

31/10/2017

## "8 MALE CROATIAN BORDER POLICE OFFICERS WERE WAITING OUTSIDE AND VIOLENTLY ATTACKED THEM, BEATING THEM WITH FISTS AND STICKS"

**Date and time:** October 31, 2017 20:00

**Location:** Karlovac, Croatia

**Coordinates:** 45.475735 , 15.562564

**Push-back from:** Croatia

**Push-back to:** Serbia

**Demographics:** 2 person(s), age: unknown , from: Iraq, Algeria

**Minors involved?** Unknown

**Violence used:** beating (with batons/hands/other)

**Police involved:** Transportation to deportation : 2 police/ Incident of violence : 8 male border police

**Taken to a police station?:** unknown

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

**Reported by:** Rigardu

### ORIGINAL REPORT

Two men walked from Šid and across the Serbian-Croatian border, they were caught by Croatian police in Zagreb. The men expressed their intention to seek asylum, the police agreed and made their registration for entering asylum procedures. The men stated their ages to be 16 and 35 years and Iraqi and Algerian nationality. The younger one also stated his medical issues and his need for asylum to access medical treatment. Afterwards the men travelled to a city in Croatia about 15 km from the Croatian-Slovenian border (possibly Karlovac), to stay in a house belonging to their friend, for about two days.

The men would have called the Croatian UNHCR office, but they didn't have a phone. From there they continued walking towards Slovenia, but were caught by Croatian police directly at the Croatian-Slovenian border on October 31st. in the morning. The police asked where they were going, and why they didn't want to wait for asylum in Croatia. The men answered truthfully, and told them that they didn't trust the chances of getting asylum there. The younger of the men again explained to them about his medical situation. The police promised them access to asylum procedures, and the men went to the Commissariat of Karlovac.

They once again explained about their personal details and situation, and the officials noticed that the papers of the younger man stated that he was 20 years old. The man explained that he had declared that he was 16 years old, but the documents stated differently. Afterwards the police officers again promised a continuation of their asylum procedures in a camp in Zagreb. Instead of Zagreb, the men were transported in big police car, driven by two police officers, to the Serbian-Croatian border near the train rails between Tovarnik and Šid. They started the journey the same day about 3-5pm. and they arrived there at about 8 pm. When the men asked where they were going, the police didn't answer and only said "shut up".

When they reached the destination, the police released the men from the car and ordered them to go on to the other

side of the border. The men didn't even realize where they were, so the police told them. The younger one of the men, attempted to say that he had entered Slovenia from Bosnia and Herzegovina, questioning why he was still being deported to Serbia, but the police didn't listen. The police asked for any belongings, but the men had only a broken phone. Afterwards the men were let out of the car, 8 male Croatian border police officers were waiting outside, and violently attacked them, beating them with fists and sticks, on all parts of their bodies, for a few minutes. Then the men ran to the Serbian side and walked back to Šid.