

15/02/2017

"THEY LET US KEEP ONE SHOE EACH"

Date and time: February 15, 2017 22:00

Location: Palic, Serbia

Coordinates: 46.14621781013321 , 19.732143661240116

Push-back from: Serbia

Push-back to: Serbia

Demographics: 4 person(s), age: unknown , from: Afghanistan, unknown

Minors involved? Yes

Violence used: beating (with batons/hands/other), kicking, pepper spray, forcing to undress, destruction of personal belongings, theft of personal belongings

Police involved: 4 Hungarian police officers

Taken to a police station?: unknown

Was the intention to ask for asylum expressed?: Unknown

Reported by: Fresh Response

ORIGINAL REPORT

On February 15th 2017, 4 people on the move attempted to cross the Hungarian border near Palic. The group of four included an Afghan family of three, a man a woman and 14-year old boy and the interviewee. They did not manage to cross the border, and were caught by police on the Serbian side. The Hungarian border police saw them from far away, and were already waiting for them when they came to the border. It was 10 PM, about half a kilometer from the border fence.

They found us; they didn't say anything. They shined torches in our eyes, made us stand up and put our hands up. Then they sprayed us. The spray burnt my eyes; I couldn't open them, there was a lot of tears and a burning feeling. They sprayed us from a close distance, about half a foot.

There were four police officers who came by foot. The interviewee describes them as wearing blue uniforms with some kind of badge on them, and speaking Hungarian. The police kicked the interviewee, the other man and the child so that they fell to the ground, then they hit the woman with a baton, and proceeded to beat all of them.

They concentrated on our arms and legs. More than anything they were kicking us on our legs and knees. They were beating us for 15 or 20 minutes.

The police hit the interviewee very hard with the handle of the baton causing a leg fractured. The police further forced the 4 people to undress, taking away their jackets, gloves, hats and boots, letting them keep one shoe each, as well as one pair of trousers and one t-shirt.

The police then searched through their clothes, and destroyed any money and belongings they found. The 4 people were forced to stand in only t-shirt, trousers and one shoe in about 10 degrees below zero weather. Sometime after 11 PM the police let them go. The group of 4 were sitting on the ground, when the Serbian border police arrived. The Serbian police asked why they were sitting there, and the group explained about the beatings by the Hungarian police. The Serbian

police called an ambulance after seeing the interviewees leg fracture, the interviewee was then treated on the spot. The Interviewee was then sent to Subotica, and the Afghan family went to Šid, No report was made by the Serbian police.