

04/03/2019

“We don't like homosexuals here, and we don't want homosexuals here.”

**Date and time:** March 4, 2019 08:45

**Location:** Slunj, Croatia

**Coordinates:** 45.1150317 , 15.585484299999962

**Demographics:** 3 men, 1 woman, Algeria, Morocco , 25-30 years old

**Minors involved?** No

**Violence used:** denying access to asylum procedures, stealing, insulting, destroying of phones

**Police involved:** 5 police officers

**Was the intention to ask for asylum expressed?:** Yes

**What was the reaction to this intention?:** ignoring, laughing

**Reported by:** Border Violence Monitoring

## Original Report

On the 5th of March 2019, a group of 4 persons left Velika Kladuša at 6:30 am to reach Croatia. They crossed the border a few hours after and walked until Slunj in Croatia.

On the 6th of March 2019, after 14 hours of walking with some rest in the forest, the group took a bus in Slunj at 8:30 pm to reach Zagreb. The whole group entered the bus but after 10 mins the bus was stopped and a police officer came into the bus, asking for passports. The group expressed that they did not have passports but wanted to seek asylum in Croatia. The officer didn't reply anything.

They had to follow the officer outside and went into a police van. They were droven to the police station where one officer asked them for personal items. One officer took all phones, money and cigarettes. Two members of the group explained that they need to have asylum and that they are members of the LGBT community and it's forbidden by law in their country. The officer, after "laughing" said:

*“We don't like homosexuals here, and we don't want homosexuals here.”*

The two members of the LGBT felt afraid because all members of the police station were watching them with hostility and were laughing about them. After asking again for asylum the whole group had to give fingerprints, sign documents and they were photographed. They don't know about what they signed even after asking for it.

The interviewee told that he was frozen up by fear at the police station because of the hostility of all officers around them.

After one hour they had to leave the van, and had to go into another van, where they saw another group of 4 people. The 2 people of LGBT community didn't feel comfortable cause the group shared their hostility caused by their sexual orientation.

*“They saw it with my way of talk and my way of dress, everywhere I'm going it's dangerous for me just because I want to be as I am.”*

They described the way of driving like “crazy driving”. “We were afraid cause we also didn’t know where we were going.” Finally the car stopped near a road. The officer asked all people to get out of the van aggressively, one officer who had all phones, took them and destroyed them in front of them with his baton. All the officers were laughing and said things like:

*“You are criminal, never come back here or we will do the same with your face.”*

After a few minutes the officers showed them a direction and said :

*“Now you will go back to Bosnia and never come back!”*

They are at around 20 km from Velika Kladusa, without knowing where they were, without something to drink or to eat.

*“I wanted to go to Europe to be safe, to live as a human, and look I’m just an animal here! Now I don’t have anything to live, what am I supposed to do? You know, when you are homosexual, even in the official camp it’s dangerous. I’ve been raped in the IOM camp shower, and now I am supposed to go back there?”*

The interview was conducted in cooperation with *Thé et Café pour les réfugiés*.

