

14/02/2018

## **"BUT ONE OF THE POLICE OFFICERS GOT MAD AT HIS WORDS AND PUNCHED HIM IN THE HEAD WITH FIST, BREAKING HIS NOSE AND KNOCKING HIM TO THE GROUND."**

**Date and time:** February 14, 2018 02:00

**Location:** Vinkovci, Croatia

**Coordinates:** 45.2879058 , 18.805678100000023

**Push-back from:**

**Push-back to:**

**Demographics:** person(s), age: , from:

**Minors involved?** No

**Violence used:**

**Police involved:** five armed policemen

**Taken to a police station?:**

**Treatment at police station or other place of detention:**

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

**Reported by:** Info Park

### **ORIGINAL REPORT**

Man and woman from Boufark, Algeria, both aged 29, tried to cross the border of Croatia in the night between 13th and 14th of February 2018 with intentions to seek asylum and stay in Croatia. They were traveling alone by foot for several hours when Croatian police intercepted them nearby Vinkovci at 2am. In their words, there were 5 armed police officers who immediately pushed them on the ground using a lot of force and searched both man and woman, taking their backpacks, their mobile phones, and about 50 euros that they had with them. During the search police officers shouted at them in a language they couldn't understand. After they've been searched, policemen pulled them up into kneeling position, ordering them to keep their arms in the air, and proceeded to hit them with batons in the general area of thighs, back and neck, using offensive language the whole time and occasionally spitting on them. The man tried to explain to them that they want to ask for asylum and several times had said "Asylum" and "Azil" hoping that the policemen will stop with the beating and allow them to stay in Croatia. But one of the police officers got mad at his words and punched him in the head with fist, breaking his nose and knocking him to the ground. Around 4 am, man and woman were handcuffed and escorted to the Serbian border in a police vehicle, after which they were released and ordered to walk back to Serbia.

Both man and woman returned to Belgrade in the afternoon and were treated at Doctors without borders (MSF) clinic. The man has medical documentation that confirms broken nose, fractured left hand, and visible bruises on his face, back and thighs.