

When authorities are unsafe to approach

ACTION CHECKLIST

If contacting an official could expose you or your family to harm, prioritise immediate physical safety and use trusted private contacts or independently verified humanitarian and local legal support when safe. Do not publish sensitive locations or confront armed personnel. Keep essential documents and a realistic shelter or relocation plan.

[] Assess the actual threat

Separate verified incidents and direct threats from rumours. Think about who can access your location or information and whether a call, visit or public post could increase exposure.

[] Identify independent support

Find humanitarian or local legal contacts through their own websites or a trusted existing relationship. Verify a contact through a second channel before sharing sensitive details.

[] Limit unnecessary exposure

Share your location and travel plans only with people who need them. Review location sharing and account access; do not assume an app or a private message guarantees confidentiality.

[] Prepare essential records

Keep identification, medicines, written contacts and copies of necessary documents accessible. Store backups securely without exposing other family members.

[] Choose a practical safety plan

Agree where the household can shelter, who can host you and how to reconnect if separated. Avoid confrontational actions that increase immediate danger.

WATCH FOR

This page cannot guarantee privacy, legal protection or safe passage. Do not record, photograph or document an incident if doing so increases immediate danger.

IF HELP IS UNAVAILABLE

If no safe support channel is available, keep the family together in the safest reachable place and reduce unnecessary travel and disclosure. Reassess opportunities using verified information rather than a promised rescue.

Updated 2026-10-02 | Civilian educational guidance. Seek qualified help when reachable and safe; do not delay immediate protective action.

Full guide: <https://ospreyzero.com/preparedness/unsafe-authorities/>

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