

01/09/2018

"HIS TWO SMALL CHILDREN WERE REALLY TIRED, BUT THEY WERE CALLED NAMES AND SCARED BY THE POLICE THROUGHOUT THE DEPORTATION"

Date and time: September 1, 2018 21:00

Location: Zagreb, Croatia

Coordinates: 45.8150108 , 15.981918899999982

Push-back from: Croatia

Push-back to: Bosnia

Demographics: 4 person(s), age: 2, 4, unknown , from: Afghanistan

Minors involved? Yes

Violence used: insulting, theft of personal belongings

Police involved: Croatian police officers, one male and one female officers acting aggressively towards the father at the police station

Taken to a police station?: yes

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

Was the intention to ask for asylum expressed?: Yes

Reported by: No Name Kitchen

ORIGINAL REPORT

On september 1st. 2018, a family of 4 was apprehended by police officers in Zagreb, Croatia. The family of four, including two small children, had hired a smuggler, whom they paid 3500 euros in total for the transport from Bosnia to Italy. The family first walked from Bihac, crossed the border to Croatia, from where they were picked up by a car and taken to a forest area near Zagreb, where they were supposed to wait for other car to transport them on. The family waited in the forest for two days. They did not have enough food, water and warm clothes, and it started raining heavily.

The father of the family, Josef, then got in touch with the smuggler, and he was told to go to the city center of Zagreb to apply for asylum. The smuggler said that they could safely apply for asylum in Zagreb because of their family status which would ensure them access to asylum procedure. The smuggler also told them that his other clients, 12 single men, also managed to apply for asylum in Croatia with a positive decision, so the family did not have to worry.

The family went to the asylum center, which the father called Pinica, and asked the staff for help to access the asylum procedures, and to accommodate them. But the staff called the police, who took the whole family to a police station. They arrived there around 9pm. (on the 1st of September). The family stayed in the police station until 2am. (on the 2nd). Police officers took photos of them and took their fingerprints. According to Josef, two police officers were acting aggressively towards him and intimidating him in front of his wife and children. One police officer also tricked the family by telling them that they could access the asylum procedure, but instead they were deported back to Bosnia.

I was sitting on the chair, and the police kept kicking into it and shouting at me: "What is your name? Where did you come from?" They kept laughing at me, saying: "Oh yeah, everybody is coming from Bosnia now. Fuck you!" They were using very bad words. I said to them that I wanted to apply for asylum in Croatia. But they said: "No asylum for

you.” But other police officers said “Okay, asylum for you, just wait.” But they deported us back.” (Josef)

The whole family was transported by van to the Bosnian border, close to the official border checkpoint in Velika Kladusa, at around 2am. The police told them to get out of the car and then took their 100 Bosnian Marks (the last money they had) and their mobile phones. Afterwards, the officers shouted at the whole family to go back to Bosnia.

Josef explained that his two small children were really tired, but they were called names and scared by the police throughout the deportation. The family lost all their money and now do not have any other way to proceed to Italy, where they want to apply for asylum. They also lost their place in formal asylum accommodation center “Hotel Sedra”, because they were away from there for more than three days, and now they have to live temporarily in makeshift camp in Velika Kladusa.