## "POLICE OFFICERS WITH BLACK SKI MASKS WERE BEATING THEM WITH BATONS"

**Date and time:** December 6, 2018 00:04 **Location:** Close to Tovarnik, nearby a road. **Coordinates:** 45.1648822, 19.152205800000047

Push-back from: Push-back to:

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

Minors involved? Yes

Violence used:

Police involved: The officers were wearing dark blue uniforms. They drove the van. Five wore black ski masks.

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**

On the 6 <sup>th</sup> of December the group of 15 men waited for a taxi nearby a road, close to Tovarnik. The group was aged mainly between 20 and 25 years old, however there were also two minors aged 17 years old. Before their taxi came, the group was stopped by a group of three Croatian police officers at 4:00 am. The respondent was under the impression that his group may have been detected by thermal-imagery cameras. The officers asked the group to sit down, and asked them where they were from. They answered that they were from Afghanistan and nothing more was asked. At some point at this location, violence transpired: all the members of the group were beaten, in the face, eyes, and mouth.

The three first police officers called for back-up and ten more officers came. Then, officers wearing black masks beat the group again, with black batons, for about ten minutes. After this second episode of violence the police asked the respondent to stand up. He was hit on the face. The group was deported back to the truck scanner the Croatian/Serbian border, and violence occurred again at this spot, "near the border house" in the dark. Upon returning to Serbia, the respondent sought treatment at the local hospital for having had his nose smashed and bleeding.