

22/03/2019

## “Police attacked them with the sticks, hurting heads and legs without making distinctions”

**Date and time:** March 22, 2019 00:00

**Location:** Croatia, one day walking from the Serbian border

**Coordinates:** 42.7011836775152 , 21.601202312492205

**Demographics:** 32 persons from Afghanistan, 3 minors (between 12 and 13 years old)

**Minors involved?** Yes

**Violence used:** Beating with sticks, kicking

**Police involved:** Croatian local police, unknown number

**Was the intention to ask for asylum expressed?:** Unknown

**Reported by:** No Name Kitchen

### Original Report

A. actually lives in the old Grafosrem factory in the small border village of Sid (Serbia). He left Kabul because it is dangerous to stay and started being a refugee. Since then it has been a long way crossing borders and countries like Iran, Turkey and now the Balkans.

Last time he went to the “game” it was again like being inside of a horror movie. Three days outside of the squat for nothing, only more frustration.

The group of 35 refugee people was walking on a Croatian road, but split up in smaller groups of about ten migrants. So when the police came they could escape by running into the forest. A. escaped and walked many hours but then the police came again and everybody got caught. In this moment all of them, also the tree children (about 12, 13 years old kids) who were with the group, got beaten. Police attacked them with the sticks, hurting heads and legs without making distinctions. Also they took the money and mobile phones, which they never returned back.

After the beating, the migrants were brought to a Croatian police station, obligated to stay there in silence for three hours. The only attention of the officers were questions.

*Were do you go? Why you stay in the forest?*

A had to give personal data like his mothers and fathers names, date and place of birth, etc. During the process, the police officers remained silent, not giving any information about the situation or about their rights. They did not even provide a glass of water.

After three hours, some people were sent to the jail and A. and the others were deported back to Serbia by car.

Reported in English language the day 24th of March