

09/09/2018

" [...] AND BROKE THEM [THE PHONES] IN FRONT OF THEM WITH A BATON TO SMASH THE SCREENS"

Date and time: September 9, 2018 22:00

Location: Rijeka, Croatia

Coordinates: 45.3270631 , 14.442176000000018

Push-back from: Croatia

Push-back to: Bosnia

Demographics: 6 person(s), age: 18-32 , from: Pakistan

Minors involved? No

Violence used: no violence used, theft of personal belongings, lack of oxygen in van's backspace

Police involved: Croatian officers, at the push back: four officers in sky blue shirts

Taken to a police station?: yes

Treatment at police station or other place of detention: photos taken, personal information taken, papers signed

Was the intention to ask for asylum expressed?: Yes

Reported by: Rigardu

ORIGINAL REPORT

The group of six young men had been walking for one week in the woodlands of Croatia. On Sunday evening , on September 9, 2018, they were stopped by two Croatian officers wearing black uniforms . They walked around a parked car towards the group of six while shouting at them to stop. The group complied and waited as the officers searched them and took their belongings.

An estate vehicle arrived and used to transport the six individuals for approximately 10 km to a police station in the suburbs of Rijeka. At the station , they were brought to an office and each was ordered to sign a deportation paper , including names, ages, nationalities and a photo of their faces. The six of them asked for asylum in Croatia and asked the officers to make an application that evening. But they just replied:

"You can ask for asylum in Zagreb, but we are not in Zagreb. "

They were detained in a cell for around two hours before being driven five hours back to the Bosnian border. They traveled in the back of an estate car with no light or adequate ventilation. Already tired from walking, the confinement made the group feel very sick.

Eventually, they arrived at a rural border area which they knew to be the area of the Croatian border opposite to the Bosnian town of Poljana. Four officers were waiting there in sky blue shirts. The officers took them off the van and told them to walk towards Bosnia. When they asked about their phones, the officers replied by taking a bag containing the devices and broke them in front of them with a baton to smash the screens. Then the phones were returned and the six individuals returned to Bosnia.