

10/01/2019

"THE WOMAN WAS CRYING, AND THEY [MALE OFFICERS] KEPT FRISKING HER"

Date and time: January 10, 2019 21:00

Location: Slunj, Croatia, on road 1, about a kilometer away from Slunj

Coordinates: 45.11259675749482 , 15.58851697996056

Push-back from: Croatia

Push-back to: Bosnia

Demographics: 11 person(s), age: one 19 year old , from: Syria

Minors involved? Unknown

Violence used: beating (with batons/hands/other), insulting, water immersion, sexual assault, theft of personal belongings, reckless driving, male officer frisking a woman

Police involved: Croatian male police officers, caught and violated by 2 officers with one car and some other officers with another car and a van (white, no windows in back), at the border physically attacking at least 12 officers (in black, with masks, possibly from special forces)

Taken to a police station?: yes

Was the intention to ask for asylum expressed?: No

Reported by: No Name Kitchen

ORIGINAL REPORT

The group of 11 left Bosnia at 10.30 am on January 10, 2019, and soon crossed the Croatian border. They walked on the trails, leading through a forest in Croatia. The temperature was around – 7°C, and as a result, the drinking water they were carrying froze.

"For the woman who was with us, it was too cold, then we went to walk on the main road, and there, the police caught us."

After about 11 hours of walking, around 9 pm on the following evening, the group reached road 1, about one kilometer away from Slunj Croatia. They were apprehended by two officers in a car. Shortly after, another car and a windowless, white van arrived. The officers present aggressively demanded that the group of them handed over their belongings. Twelve phones were taken from them as well as the power banks, headphones, chargers and money. The group never received any of these back.

The 11 of them were then driven to a police station, probably in Slunj. There, one of the officers told them:

"If you are nice, we will be nice."

Nonetheless, the respondent reports that:

"Some were beaten, some were not, at the police station. They humiliated us, we were treated with humiliation."

The group-members were brought out of the van in small groups, one by one, two by two, and a maximum of three by three. They were taken to the yard of the police station and frisked once more. As the officers frisked the female individual, they found a phone which she had hidden when being searched the first time.

"I've a question, is it normal that a man frisks a woman? A policeman frisked the woman, he did it on purpose, just to make us angry. The woman was crying, and they kept frisking her."

"He pushed her, and she began to cry then he stopped. When she began to cry, he took out his baton, and she had to stop. He was humiliating her [showing with his hand how the policeman was pushing her]."

After around one hour, they returned to the van and were driven back to the Bosnian border. On the way, the 11 of them decided, to run out of the van all together in the same moment when the officers would open the doors.

"The driver drove as a reckless driver, he did it on purpose. Drove from the left to the right. Four people threw up."

They arrived at the border close to Crni Potok (HRV) and Velika Kladuša (BIH) 1,5 hours later. The driver parked the van approximately 150 meters away from a river on a small road near a forest. Then, the officers made the people on the move enter this river with breast-high water by encircling them.

"They deported us to a place with a small river, they pushed us into it by force."

"They act with us like animals."

"There were a lot [of policemen], more than twelve. I don't know how much, but they were all wearing ski-mask, it was full darkness, even my finger I couldn't see it."

The respondent thought that the officers were from the special forces, as they wore black uniforms.

Some individuals managed to run away, but some got beaten.