

# JUST BECAUSE YOU DID NOTHING WRONG DOESN'T MEAN YOU HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR

## IN CALIFORNIA...

FIELD DRUG TESTS HAVE BEEN SHOWN TO GIVE FALSE POSITIVES WHEN EXPOSED TO FOOD ITEMS, VITAMINS, AND EVEN AIR.

POLICE DOGS ACCURATELY SNIFF DRUGS OUT ONLY 50% OF THE TIME, YET GIVE PROBABLE CAUSE TO SEARCH A VEHICLE.

MORE THAN 90% OF CONVICTIONS ARE THE RESULT OF PLEA BARGAINS, OFTEN COERCED USING SCARE TACTICS AND PRESSURE.

ASSET SEIZURE ALLOWS STATE AUTHORITIES 80% OF ANYTHING YOU OWN THEY CAN CONNECT TO A CRIME, ENCOURAGING ARRESTS.

## I AM WITNESSING AN ARREST, HOW CAN I PREVENT VIOLENCE WITHOUT ESCALATING THE SITUATION.

Cooperating with the police does not ensure safety, especially if no one is believed to be watching. But as a witness it is not your decision to cooperate or not.

A distracted or stressed out cop is more likely to resort to aggression

While you don't want to hide your phone or camera, holding your phone up and far out to "show" you are recording does not help de-escalate

Fear often paralyzes us when we most want to take action. Often this is because we don't have a plan. What would you do if a friend was being forcibly detained?

It's important to not just do something, but do what poses the least risk to the person being arrested. With proper information **it is far easier to avoid conviction then it is to escape arrest.**

**What is most important is not to yell, hurl threats, attempt to physically get in the way, or try to "distract" the cop.**

These strategies may work well in protest situations where the goal is to antagonize and confuse the police, but when witnessing an arrest on the street **the person being arrested did not consent to being a tool for an ideological cause.**

Groups here such as Berkeley Cop Watch all the way to overseas soldier and border watch groups such as MACHSOM Watch in Israel/Palestine have found **standing and recording from a distance that is both safe and observable to the cop has an immense psychological effect** on the arresting officer, making them cautious of using violence.

It's worth noting that MACHSOM watch has also found in their case that Israeli women tend to be the best candidates. **Men's presence can sometimes escalate the situation,** and Palestinians are often ignored.

**Sometimes the most radical, just action is not the most helpful. Always remember someone's life is at stake, and this takes immediate priority over ideals and political messages.**

## WHAT ARE SOME ALTERNATIVES TO CALLING THE POLICE IN THE FIRST PLACE?

### COMMUNITY

- The single most important resource you have is your network of people near you.
- Establishing solidarity in abolition with a group of people you live nearby ensures that most situations can be handled without the police. Whether its crimes of violence or theft, a community gathered together can often more quickly put a stop to it then police could even arrive, and without death involved.

- If a crime should be committed rather than calling the police to get justice or find the culprit the community can implement strategies such as phone networks, checks to make sure people's doors are locked up, or train in self defense.

- This can be difficult in a ever increasingly paranoid America, but you don't need to be perfect buddies with your community, it's about safety.

### ALTERNATIVES

- Counseling can provide real support for victims of crimes, and crisis lines can provide immediate support for those in danger.

- Housing and shelter groups can provide places for victims of things such as domestic abuse to get away.

- Harm reduction, abstinence, and needle exchanges provide the real answer to the dangers of drug abuse.

### INDIVIDUAL

- Home security, learning self defense, learning how to access alternative resources, being on call for others; these are all things you can do right now as just a single person.

## THE BEST WAY TO AVOID POLICE BRUTALITY IS TO NOT CALL THEM

**This is by no means easy. Even those dedicated to abolition will often have times where they see no other way to deal with a dangerous situation.**

# IF STOPPED BY POLICE

## OUTSIDE YOUR...

### HOUSE

-Stay inside your home, talk to the police through a screen door or just stand inside your doorway.

-Politely tell them you **do not talk to police without a lawyer present** on principle. Do not budge regardless of what they say they are investigating.

-Do not invite officers in or consent to a search the place until they obtain a warrant.

-Keep anything that could potentially be seen as something **illegal** by an officer **out of plain sight** at all times. A cop may legally seize anything illegal they see from outside regardless of being invited.

- Make these rules clear to any guests you have over. A guests consent is sufficient for police to search your housing.

### VEHICLE

-You will not escape the cop once you are pulled over. So **remain calm and don't try to resist**, as unfair as it is. Document any illegal procedures and politely invoke your right to remain silent and right to a lawyer if questioned or arrested.

-Do not consent to a search of the vehicle, but remain calm if they do anyway. The important thing is to **make an objection in case you must go to court** and prove it was an unconsensual search.

-You do need to provide **only your license and registration** for a vehicle if stopped while driving. The passenger however is not required to provide anything.

-If the officer has finished giving you a ticket, completing a search, or otherwise, **ask if you are free to go and/or if you are being detained/under arrest.**

-If you are arrested **invoke your right to remain silent, say nothing** afterwards, and **request a lawyer.**

Sometimes arrests can be prevented by simply saying no, not speaking, or knowing what information you do and do not have to give.

Other times police officers will intentionally or through ignorance disregard your rights and break laws themselves. Make good note of it and clearly object for court records later instead of trying to resist.

## AS AN UNDOCUMENTED AMERICAN

### FACING POLICE

- You do not have to disclose or discuss your citizenship status, how you entered the country, or where you are from. **You may also refuse to provide proof of citizenship.**

- You have the right to speak to a lawyer, as well as all constitutional rights (right to remain silent, refusal to consent to search, searches require warrants, etc.)

- You may only be held for 48 hours if suspected of being undocumented and law enforcement is awaiting ICE.

### FACING ICE

- You are **not required to provide proof of citizenship**, visas, papers etc. unless you have them on you

- You may **decline to let an agent with a warrant in your house if the warrant is for deportation/removal** and not for arrest or to search the building.

- While after 48 hours they must release you, **ICE is still free to find you again and detain you** afterwards.

### ADDITIONAL ADVICE

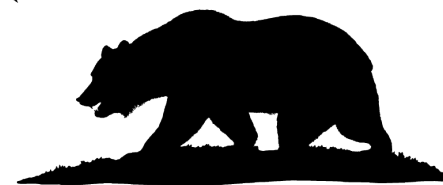
- Do not lie about your status, simply refuse to speak whenever it is an option, and **only provide the bare minimum** when it isn't.

- Tell your lawyer the truth about your immigration status, you have attorney-client privilege and so they can only help.

- You can **assume you have all the same rights a documented citizen does.** That means utilize your right to remain silent, don't consent to any searches, and **only speak after consulting with a lawyer.**

-As ICE raids are often unpredictable, it's good to **have a plan and numbers to call in advance should you be detained.** This includes **services for immigrant rights** in your area, **lawyers, and family members** to alert who can take care of anything that needs to be taken care of at home.

Undocumented Americans face more specific problems with law enforcement as well as face the additional threat of ICE agents. Shown above are some laws and strategies to remember and learn



## THE CALIFORNIA REPUBLIC'S GUIDE TO ARRESTS

**Trustworthy Organizations:**  
(Please check website using QR code below for more specific regional limitations and information on each group)

**Ella Baker Center for Human Rights**  
Oakland: 510-428-3939

**ACLU**  
NorCal: 415-621-2488  
SoCal: 213-977-5253  
San Diego: 619-232-2131

**Innocence Project**  
SoCal: 619-525-1485  
NorCal: 408-554-4790

**Centro Legal De La Raza**  
California: 510-437-1554  
ACILEP: 510-241-4011

**National Lawyers Guild**  
Office: 415-285-5067  
Jail Line: 415-285-1011  
Public Line: 415-909-4NLG

## FURTHER WEB RESOURCES

