

21/02/2018

## **"THE OFFICERS TOLD THE INTERVIEWED MAN THAT IF HE TRIES TO CROSS THE BORDER AGAIN, THEY WILL KILL HIM"**

**Date and time:** February 21, 2018 23:00

**Location:** close to Batina, Croatia

**Coordinates:** 45.8286690894168 , 18.83766914597163

**Push-back from:**

**Push-back to:**

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

**Minors involved?** No

**Violence used:**

**Police involved:** Croatian police officers

**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:** Rigardu

### **ORIGINAL REPORT**

On 21st February in the evening 22 men (from Pakistan, all about 20-30 years old) walked from Sombor, Serbia towards Croatia and crossed the Serbian-Croatian border, heading to pass through Croatian territory to Hungary, in guidance of a man (originally from Afghanistan but now citizen of Serbia). The group crossed a river and continued walking for about five minutes before getting caught by Croatian police officers around 11 pm. The interviewed man didn't know the way and thus he couldn't describe the place in detail, but apparently the river was some smaller branch of Danube river and they were on Croatian side. The men didn't express any intentions to seek for asylum. After stopping the men the officers checked their bodies and belongings and asked for property, checking up their mobile phones. The officers looked through the pictures, messages and contacts saved in their mobile phones. The man interviewed was the only one speaking English, so the officers accused him for being "the boss", meaning a smuggler, and thus treated him worse than the others. The man denied it and tried to explain that he had been in Serbia only for a month and thus couldn't be a smuggler, but the officers didn't believe him. The officers broke the phones of the men using water (5-6 phones in total) and intentionally tearing out a piece (of the phone of the interviewed person) connecting the phone to battery and thus making it impossible for any battery to charge the phone or be charged in it. Next they were taken into a room in a building close by, where some of the officers treated all the men with violence. They beat with hands and one stick and kicked the men. The officers still accused the interviewed man for being a smuggler and thus beat and kicked him the most severely, especially hard to his legs. Afterwards, his knee was badly injured, so that it was swollen and hurt and he couldn't walk properly and was limping for several days. After the incident the men were transported by car to the Croatian-Serbian border, where the officers made the men stay inside the car for the rest of the night, for about 12 hours, until they were released the next morning on 22nd February. Then the officers took pictures of the men and wrote down their personal details, but didn't give any written documents or take any fingerprints. After that the men were ordered to go back to Serbia, and the officers told the interviewed man that if he tries to cross the border again, they will kill him, and the men returned to the Serbian side.