

13/08/2018

"THE OFFICERS STARTED BEATING US WITH STICKS [BATONS] AND PUSHED US INTO THAT RIVER, AND AFTER OTHER TWO WERE BEATING US WHEN WE WERE COMING OUT OF THE RIVER ON THE OTHER SIDE, SHOUTING AT US "GO!"."

Date and time: August 13, 2018 00:00

Location: Official border checkpoint in Velika Kladuša

Coordinates: 45.19584500666835 , 15.79510041077424

Push-back from:

Push-back to:

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

Minors involved? No

Violence used:

Police involved: 6 Croatian police officers (blue shirts)

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: No Name Kitchen

ORIGINAL REPORT

J. and other 10 men, all from Afghanistan, walked from Starlik (Bosnia) to Croatia. After three days of walking, they crossed Road 1 in Croatia, and were continuing in a forest where they were caught by Croatian police. The officers frisked the men's bodies, searching for their money and mobile phones. They stole all money from the men (from J. 100 Euro) and broke their phones. J. told the police his name and nationality and asked them whether he could apply for asylum in Croatia. But the police did not let him speak and when he or other men tried to say something, the officers responded by physically attacking them. After, the men and another 11 men from Pakistan were directly deported to Bosnia in a police van. According to J., the police was driving very fast and the driver was braking the car in a way that everyone was falling down from their seats. After one hour, the men arrived at an area close to the official border checkpoint in Velika Kladuša, where they were handed over to other Croatian police officers, who were supposed to deport them back to Bosnia. These officers were acting violently against the men:

"When they brought us to the border, they handed us over to other police men, in blue shirts. They kept telling me, "Picko matre, picko matre". They told us to put our hands behind our heads and put a wooden stick to each under our elbows. They sprayed our eyes [with an irritant spray]. There was a river, and three police men were standing in front of the river and three officers behind the river. The officers started beating us with sticks [batons] and pushed us into that river, and another two were beating us when we were coming out of the river on the other side, shouting at us "Go!". All 22 people were beaten" (J.).

J. did not remember the faces of the perpetrators because it was dark. The police kept pointing torches into the men's faces while they were beating them, so they could not see anything, only the lights. Following the violent incident, all the

men walked back to the makeshift camp in Velika Kladuša.