

National Border Switzerland-Germany

Actual situation in Basel

Updated: February 21st, 2023

It has been observed for a few weeks that the border to Germany is being strongly checked all around Basel. In addition to the Swiss border guards that are present at the train-stations ("Basel SBB" and "Badischer-Bahnhof") and mobile by car, the presence of German Federal Police has increased significantly in recent weeks.

The Federal Police officers check the trains and trams which leave from the station "Basel SBB" to Germany in groups of around five. The trains make a stop at "Badischer Bahnhof" (this station is still in Basel/Switzerland, but is already German national territory), where the Federal Police officers usually again leave the train. Thereby, undocumented persons who have been checked also have to get off the train and cannot continue to travel to Germany by train.

So far it has been observed that undocumented persons are not being detained and are allowed to leave after another check. However, it is uncertain how long this check takes, since it is done inside a room of the train-station.



The undocumented persons are given a colored paper band placed around their arm and on their luggage, as well as a form. It seems the content of the form differs depending on the asylum situation of the respective person. Often the document contained a prohibition to cross the border to Germany and the indication, that the person should report to a federal asylum center in Switzerland.

The Federal Police also maintains an increased presence on the arrival and departure platforms of the station "Badischer Bahnhof". Noticeably often, ICE, IC, Trenitalia and City-Nightline trains in the direction of Germany are being checked. In this instance, the officers of the Federal Police spread out along the platform, covering all doors of an arriving train, after which they board the train to check the inside. It was also observed that staff of the "Deutsche Bahn" (DB) assists the Federal Police in their work (e. g. they point out possible undocumented persons).