

13/08/2018

"THEY STARTED BEATING US WITH BATONS AND PUSHED US INTO THE RIVER"

Date and time: August 13, 2018 00:00

Location: forest close to route 1, Croatia

Coordinates: 45.21969289797656 , 15.575162807350125

Push-back from: Croatia

Push-back to: Bosnia

Demographics: 22 person(s), age: unknown , from: Afghanistan, Pakistan

Minors involved? No

Violence used: beating (with batons/hands/other), pushing people to the ground, insulting, destruction of personal belongings, theft of personal belongings

Police involved: 6 Croatian officers

Taken to a police station?: no

Was the intention to ask for asylum expressed?: Yes

Reported by: No Name Kitchen

ORIGINAL REPORT

The interviewee and 10 other men, all from Afghanistan, walked from Starlik (Bosnia) to Croatia. After three days of walking, they crossed the Road 1 in Croatia, and continued into a forest where they were caught by the Croatian police. The police searched the men's bodies, searching for their money and mobile phones. They stole all the men's money and broke their phones. The interviewee told the police his name and nationality, and asked them whether he could apply for asylum in Croatia. But the police did not allow him to speak and when he or other men tried to say something, the officers responded by physically attacking them. Afterwards, the men together with 11 other Pakistani males were directly deported to Bosnia with a police van. According to the interviewee the police were driving very fast. After one hour, the men arrived at an area close to the official check-point in Velika Kladuša, where they were handed over to Croatian police officers, who were supposed to deport them back to Bosnia. These police officers were acting violently against the men:

When they brought us to the border, they handed us over to other police men, in blue shirts. They kept telling me, "Picko matre, picko matre". They told us to put our hands behind our heads and put a wooden stick to each under our elbows. They sprayed our eyes [with an irritant spray]. They started beating us with sticks [batons] and pushed us into that river, two were beating us to go into the water and two when we were coming out of the river on the other side, shouting at us, "Go!". All 22 people were beaten.

The interviewee did not remember the faces of the police officers because it was dark. The police kept pointing torches into the men's faces while they were beating them, so they could not see anything, only the lights. Following the violent incident, all the men walked back to the makeshift camp in Velika Kladuša.