

06/03/2019

“without having the right to apply for asylum, without knowing where we were, without our phone, without our money, we felt suddenly like animals, not like humans”

Date and time: March 6, 2019 03:00

Location: Glina, Croatia

Coordinates: 45.3382624 , 16.090970900000002

Demographics: 2 persons, 1 woman from Algeria and 1 men from Morocco, both 24 years old .

Minors involved? No

Violence used: kicking, destroying personal items

Police involved: 5 police officers

Was the intention to ask for asylum expressed?: Yes

What was the reaction to this intention?: The officers ignored the request for asylum

Reported by: Border Violence Monitoring

Original Report

On the 6th of March, 2019 at 6 am, a group of two people left Velika Kladusa and crossed the Croatia border. From there, they walked all day long through the forest and mountains. Exhausted by the previous walk the group decide to sleep a few hours in the forest. They were around Glina, Croatia.

Around 3:00 pm while they were sleeping on the ground, both of them received several kicks and when they opened their eyes, they saw 5 men around them with masks and dark uniforms. They were asking and asking again for asylum but the 5 police officers didn't reply. One of the 5 officers asked the couple in an aggressive way about their origin and why they tried to come to Croatia. The couple was asking for asylum again but for a second time the police officer ignored it.

While one officer with mask took all the clothes from the couple's bag and put them on the dirty ground to make everything useless, another one took 200€ and broke the mobiles phones. Finally, the officer put the broken phones in a plastic bag and gave them back.

The group were terrified, and had to enter a van. The driver was driving like “a crazy man”, and “played by suddenly stopping the car, start again, stop, then start again”- to make them sick. After one hour, the van stops in a forest near the border. One officer brought them with violence out of the van. It was dark and one officer showed them a direction shouting them to go back to Bosnia.

“We were walking in the direction of Bosnia, without having the right to apply for asylum, without knowing where we were, without our phone, without our money, we felt suddenly like animals, not like humans.”

It took them one day to return to Velika Kladusa, exhausted. They went to the Miral Camp (camp run by IOM), but since the officers had taken their camp cards, they could not have access to medical care and food.

The interview was conducted in cooperation with *Thé et Café pour les réfugiés* .