

17/03/2019

## **"THE GROUP OF TEN WAS LEFT BY THEMSELVES INSIDE THE VAN FOR 18 TO 19 HOURS WITHOUT FOOD, WATER AND TOILETS."**

**Date and time:** March 17, 2019 00:00

**Location:** Buzet, Croatia

**Coordinates:** 45.4075606 , 13.965127599999996

**Push-back from:** Croatia

**Push-back to:** Bosnia

**Demographics:** 10 person(s), age: 20-34 , from: Morocco, Algeria

**Minors involved?** No

**Violence used:** beating (with batons/hands/other), forcing to undress, destruction of personal belongings, theft of personal belongings, theft of passports

**Police involved:** 7 Croatian police officers, 6 men and 1 woman

**Taken to a police station?:** no

**Treatment at police station or other place of detention:** no translator present, denial of access to toilets, denial of food/water

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

**Reported by:** Border Violence Monitoring

### **ORIGINAL REPORT**

After the group of ten people on the move had walked through the forests for ten days, they were detected by Croatian officers Buzet. They had just sat down in the mountains for a short food break, when two Croatian officers in green uniforms saw them. The officers told the group to get up and asked if they carried knives or guns with them. Afterwards, the individuals had to undress in order to be searched by the officers. They also searched their bags, checked the phones to see the locations on Google Maps sent via Facebook Messenger and WhatsApp and looked through all their personal photos.

They took their power banks, phones and passports and called other officers to pick them up. When the group of people on the move asked for asylum, the officers denied it and started laughing. A group of six officers in blue uniforms, five men and one woman, arrived and the individuals were told to enter the van. The group of ten was left by themselves inside the van for 18 to 19 hours without food, water and toilets. Afterwards, they were brought back to the Bosnian border, around 20 km from Velika Kladusa.

When they arrived at the Bosnian border, the officers returned their power banks and phones in a bag, but not the passports. Also, one iPhone 6 was missing.

They beat each of them with a baton, telling them:

*"Go, go, Velika Kladusa!"*

They were five kilometers far away from Velika Kladusa.