

19/09/2017

"THE BEATING STOPPED WHEN THE INTERVIEWEE AND HIS FRIEND RAN AWAY ACROSS THE BORDER"

Date and time: September 19, 2017 03:00

Location: Vinkovci, Croatia

Coordinates: 45.306841 , 18.818566

Push-back from: Croatia

Push-back to: Serbia

Demographics: 2 person(s), age: 28, 30 , from: Algeria

Minors involved? No

Violence used: beating (with batons/hands/other), theft of personal belongings

Police involved: 3 or more policemen from Croatia

Taken to a police station?: unknown

Was the intention to ask for asylum expressed?: No

Reported by: Rigardu

ORIGINAL REPORT

The interviewee and his friend started to walk from Šid, Serbia on September 17th. 2017 at 3pm. and crossed the Croatian border between Šid and Boksic, Croatia. They walked through two forrest in the area of Boksic and Berak and crossed road 57. On the 18th at 5am. they arrived at Vinkovci and arrived at the train station at 8 am. They couldn't get on the train because the interviewee's friend had severe abdominal/intestinal pain. They were stopped by police, (small police car, one female and one male police officer in uniforms), near the train station on the 19th at 2am.

The interviewee asked in English about a hospital for his friend, and states that the female police officer was really friendly. They didn't ask for asylum. The police talked on their radio, and one police officer van took the interviewee and his friend to Tovarnik, Croatia, where a police van with three police officers in uniforms took them and transported them to the Serbian-Croatian border near Tovarnik, followed by another police van, arriving there on the 19th at 3am.

At the border, the police officers confiscated their baggage, money and phones and searched the interviewee and his friend. The interviewee told them about his friend's illness and that he needed to go to the hospital, but the police didn't answer, but pointed in the direction of the border and said "there's Serbia". The police officers had long batons with handles, and one of them beat the interviewee once on his hand and four times on his his legs. One of them also beat his friend. The beating stopped when the interviewee and his friend ran away across the border and walked back to Šid in two hours.