

"TELL YOUR FRIENDS WE KILL PEOPLE HERE."

Date and time: April 28, 2019 16:00

Location: Tovarnik train station, Croatia

Coordinates: 45.1550923832336 , 19.148788644722686

Push-back from: Croatia

Push-back to: Serbia

Demographics: 3 person(s), age: 29 years old , from: Morocco, Algeria

Minors involved? No

Violence used: beating (with batons/hands/other), kicking, pushing people to the ground, insulting, threatening with guns

Police involved: 10-12 Croatian intervention police officers, 1 police van

Taken to a police station?: no

Was the intention to ask for asylum expressed?: No

Reported by: No Name Kitchen

ORIGINAL REPORT

On the 28th of April, "G." a man from Algeria and his two friends (two men from Morocco) attempted to transit Croatia by entering a train in Šid, Serbia where they had been living on the streets for many days.

At around 4:00 pm, as they were crossing the checkpoint of the Croatian border in Tovarnik (HR), police officers dressed in uniforms consistent with those worn by Croatian intervention police saw them. "G." recalled being apprehended by a group of 10 to 12 officers in total – including two who were wearing different, pale blue uniforms.

In this moment, "G." ran to escape from the authorities, as he was "too afraid". One of the policemen then drove a van – a Mercedes Sprinter- that was parked behind the train, until he caught up with him. When the officer reached "G.", he pointed a gun toward his head, and cocked it. "G." then stopped running, after which point three other Intervention police officers joined the one already present, put him on the ground by force, and began to beat him with their batons and their boots on the head, the ribs, the legs and the stomach. "G." recalled that in this moment he was sure they would kill him. After some time, they stopped and ordered him to go back to Serbia.

When he started to walk toward the Serbian border (which was only around ten meters away), one of the officers followed him and struck him again with a large wooden branch, even as "G." was already badly injured and was struggling to walk. Before he crossed the border, the policemen told him:

"Tell your friends we kill people here. Don't come here. Tell your friends we kill people."

"G." recalled that while during his exchange with the officers, his two friends who were caught by the police in the train were brought behind the train station, out of the public eye, and were then beaten violently by the rest of the authorities from the group. The friends were similarly told by the Croatian intervention police officers to spread the message that they would kill people who try to cross the border.

During the many hours to walk before reaching Sid again, G. recalled that he thought he would die. Die from the pain, the injuries, the weakness and the dehydration, since before all this they had to hide for more that 12 hours in a train.