

09/09/2018

"YOU CAN ASK FOR ASYLUM IN ZAGREB, BUT WE ARE NOT IN ZAGREB."

Date and time: September 9, 2018 22:00

Location: Croatia, Rijeka

Coordinates: 45.3270631 , 14.442176000000018

Push-back from:

Push-back to:

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

Minors involved? No

Violence used:

Police involved: Croatian police

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: Rigardu

ORIGINAL REPORT

A group of six young Pakistani men walked for a week in the woodland of Croatia. On the Sunday evening (9th Sept) the victim described how he and the others were stopped by two officers. The officers, wearing black uniforms, walked around a parked car and towards the young men while shouting at them to stop.

The group complied and waited as the police officers searched and removed their belongings.

A combi vehicle was summoned and used to transport the men approximately 10km to a station in the suburbs of Rijeka. At the station the men were brought into an office and each was ordered to sign a deportation paper (including names, ages, nationalities and a photograph of their faces). In the station the men asked for asylum in Croatia. They asked the police to make an application that evening. But the police replied: "You can ask for asylum in Zagreb, but we are not in Zagreb." The men were held in an adjoining cell for around 2 hours before being driven the 5 hour journey back to the Bosnian border. They travelled in the back of a combi with no light or adequate ventilation. Already tired from walking, the confinement made the group feel very sick.

Eventually they arrived at a rural border area which the men knew to be the area of Croatian frontier opposite from the Bosnian town of Poljana. Four officers waiting in the sky blue shirts of the Croatian police were waiting for them. The police took them from the van and told them to walk towards Bosnia. When they asked about their telephones the officers replied by taking a bag containing the devices and breaking them in front of the men individually using a standard issue black police baton to smash the screens. Then the items were returned and the men returned to Bosnia.