Police Interpretation – Role play 2

Length: 03:30.

Quality: medium.

Difficulty: medium.

Actors

Two Spanish police officers and a French man under arrest (Pierre Lafayette)

Context

Police intervention at a private home prompted by a gender violence complaint filed by a woman.

Victim: a woman of Spanish citizenship.

Man under arrest: Pierre Lafayette, the victim's husband, French citizenship.

11:00 am, a 091 police team heads for Lafayette's home. Once there, they knock on the door and interview this man.

Given Pierre's citizenship, an interpreter is called for to tell him why the police officers are at his home, as well as the reasons for his arrest and the rights he is entitled to.

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Police officer 1: Buenos días, ¿me permite su documentación?

Pierre: Why? What's wrong?

Police officer 2: Venimos a comprobar que todo está en orden, caballero, haga el favor y colabore.

Pierre: Here are the documents. But first, tell me, what's going on?

Police officer 1: Ha sido usted denunciado por un delito de violencia de género.

Pierre: That *bitch** lied to you.

Police officer 2: Haga el favor y guarde las formas en nuestra presencia o incurrirá en un delito de desorden público.

Pierre: *Fuck you!** I want your license plate number. Policía 2: No se preocupe que ahora mismo se la facilito... Policía 1: Y dígame, Pierre, ¿ qué sucedió en la madrugada de ayer con su mujer?

Pierre: Nothing happened that wouldn't happen with any other couple. It all started because of a silly argument cause I arrived home a bit later than usual, after having dinner with my friends, and I was a bit drunk.

Police officer 1: Pero, dígame, ¿todo fue una discusión verbal o hicieron uso de la violencia física?

Pierre: I don't know what my wife has told you but we just had a heated discussion and I don't remember if I hit her because, like I said before, I arrived home a bit drunk.

Police officer 2: En vista de su testimonio, que sepa que tiene que acompañarnos.

Pierre: But, why? What's happening? I don't understand.

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Police officer 2: Vamos a proceder a detenerlo y a trasladarlo a dependencias policiales. Además del derecho que le asiste para tener intérprete, en base a la Ley de Enjuiciamiento Criminal en el art. 520, tiene usted derecho a no declarar contra sí mismo si no quiere, a declarar únicamente ante la autoridad judicial, a que se le comunique su detención a un familiar o a quien usted designe, a ser asistido por un médico y a nombrar a su abogado particular si usted lo tiene o se le designará uno de oficio.

Police officer 1: Tenga, estos son los mismos derechos que le ha leído, tiene que firmar aquí si lo desea.

Pierre: Let me read it, but I want you to know that I refuse to sign anything without my lawyer present. I also want you to inform my brother of my arrest. His phone number is: +33 606 234 715. I also have my own lawyer. His name is André Roibás and his telephone number is: 637 123 545. *(He reads them silently, and then he gives them back to the police officer).* And tell me, how long will you keep me at the police station for? When will you bring me before a court?

Police officer 1: Eso no depende de nosotros, lo decide el señor juez, pero como mucho 72 horas.

Pierre: Alright, I will go with you but I wish to report my wife as well because she attacked me, too.

Police officer 1: Genial, pero se viene con nosotros igual. Ponga las manos a la espalda. Acompáñenos, por favor.

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** The interpreter should also translate swearwords into the appropriate language. It should be borne in mind that interpreting in legal settings requires an **impartial** attitude and the ability to interpret everything, putting judgments aside.*

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