

10 THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT BELGIAN CRIMINAL CHARGES

1. Belgian police can detain you for **24 hours** at the police station.
2. For the first 24 hours, you have **no right** to a phone call. You have **no right** to an attorney.
3. Your command representatives will **not be allowed to talk to you** or be in the room with you while you are being questioned by Belgian police.
4. You will have an interpreter. **If you are a suspect you have the right to remain silent.** You may not be told that you have that right. Ask if you are a suspect and ask for your rights to be explained.
5. Witnesses have **no right** to remain silent. You may be charged with lack of cooperation if you are only a witness and you do not answer questions.
6. During the time that you are in custody, even if it is only a short time, **ask** for water and food when you need it. Ask for toilet breaks. Ask for medical attention if you need it.
7. If you are charged, you will be given a written notification of the charges in French and told what they mean in English. **Always ask for copies of all papers you sign.**
8. The Northern Law Center will provide a translation of your statements. **The police make you sign statements in French.** You must rely on the interpreter to tell you what it means in English. A translation will assure you that no “extra” statements were included.
9. You may ask that an **investigative action** or interview be performed. You may use **documents** that are in your possession and demand to include those in the report.
10. **Restrictions** will be placed on your movements by a Belgian judge. If you wish to leave Belgium for vacation or TDY, NLC will seek the permission of the judge to enable you to do this.

