

DETENTION

Detention Handbook for Patriots

So you've been detained, now what?

01 What is a detention?

A detention is NOT an arrest.

A detention is when you're temporarily stopped or kept by the police for a while. The police don't accuse you of an offence. Arresting civilians is harder and involves a lot of work, so the police relies on detentions as an easy tool to slow down or hamper a protest.

It looks amazing as a reel, but you should try your best to stay away from a detention. The strength of our protests lies in our numbers and the best thing you can do for the protest is save yourself. If they take away enough of us, the protest dies. That's what happened in Delhi on the 10th of October.

02 Minors under detention

The police can not legally detain anyone under the age of 18. Our first priority is the safety of our children.

If you notice a minor on the detention bus, your first step should be to start demanding their release with an adult who can act as their guardian. Make a record of the child's age, if they were also subjected to police brutality, and how long they keep them detained.

03 **What are your rights when detained?**

- You cannot be kept in police custody for more than 24 hours without being produced before a Magistrate - excluding travel time. This is why the police will sometimes just drive the bus around for hours.
- The police can not seize your belongings, phone, bag, etc. They might try but it is illegal, if they do try it with you make sure you record the act and try to get their name plate in the video if possible.
- The police can not physically harm you. They still might - record the act and try to get their name plate if possible.
- A male police officer is not allowed to detain or search a female protester. Ask for a female officer to be present at all times if there are womxn in the detained group.
- Female detainees can not be kept in the police station beyond sunset (usually 7:30 PM). They might try to keep you, record a video of you asking a police officer about why you're not being let out past sunset.

04 What to do when you are detained?

- Assuming you were unable to run away immediately, don't try to physically resist the detention as it will make it more likely for you to get hurt.
- Record a video of yourself talking about the detention, the number of people in your bus, police brutalities if any, if there are women constables in the bus, and where the police finally drops you off. Record the faces of the police officers with you from a safe distance.
- If they ask for your name and address, give them your actual information. The police sometimes comes to the address and checks if it is valid, giving false information can lead to an arrest.
- Remember your rights from the previous section. Do not give away your belongings, phone, etc.
- Inform someone who can help you get back home after the police leaves you.
- Inform a doctor if you or anyone else in the bus has been injured. The police is required by law to give you a medical exam, but they often try to water down the severity of injuries. Having a doctor present will ensure they are unable to do this.
- Inform a friend who is outside the protest area. If you don't have enough battery, don't share your live location with a friend. Save your battery and keep sharing your location every 30 minutes or so.
- Inform a lawyer about the detention, the number of people in the bus, number of women in the bus, whether there's a female constable. Tell them your location once the bus finally stops.

05 What to do if your friend is detained?

- If you are in the protest area, send the detainee's name and phone number to a friend who is outside the protest area.
- If you are not in the protest area, inform a lawyer and a doctor. Contact the detainee every 30 minutes or so to keep a track of their location.

06 What to do after you've been let out?

- Female and minor detainees will be let out before the adult men. If you have enough women around you and feel safe enough, refuse to leave the premises unless the men are let out as well. This creates further pressure on the police to let you out.
- If you are in an area without cab services, contact someone who can drive you home.
- Contact someone who can help you deal with the trauma inflicted on you due to the detention.