

12/06/2017

"THE POLICE CONFISCATED THE MONEY AND THEN CLAIMED THAT THE MONEY WAS NEVER IN THEIR POSSESSION."

Date and time: June 12, 2017 10:00

Location: campsite near Šid, Serbia

Coordinates: 45.110803 , 19.226055

Push-back from: No pushback?

Push-back to: No Pushback?

Demographics: 6 person(s), age: unknown , from: Afghanistan

Minors involved? Unknown

Violence used: beating (with batons/hands/other), theft of personal belongings

Police involved: 4 policemen (3 in uniform, 1 in plain clothes), judge

Taken to a police station?: yes

Treatment at police station or other place of detention: fingerprints taken, forced to pay fee

Was the intention to ask for asylum expressed?: Unknown

Reported by: Rigardu

ORIGINAL REPORT

On June 12th. 2017 near Šid, Serbia, six people were at their campsite 200m behind the distribution spot where groups distribute aid in the forrest. Four police officers arrived, three in uniform and one in plain clothes. They told everyone to stand up and the group was handcuffed together in pairs. In a line they were taken to the main distribution spot where a police van was waiting to escort them to the police station. One man slipped free from his handcuff partner and ran. The police punched the remaining man in the head 3 times, asking why the man had run and that he must get him back. The remaining five people were escorted to the police station. Upon arrival, all the men's fingerprints were taken and then they were sent individually to the judge – a service which incurs a fee of 50€ per person.

One man explained to the judge that he was in Šid camp which closed, he was then transferred to Adaševci. Due to his absence from the camp because of the game, his card was almost taken from him by the commissariat; he was forced to leave the camp and live in the forrest area with friends. The judge said he should go to another camp, he responded that this was not possible. After meeting the judge, each person was returned to the police for a search and they found considerable amounts of money (500, 200, 80 and 50 euro). The police confiscated the money and then claimed that the money was never in their possession. There is no record that the police took the money, only a record for the expenses of the judge. One person from the group of five had no extra money and was held in custody for an estimated 10-15 days.

The other four were released and came across the same police officers who had arrested and detained them. One man from the group accused the police of stealing his money and the policeman replied that if he sees him in Šid again he will be arrested again. On the police report given to each man there is no mention of extra money confiscation nor that the men possessed any camp documents, but in fact all the men in this incident had documents with them at the time, as they were previously residents of either Šid or Adaševci camp.