

15/10/2018

"THEY WERE SYSTEMATICALLY HIT WITH PLASTIC BATONS ALTHOUGH THEY HAD SURRENDERED AND WERE NOT ARGUING. SOME OF THE REFUGEES WERE APOLOGIZING TO THE POLICE BUT THE BEATING CONTINUED."

Date and time: October 15, 2018 19:00

Location: Rudopolje, Croatia

Coordinates: 44.8605714081067 , 15.486766116683611

Push-back from: Croatia

Push-back to: Bosnia

Demographics: 16 person(s), age: 22 - 45, two children under the age of 10 , from: unknown

Minors involved? Yes

Violence used: beating (with batons/hands/other), pushing people to the ground, gunshots, theft of personal belongings

Police involved: 20 border officers, 5 police vans, 2 police dogs

Taken to a police station?: no

Was the intention to ask for asylum expressed?: No

Reported by: BASIS

ORIGINAL REPORT

The authorities stopped the group of 16, including two minors, by firing gunshots in the air. The officers then caught them and the one family with younger children who was present, was forced to enter a police van. All the others were ordered to sit down and to put their hands in the air. Then, they were systematically hit with plastic batons although they had surrendered and were not arguing with the authorities. Some of them even apologized to the officers, but the beating continued. They were further forced to hand over all their bags and the officers took their power banks and batteries out and ordered them to also hand over their phones and money, around €100 -200 each. When someone hesitated, the officers threatened them to beat them even more. Accordingly, they if someone didn't hand over his phone, they immediately searched him again and beat him once they found his phone.

They were then pushed into the vans and taken to different places at the Bosnian border.

The van transporting the respondent stopped at an open area and the people on the move were told to exit the van one by one. Six officers were waiting outside the van. As the respondent bent over to pick up his bag, he was hit on head and back with a plastic baton. The same happened to everyone leaving the van.

Afterwards they proceeded to push each individual down a steep hillside towards a river.