

15/08/2018

"THEY WERE BEATING ME FOR TEN MINUTES WITH STICKS AND THEIR HANDS"

Date and time: August 15, 2018 00:00

Location: forest close to Stara Lipa, Slovenia

Coordinates: 45.46682683560941 , 15.231725833934775

Push-back from: Slovenia, Croatia

Push-back to: Bosnia

Demographics: 10 person(s), age: unknown , from: Afghanistan

Minors involved? Yes

Violence used: beating (with batons/hands/other)

Police involved: two Slovenian male police officers working in a police station 20 min by drive from Stara Lipa, one around 30 years old with blond dyed hair

Taken to a police station?: yes

Treatment at police station or other place of detention: fingerprints taken, personal information taken

Was the intention to ask for asylum expressed?: Yes

Reported by: No Name Kitchen

ORIGINAL REPORT

On August 15th. 2018, the interviewee and other 9 men, including two minors, walked from Velika Kladuša, crossed Croatia, and wanted to continue through Slovenia further to Italy. When the whole group was walking in a forest close to Stara Lipa around 6 pm, they were caught by a group of 11 police officers. The officers questioned the men about their nationalities and called for more police officers and a van, who later transported all the men to a police station. The interviewee did not know the location of the police station because the car in which they were being transported had dark windows and the police did not give the men any information about where they were being transported. The interviewee only remembered that the police station where they were taken, was a 20 minute drive from the place of their detention (Stara Lipa).

Once, the men arrived at the police station, they had to fill out a document, stating their name, parents' names, their nationality and their intention of movement in Slovenia. The interviewee was the only one who did not express his intention to stay in Slovenia and apply for asylum there. Instead, he told the police that he wanted to continue to Italy. After that, the police took their fingerprints. Based on the fingerprinting process, the police found out that this was the interviewees fourth time of entering Slovenia, and accused him of being a smuggler. The two police officers took him to a closed container inside of the police station, where they were verbally threatening him and physically attacking him:

They took me to container. Two women police were sitting on the chair and two men started beating me. They were beating me for ten minutes with sticks and their hands. But you know, they were beating me not hard, to not to leave any marks on my body. And those two women were just sitting there and watching. The men who were beating, were calling me "picko matre, picko matre". They kept beating me into my legs, head and back. They treated me like animal.

The interviewee was the only one who was beaten by the officers. Later on, eight of the men, including him, were

transported from Slovenia to Croatia, and from there to Bosnia. Only one boy, a 16 years old minor, was allowed to stay in Slovenia and claim asylum there. The interviewee explained that the Croatian police was acting nice to them during their deportation back to Bosnia and they had no problems with them.

The interviewee had pain in the back of his head (vertex), his right elbow, and his leg, caused by the physical attack by the Slovenian police officers. He refused to take photographs of his injured arms and bruises to protect his anonymity.