

22/09/2018

"AFTER THEY WERE BADLY BEATEN AND TOO AFRAID TO RESIST, THE POLICE SEARCHED THEIR POCKETS AND STOLE ALL THEIR VALUABLES."

Date and time: September 22, 2018 05:00

Location: Tenja, Croatia

Coordinates: 45.501104 , 18.7497055999997

Push-back from:

Push-back to:

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

Minors involved? No

Violence used:

Police involved: 4 officers: 2 men and 1 woman in uniform in a police car, 1 man without uniform

Taken to a police station?:

Treatment at police station or other place of detention:

Was the intention to ask for asylum expressed?: No

Reported by: Aid Brigade Sarajevo

ORIGINAL REPORT

During the night of 2/10/18, 26 Punjabi Indian males in their early-mid 20's were crossing through Croatia by foot. They were spotted by police using search lights from their car on highway 230, near the village of Tenja- southeast of Osijek.

2 male officers and 1 female officer in uniform accompanied by 1 large man without uniform apprehended them in the jungle where they beat them with batons until they fell to the ground where they continued beating and kicking them. After they were badly beaten and too afraid to resist, the police searched their pockets and stole all their valuables. Each person had around €200 and a cell phone, the police stole €5,000 in total. 20 of the 26 phones were stolen, 6 phones were smashed and broken. After finding so many valuables in their pockets, they decided to empty the entire contents of their backpacks into plastics bags to sort through later and returned their backpacks emptied of all their worldly possessions. When the police were finished looting the men, they took them to the police station in 2 vans, 13 in each, where they had their mug shots taken- but not their fingerprints. They did not know in what town the police station was, because they could not see it from the van. They requested water with motions but were refused.

Around 5:00 am, the police vans drove them about 10km from the Serbian border near Šid, where they took them out of the vans and yelled and motioned for them to go back to Serbia. They walked back to Serbia in the dark without navigation or flashlight or even one Euro in their pocket to remedy their hunger or thirst. When asking for details of the pushback, they told me their story without a hint of anger towards the police who violated all their human rights, only confusion about why a person would steal and beat another person. Many of the men in this group are Sikh, the only hint of sadness was when they spoke of the beautiful turban fabrics they carried in their backpacks that were dumped in a plastic bag and was surely thrown away.

They did not ask for asylum because they were afraid they would be accused of being smugglers if they spoke English.