, there is a trial still going on, there's summary proceedings still going on... It's not possible to say if there's houses going to be built here because there's still people living here! If we win, there will be no chance there will be houses built here! So why this hurry to cut down these trees? If you're going to demolish them anyway, it will take years! If you leave fifteen trees standing here, you can leave seventy-five trees here, right?

Bystander: Nearly all of them got a dot painted on them.

Mustapha (on the phone): There's no hurry, right? And if we win, there won't be any trees taken down, but then it's already too late, we won't have any trees around us anymore- oh. My phone died.

Mustapha: I do think... it's an idea to...

Cop: Excuse me?

Mustapha: I do think it's an idea to prevent... To prevent Vestia from putting their hands on this. What do you say?

Cop: Errrr that's not up to me.

Mustapha: And there's no way for you to mediate?

Cop: No no no we are not choosing sides here. That's the thing of course. I have to have a legal ground for everything I say and do and if it's not there... Err...

Mustapha: Yes. Of course.

Cop: It's up to the chief officer to decide about business like this. We have no voice in this, we just do what the judge wants from us.

Bystander: Is there no room for your own moral judgements? When you think, this is really not okay?

Cop: No. No. We are not an independent party that... that cannot... do stuff by themselves. We are always... the prosecution wants us to do trace criminals and crime.

So that's what we're for. A judge can ask us to do work for them. So at an eviction, or another kind of court decision. That's our job. We are here for maintaining public order, because that's our job. Helping people is also our job. If someone has a stroke, we will be there to make sure an ambulance arrives. That's our job.

Bystander: But if you ask Vestia if they have a felling permit and they don't have it with them, then today's felling won't happen, right?

Cop: Yes, but err... physically having the permit with you is err... not... something... one should show or anything like that. As long as it's there. Because if it turns out to not exist...

\*Mustapha gniffles\*

Bystander: But then the trees will be gone. So, you'll have to be very sure that it's okay.

Cop: Yes, but well you can of course file a complaint or claim damage or make a procedure about it.

Bystander: Then the trees will be gone! So, you'll have to be very sure the trees can be demolished!

\*cop remains silent and walks away\*

After quite a while the decision is made: The trees are going to be cut down. The cop is coming to get Annabel out of the tree.

Cop: Hello, my name is Piet de Keizer. I'm a police officer. The municipality has just ordered you to leave this tree. I am going to repeat this request to you. The request is to leave the property. This is a demand. If you don't cooperate, we will arrest you. A police unit will get you out of that tree. To be honest, it's up to you what you do with this information.

Annabel: Yes.

Cop: So, I demand you come down right now, you won't be arrested if you do. And if you say no, you will be arrested and we'll take you to jail.

Annabel: What if I want to stay here for just a little while?

Cop: In that case you will be arrested and the process will be continued in jail. The public prosecutor will decide what will happen in front of the judge.

Annabel: Ah. Okay. Do you understand why I'm up this tree?

Cop: Y-yes but that's not important. I'm not here for any personal gain.

Annabel: My sitting here doesn't get me anything either. It's not my personal gain either.

Cop: No, I understand but this is not the way to end this. The police doesn't choose sides in this. We simply follow the procedure. And your ideas, what your reasons are for sitting there, is fully up to you, but in this moment, we are going to do it this way.

Annabel: What I get from this situation is that you are playing the role of police officer and I am in my role, looking like a hippy but I am not a hippy, you know?

Cop: Yes, well that's fine

Annabel: So that is what we are. We are humans at this earth. At this moment, we are at this earth.

Cop: Yes.

Annabel: So, this is the play we are playing. And I think you are ready to... I think... I think you are going pretty far into your role. Compared to me.

Cop: Yes. These are the rules as they are. You're going to have to work with this. There's not much room for more. And... well... this is the way we are going to do it.

Annabel: Okay.

Cop: So. This is your choice. Annabel: Okay. So...

Bystander: Take some time to think about it!

*Annabel decides to leave the tree.*

## **After the protest**

### **Characters**

Heike

Heike is a white man from Groningen that is in his fifties. He is bald and wears a cap. He is also wearing a t-shirt and jeans.

Cop

A white man who seems to be in his late forties. He has short dark hair and is wearing a police uniform.

Bus driver

A casually dressed white woman that is around fifty years old.

Fellow activist

A casually dressed white man that is around thirty years old.

*Now that the protest is over and everyone's left, the chief officer of the mobile unit comes by Heike one more time, because Heike said some provocative stuff on stage during the protest. Heike often says provocative stuff like this and is known at the police. The officer gets into the bus, that is not a public bus but a bus rented by the protestors, so entering this bus is forbidden. The chief officer says he wants to talk to Heike and that he wants to report that Heike committed a crime.*

Cop (talking to Heike): I'm going to report that you threatened and intimidated my police unit. I am chief officer of the mobile unit and it is my responsibility, I am responsible for my colleagues.

Fellow activist: And this is also threatening and intimidation!

Cop: No but I know who you are so I don't need that. I will give you a hand.

*\*The cop steps inside the vehicle with one foot.\**

Fellow activist: HEY HEY HEY! (everyone talks at the same time)

Cop: Come on. I am in a conversation with this man.

Heike: You can speak to me sir, but- Bus driver:

You're standing in my bus!

Fellow activist: Nobody is allowed to enter a car if there's no permission for that by the owner of

a car. It's also not allowed for me to enter your car just like that.

Cop (mumbling): I'll go outside because I simply have the decency to talk to these people.

Fellow activist: Yes, but I don't have the decency to hear your bullshit story.

\*Heike steps out of the bus to talk to the cop.\*

Cop: You are creating an atmosphere about my colleagues. You are doing this from the stage, through the microphone, I hear the effects it has on the people and if you threaten me or don't like riot police then I find that-

Heike: I didn't threaten anyone.

Cop: Well, you create-

Heike: I didn't threaten anyone.

Cop: You create an atmosphere about my colleagues.

Heike: Creating an atmosphere is very different from threatening. I didn't threaten anyone.

Cop: Yes, but-

Heike: I didn't threaten anyone.

Cop: No, but-

Heike: Let's be clear about that.

Cop: If we find out what's legally possible, especially if you post names of me and my colleagues on Facebook. I don't accept that and I'm responsible for this police



unit, understood? So, I won't accept this, I'm not going to ask of them to do report this, I will do it. Because I am responsible for these boys and I won't accept that you speak about people like this. So, at the moment you do what you say you'll do from the stage you'll get a fine if it's up to me.

Heike: The violence was started by the riot police. You can see this clearly on the video.

Cop (throws his hands in the air): You didn't follow orders, so yes.

Heike: But hey! You can handle a situation like that differently. I tried to do what you asked me to do. I said give me five or ten minutes, then I'll close the fence. And that happened. I sat there with my wife, we were talking, so I didn't notice everything. I don't notice everything, just like you guys also don't notice everything. Although you have cameras everywhere. Anyway, I try my best to de-escalate, which is also in the action consensus, and then I think I did something according to the action consensus but then I receive two punches!

Cop: You're allowed your opinion. You can also send an e-mail with your view on the situation. I wasn't there, so I cannot have an opinion on this. But you are not allowed to speak about people on stage like that. You cannot say you will do certain stuff. I say we are not going to do that.

Heike: It's of course my decision what I do and don't do. You don't decide that for me.

Cop: Let's be clear about this. I got a certain responsibility, and I grab this responsibility. So it's not like we come to an agreement here. I am simply sharing with you that it's not acceptable.

Heike: I share with you that I don't accept that.

## **Childish**

### **Characters**

Lady

A white woman in her late twenties with a buzzcut and casual but nice clothing. She lives in Amsterdam.

Cop

A white man who looks like he is in his thirties. He is wearing a police uniform.

*In the middle of the day, in the center of Amsterdam, a squat is being evicted illegally. There is a big fuzz around this squat: there's twelve police vans there! A lady is looking at the event.*

Cop: Keep distance.

Lady: From you?

Cop: No, keep distance from my colleagues?

Lady: Oh, of your colleagues... are you afraid you cannot handle me?

Cop: No that's not it! I just want there to be space to work.

Lady: Ok. Do you not have space to work right now?

Cop: \*Gives up\* it's good like this.

Lady: Ok, all right.

*The cop walks away... but then, he returns!*

Cop: You don't have any business standing here, right?

Lady: I do have "business" standing here!

Cop: You walk here, you see us, and you are gonna go and stand still?

Lady: Yes! I think it's interesting what is happening here.

Cop: We are busy here.

Lady: I can see that.

Cop: Go and keep walking now.

Lady: Why can I not see it?

Cop: Because we are busy here.

Lady: And am I... Standing in the way?

Cop: Normally this happens in the office and now we are outside. In the office we are not allowed to be filmed either.

Lady: I- Never mind. Why would it matter to me that you are not being filmed in the office?

Cop: I don't come to your job to film you either, right?

Lady: So??

Cop: So, the request to walk by.

Lady: I heard your request.

Cop: Yes.

Lady: Yes.

Cop: But you don't comply.

Lady: No.

Cop: Childish.

\*the cop walks away\*

## **Go outside**

### **Characters**

Man

A white man in his late 30s.  
He is bald and tall.  
He has Dutch roots.

Representative of the municipality  
A white man in his thirties.  
He is wearing a municipality  
uniform. He is not very big and bald.

Cop

A white man who looks like he is in  
his forties. He has dark, short  
hair. He is wearing a police uniform.

Cop 2

A white man who looks like he is in  
his forties. He has dark, short  
hair. He is wearing a police uniform.

*A man is protesting on his own in the municipality building. The municipality has called the police in order to remove the man.*

Cop: ... you are being arrested. Do you know what this means?

Man: Yes, I know this very well.

Cop 2: You've also been told to go outside. You can also stay inside, just not with the flag.

Man: Well, then it doesn't have a lot of effect, does it?

Cop: So now it does have an effect?

Man: For sure! A lot of people passed me, and when they do I talk to them about what happened in Palestine and about the solidarity with what happened there and that's simply very important. I just want that connections between cities, like the one that Amsterdam has with Tel Aviv, how is it possible Amsterdam has a connection with Tel Aviv, and in this way, I want to convince many people to stop the collaboration with Tel Aviv. Because there are terrible things happening...

Cop: Anyway, the city hall doesn't want you to do this. We are demanding that you leave. I ask you to listen to this.

Man: Yes well, I won't leave.

Representative of the municipality:  
In that case I will start again.  
I asked you to go outside. Will you obey, or no?

Man: No because I am protected by article 10 of the European law.

Representative of the municipality: In that case, I will demand a second time that you leave. Will you please go outside?

Man: No because I am protected by article number 10 of the European law.

Representative of the municipality: This is the third and last time I ask it, will you leave the premises?

Man: No, because I am protected by article 10 of the European law.

Cop: It's been asked three times. You are free to go. There's nothing in the way. Are you going to go outside?

\*The man shakes his head: No\*

Cop: Okay. I'll have to arrest you. Put your flag away, so that it doesn't get damaged, roll it up, before we leave, I want to know if you have any sharp objects with you.

\*The cop starts to body search\*

Cop: What's this? Man: A sock. (to a bystander)

Free Palestine!

\*The man is taken outside by the police\*



## Through the window

### Characters

P

A woman that is around twenty years old that has shoulder length blonde hair, she's from Rotterdam.

She's wearing a t-shirt that's too big for her.

T

A white woman that's around twenty years old that has short brown hair. She's from Rotterdam. She's wearing a handmade sweater.

V

A white, non-binary woman with shoulder length brown hair. They're wearing a large t-shirt and a long, wool skirt. They're in their early twenties.

W

A white woman that is around thirty years old that has shoulder length brown curls. She's wearing painted clothing with bright colors. She's thirty years old.

Cop

A large white man that has short brown hair. He's wearing a police uniform and is in his late thirties.

Cop 2

A white woman with long blonde hair in a ponytail. She's wearing a uniform and is in her late thirties.

*P, T, V en W are sitting in a house. The house has been squatted for two days. The police are here. They got a notification of people climbing into the window. The squatters show the police some proof that they didn't break into the house, but are already there for a long time. The police read: "We are living in this house..."*

Cop: It says "we", so that means all of you?

P: Yes.

\*" No, no." the others correct her immediately\*

P: We live here with the two of us.

Cop: With the two of you. Can I see both of your ID's?

T: Yes.

\*P gets up to get her ID-card. \*

V: You don't have to show that because you are in your own house.

P: Oh?

W (tense, with a loud voice): I am a visitor here.

Cop: Yes, I understand.

P: I don't have to?

V: No, because you are in your own house.

P: Yes. Well. Can we call our lawyer in case we got some more questions because we don't have to show our ID's anyway if we are in our own house?

Cop: No, you need to show your ID.

P: Really?

P&T: Why?

Cop: Because of the law about identification, we have to do with you right now, as an inhabitant or squatter, as a witness at an incident, it doesn't matter how, because of a police task and I want to know who I have to do with.

T: But we live here.

Cop: Yes so, I want your information as an inhabitant.

P: Can I call my lawyer about that?

Cop 2: You are simply obligated to show your ID if the police ask for it, from fourteen years onwards, when our task allows that. And as you can see, we are busy finding out what the situation here is like, so we simply need you to show it.

W: But they do have the right to call their lawyers about showing the ID, right?

Cop: Yes, that is possible but then we also got a reason to arrest you and err...

W: But we won't leave, we'll just be here.

Cop: What?

T: If we call our lawyer, we will just show it afterwards.

W: Yes.

Cop: Well, that's possible but it only costs time. T: Okay but...

W: Yes...

\*P calls the lawyer\*

P: Hello, it's P, about the house peace, we are at the moment talking to police at the door and they're asking us to show our ID's, but we won't have to show this when we are simply hanging out at our house, right? (...) Okay. (...) Okay. (...) Yes. (...) Yes. Okay. Thank you.

P (talking to Cop 2): What is the crime you are suspecting us of that causes you to ask our ID's?

Cop 2: What the crime is?

P: Yes.

Cop 2: We got a notification that people are climbing into a window of an empty house. According to our system there's nobody registered in this house. So, this could mean there's burglary for example.

P: Okay. But this is not the case. We got the right to live here and we can also open the front door, but this is easier and more fun.

Cop 2: Why don't you enter through the front door?

P: Because this is easier and more fun.

\*T giggles\*

T: We enter through the front door more often but this is more fun and more nice.

Cop 2: But how did you get the keys of this house?

P: The door was open when we entered and now, we've got our own key.

T: And now we got our own- yes, we live here.

P: And we've got proof as well, to show that we live here. We've got a twitter account that shows the dates since we came here. We've been here since the 21th of September but established house-peace since last Wednesday. We've got photos as proof.

Cop 2: Okay. Yes, we get a notification and then we come to that. The people who are involved in such a notification, you guys, have to, according to article 7 of the police law, be asked for their ID cards and we have to put this into our system. This can be put through to the community officer and for that we need some personal data. And you guys should obey to these rules. Because otherwise you are committing a crime. And this is not obeying a demand. And then you can even be arrested.

T: What happens exactly when we show our ID's?

Cop: Well, I have to demand your ID, which I already asked a couple of times. And if you don't obey, you don't suffice to the order of a municipality worker.

V: It doesn't matter anyway if you wanna register and shit.

P (towards the cop): Yes.

V: Just show it.

Cop 2: But why do you not want to show your ID's? Because this is very normal.

P: We only want to do this when we know for sure it's necessary, so thank you for the explanation. Because I do understand it's suspicious when we climb through the window.

Cop 2: Yes, this can look very suspicious to people.

\*T&P give their ID; the cop looks at the ID-cards\*

Cop 2: thank you. I will check the outcome of the phone call of my colleague. This will take a while.

Cop: Yes, I will be called back in a sec. We could sit in the car and wait over there.

Cop 2 (talking to P): When we knock the door, will you guys open?

P: Err, yes, we can open yes.

Cop 2: Yes? Great we'll come back to you in a sec.

P: Okay.

Cop 2: Okay thank you.

V: What did the lawyer say?

P: He said that as long as we are suspects of a crime, we are obligated to show our identification and we are suspected of breaking and entering.

T: But what does that mean?

V: This is good. Probably the cop called his chef or something. They'll hear from their chef that the public prosecutor will have to give orders to evict, like it says in the law. But it's also possible that the chef doesn't know this and has to make phone calls higher up and stuff.. But it's good they're calling and not doing stuff by themselves, haha!

T: But I don't think they can- I heard that we don't have to show our ID's and I don't understand why they tell us we do have to do that now.

P: Because we are suspects, but we can proof we didn't commit the crime.

V: I think it's a bit vague but I don't know the exact law about showing the ID either- not like - like you don't have to show your ID when you are in your own home -I don't know the exact law by heart so I'm like, let's just show it -so the situation doesn't escalate.

P: I don't think we were obligated to show it.

T: But you are obligated to have your ID with you at all times.

W (confused): I think you're allowed to refuse to give it the first time and the second time...

P: Actually, we shouldn't have done it. They were just threatening us with arrest to scare us.

V: I wouldn't open the door and just talk to them through the window.

P: But we just said we will open the door.

V: Why?

W: Because they think that's more official or something.

P: Because we can prove with that that we can open the front door and don't climb through the window all the time. We don't have to let them in... we only have to do that if they got an order to search the house.

V: Since you've shown your ID already you can also simply go outside and put the key in the lock to show-

P: Yes. I'll de-barricade the door so that it's not scary for them.

W: Hahaha that's so funny.

T: I'm sorry I said you guys live here.

W: Nooo it's okay.

V: I understand.



W: It's always scary.

V: And at the moment you are in a squat you are just as guilty as the squatters, so...

P: Would you guys like to leave?

V: No.

W: I don't know, maybe, I err... don't want to be ID- checked or anything like that.

T: You can leave through the back.

W: Yes, I'll go because...

T: It's better if you don't go through the back tho because we have no way to exit from there.

P: Maybe the fence at the back is open?

W: I cannot afford to get caught because my work also got to do with housing-

P: Maybe we can let you out through the front door because it's less shady that you leave then.

W: That's okay.

V: But maybe they'll go after her and then it becomes a drama, that's not okay either. Hey- I really don't want you to do that. I don't want you to leave through the front door, maybe they'll stop you and it becomes more of a drama you know what I mean. I think it's better if you just-

P: But if she just says she needs to be somewhere...

V: I think it's a good idea to give the police no reason to be more suspicious of us than they already are.

W: I'll go through the back.

P: Oh, here they come again, I think.

Cop 2: We talked about it and we are going to notify the neighborhood cop. And err, furthermore, I think this is going to be it.

T: Okay, that's nice.

Cop: Do you girls happen to have the contact data of the owner with you?

T: Yes, we've got the letter we sent to her right here.

Cop: I mean her address.

P: The address is streetnamestreet 123.

Cop 2: Give me a sec. Let me write that down.

Cop: What's the name of the street?

P: Streetnamestreet.

Cop: Thank you!

\*the cops walk away. \*

P: I almost said have a nice day, but they don't deserve that.

\*everyone laughs relieved\*

## **Article 184**

### **Characters**

Mr de Lange

A white man in his late 30s. He wears a jeans and t-shirt and he is bald and tall. He has Dutch roots.

Cop

A white man who looks like he is in his fifties. He has thin grey hair. He's wearing a police uniform. He's covered in tattoos.

Cop 2

A white man who looks like he is in his late twenties. He has short, blonde hair and is wearing a police uniform. He is covered in tattoos.

*Mr de Lange is a well-known activist. He walks down a square where multiple activists are reading pro-Palestine manifests. The police recognize Mr de Lange and immediately approach him.*

Act 1

Cop: Hello Mr. de Lange. Gimme a sec I need to get my phone. Good afternoon by the way. I have something to say to you. Err, the substitute head of the safety area has decided that you should leave the square too, just like the pro-Palestine manifestations, and you are supposed to remove yourself from the square.

De Lange: On what legal grounds?

Cop: On the legal ground of the decision of the safety area.

De Lange: There has to be a legal ground.

Cop: We won't go into that. You are supposed to leave.

De Lange: We will go into that.

Cop: Well, that's up to you. You are supposed to leave. I demand you leave the square now. Okay? All right.

De Lange: Can I-

Cop: If you don't leave, you'll be arrested. But you know that.

De Lange: That seems obvious to me.

Cop: Okay sir.

De Lange: Hey, but- sir, sir- can I ask you a question?

Cop: Well- No- No, you film everything, so ehrr...

De Lange: Yes, I film everything because you are with a lot.

Cop: We're going to the next because there's a lot of protestors here.

\*cop walks away\*

De Lange (talking to the audience): I don't have any Palestinian flag or anything with me. I am simply looking what's going on here at this square. And I am supposed to leave. So, I won't do that!

Act 2

*The cop returned to ask Mr. de Lange a second time to remove himself from the square.*

De Lange: On what legal ground are you removing me? Removing people-

Cop: I got an e-mail from the safety area. That says you are not allowed to stand here. I suppose you'll get an e-mail.

De Lange: Administrators making random decisions without any kind of legal ground?

Cop: You are err- You know how to file a complaint, right?

De Lange: I'm not going to leave, to be clear.

Cop: But you know-

De Lange: So, I'm not leaving-

Cop: Well, you will be arrested. That's fine.  
I demand-

De Lange: But on what legal grounds?

Cop: Article 184 of criminal law.

De Lange: And what is article 164?

Cop: 184

De Lange: So, a cop can just say something in  
this country-

Cop: No, because the safety area said-

De Lange: Yes, but there has to be a legal ground,  
right?

Cop: You'll hear that later. Okay?

De Lange: Because otherwise we are pretty much a  
police state, right?

Cop: You know exactly how you should do that.

De Lange: Exactly.

Cop: Okay? Goodluck.

\*Cop walks away. Mr. de Lange angrily stays on his spot\*

Act 3

*A few minutes later a police car drives by, with inside of that, a cop recognized by Mr de Lange. He arrested Mr. de Lange violently the day before.*

Cop 2: Mr. de Lange, we demand you again to leave. You know the drill.

De Lange: You know what I'm going to do, right.

Cop 2: Yes, we know.

De Lange: Yes. So, it's going to be a decent arrest?

Cop 2: Yes, as usual.

De Lange: Yesterday was usual?

Cop 2: Yesterday was usual.

De Lange: Oh well thank you for threatening me. This is not normal ey. You are only allowed to put handcuffs on somebody when it's necessary.

Cop 2: Right now, it's 15:06. Around 15:11 you are going to be arrested. Okay? See you in a second.

De Lange (talking to the audience): This cop is threatening to use violence during my arrest!

Act 4

*Five minutes later, the cop comes out of the car and is standing in front of Mr de Lange.*

Cop 2: I demand you leave the square.  
Will you obey?

De Lange: No, of course not. I am just protesting here.

Cop 2: In that case, you will be arrested.

\*the cop puts handcuffs on Mr. de Lange\*

De Lange: Hey hey hey! Hey, act normal, aah! God dammit you did this to me before, aah! Aaaah! God dammit it's too tight, it hurts! Loosen it!

Cop 2: Stop shouting.

De Lange: No! I will shout! Because last time you also tightened the handcuffs too much! This is not normal! You know I'll come with you, why do you put on the handcuffs?? Why do I need these handcuffs for Christ's sake??

\*De Lange disappears in the police car\*



## **Group formation**

### **Characters**

Linda

A white, femme presenting agender person in their mid-thirties. They have Rotterdam roots and currently live in Amsterdam. They have roots in former Yugoslavia.

Cop

A tall, white man with short, dark hair.  
He is wearing a police uniform.  
He looks like he also is in his mid-thirties.

*Linda is walking down the street together with two friends, towards a protest for more rights for people without documents. Suddenly a police car appears. A cop demands to see their ID without a valid reason.*

Cop: This is the last time I ask you for your ID. If you don't give it now, I will arrest you, understood?

Linda (panicking): But why? But why?

Cop: I just explained to you, concerning the corona measures, you are not allowed to form a group, so I demand your ID.

Linda: I did not form a group and I even kept 1,5 meters distance from my friends.

Cop: You are with more than two people.

Linda: We kept 1,5 meters distance!

Cop: You are now going to give me your ID and if you don't, I arrest you!

Linda: I kept 1,5 meters distance.

Cop: Okay, you are getting arrested. I'm gonna grab your phone too.

Linda: Wait, just let me-

Cop: I'm gonna grab your phone.

Linda: I just want to-

Cop: Come to the wall.

\*the cop forces Linda against the wall and puts them in handcuffs\*

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