Notes

Methodology

The methodological process for these reports leverages the close social contact that we have as independent volunteers with refugees and migrants to monitor pushbacks from Croatia. When individuals return with significant injuries or stories of abuse, one of our violence reporting volunteers will sit down with the individuals to collect their testimonies. Although the testimony collection itself is typically with a group no larger than five persons, the pushback groups which they represent can be as large as 65 persons. We have a standardized framework for our interview structure which blends the collection of hard data (dates, geo-locations, officer descriptions, photos of injuries/medical reports, etc.) with open narratives of the abuse.

All names have been changed with respect to the anonymity of those who have been interviewed.

Terminology

The term pushback is a key component of the situation that unfolded along the EU borders (Hungary and Croatia) with Serbia in 2016, after the closure of the Balkan route. It now continues along the Croatian border with Bosnia and Herzegovina. Push-back describes the informal expulsion (without due process) of those intending to seek asylum in EU territory, in contrast to a deportation. Push-backs have become an important, if unofficial, part of the migration regimes of EU countries.

Abbreviations

BiH - Bosnia and Herzegovina
Hr - Croatia
RS - Serbia
SI - Slovenia
EU - European Union
An update on the situation in Velika Kladuša

Relocation from Miral Camp

In the morning of the 24th of February 2019, BiH police entered the camp of Miral and took about 50 guys out of their sleep and put them into a bus, which drove them down to Ušivac (Hadžići Canton - BiH) camp near Sarajevo. The movement of supposed “troublemakers” was part of a relocation scheme touted by the BiH government several days previously in local media reports. According to Nermin Klijajić, the Minister of Internal Affairs of the Una-Sana Canton, the individuals taken on buses back to Ušivac were “problematic migrants who have incidents of incidents, fights and other crimes during the past months.”

One of the men who was taken to Ušivac returned around three days later to Velika Kladuša and explained that on the 24th, police dressed in military fatigues had entered the camp and woke up certain individuals, made them pack up their belongings quickly, and ordered them into the bus. They did not tell the man why or what was actually happening. He said that he had heard that they wanted to take out the “troublemakers” from the camp. The men later arrived in Ušivac where they were registered and received food. The man who returned to Velika Kladuša reported that the conditions in Ušivac were okay, however he did not want to be in Sarajevo so he made his way back to Velika Kladuša.

In the broader picture, this movement of humans likely relates to the broader political debate between cantonal and national political figures in Bosnia and Herzegovina about the responsibility for refugees and migrants in the Una-Sana Canton. This is a political question which gained particular traction in the beginning of the month which culminated in cantonal figures threatening to send thousands of camp residents back to Sarajevo. These moves demonstrate the ongoing frustration and confusion that exists between authorities and citizens in BiH about the management of the IOM-run transit camps which have sprung up around the Una-Sana Canton.

Weather

The weather began to warm, starting around mid February, spurring many people to attempt to move again. In the last week of February, the general talk of many individuals in Sarajevo shifted towards travelling closer to the border. As a result, there were a noticeable number of newcomers arriving to Velika Kladuša, and ostensibly the Una-Sana Canton as whole, in order to prepare for transit attempts. Many of the men in Velika Kladuša have spent hard winter months in BiH and now find themselves fixated with the prospect of warming weather and better opportunities for transit. In this way, as the spring has begun to stir, so too has the desire of many of the residents of Miral Camp to continue onwards with their journey.

Related media

This past month saw the release of the report entitled People on the Move in Bosnia and Herzegovina in 2018: Stuck in the Corridors to the EU by Gorana Mlinarevic and Dr. Nidzara Ahmetasevic. This document serves as an excellent overview of the situation affecting refugees, migrants, and asylum seekers in BiH. In addition, this past month VICE News released an article
regarding the situation of people-on-the-move in BiH which referenced our previous border violence reports.

*Status of solidarity work*

The difficulties facing independent solidarity organizations working to assist refugees and migrants in the Una-Sana Canton was compounded this past month by continued difficulties with the cantonal authorities which served paperwork to a number of volunteers this month, obliging them to leave the country. The involvement of independent groups in the distribution of NFIs has become a particularly contentious issue in the canton. Similar work by organizations based in Sarajevo continues largely unhindered however there are concerns that a similar metric of control could be applied to this work in the future. Of note is that the operations of No Name Kitchen have been largely limited as a result of pressure exerted on the group from local authorities. Still, the organization has plans to remain active in the area in a more limited sense. It remains to see how this develops.

The long-running restaurant in Velika Kladuša opened for people-on-the-move by local war veterans has gone on a hiatus for reasons apparently related to funding concerns. As the situation affecting people-on-the-move in BiH shifts out the focus for many EU-based donor networks, this development may be indicative of broader challenges ahead for similar solidarity projects within the field.

*Notes about this project*

This month, the collective of volunteers affiliated under the banner of [Re:]ports Sarajevo became involved in the collection of border violence testimonies in both Sarajevo and the Una-Sana Canton. Their reports are featured in this document and utilize the same ethics and methodology utilized in previous monthly reports.
Trends in border violence

This month we have conducted 16 violence reports with individuals pushed-back from Croatia and Slovenia. In total, 13 of these reports were direct push-backs from Croatia while 3 involved groups which were initially apprehended in Slovenia. These groups of individuals consisted of predominantly men from a wide variety of countries including Algeria, Morocco, Palestine, Bangladesh, Tunisia, and Afghanistan.

As the weather became warmer this past month the utilization of “weather conditions” has diminished somewhat. Nonetheless, reports continue to come in where these tactics have been utilized, albeit to a lesser extent. Groups this month continued to report being forced to run into rivers and waterways which run along the Bosnian-Croatian border outside of Velika Kladuša (see reports 1.1, 1.3, 1.4, & 2.2). Similarly reports detailing the theft of shoes (see report 1.11) and the cutting of sleeping bags (see report 1.2) has persisted as well, albeit in lower numbers. The tactic of destroying or confiscating the necessary equipment for transit attempts has long been established through the destruction of mobile and the theft of currency from people-on-the-move. Since the numbers of individuals attempting to transit through Croatia and Slovenia is likely to increase with the looming onset of springtime, it will be important to continue to monitor how authorities respond to this movement.

*Shifting methods of control, shifting methods of transit*

It is of interest to touch on the ways in which the method and means of transit attempts by people-on-the-move develop in relation to the violent securitization of the borders. To this end, the winter months saw the methods of transit attempts, which were carried out overwhelmingly on foot in the summer and autumn, diffuse into a wider spectrum of tactics which increasingly utilizes trains, public transport, and shipping containers (see reports 1.1, 1.6, & 1.8). Similarly, in the months preceding February, there was a noticeable upswing in the percentage of individuals seeking to move with the assistance of paid smugglers. These shifting methods would appear to be, in many ways, a response to the increasing difficulty with which it is to cross through Croatia and Slovenia on foot (as a result of the weather and the increasing effectiveness with which authorities control these routes).

Much in the same way that BiH opened up as a new route of transit after the established crossings in Serbia to Croatia and Hungary were controlled, people-on-the-move caught in the Una-Sana Canton hotspots of Bihać and Velika Kladuša have increasingly looked towards other methods of transit aside from leaving on foot. While these shifting transit methods may have arisen as a response to the increasing securitization of movement, they are by no means new. Rather, they follow a similar trend to the Serbian hotspots of Šid and Subotica where transit attempts have become increasingly facilitated by smuggling networks in response to heightened levels of border control.

An interesting dynamic associated with these shifting methods of transit is that they occur more often within the sphere of public observance. Failed attempts to transit via train lines or
public buses thrust acts of capture into more visible spaces (see reports 1.6., 1.8, & 2.2). To this end, conducting an arrest in the Zagreb train station carries different implications for authorities in comparison to conducting a similar action in a remote stretch of woodlands. In this context, there are more witnesses to these acts of control and, in the event of a collective expulsion or an illegal use of force, there may be more evidence left behind as well. Nonetheless, it would appear that Croatian authorities ultimately respond to these shifting methods of transit with the same systematized violence applied to transit attempts which occur foot (violent push-backs, theft, and verbal abuse).

**Report statistics**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th># of reports</th>
<th># of persons concerned</th>
<th>Average group size</th>
<th># pushed back from Croatia</th>
<th># pushed back from Slovenia</th>
<th># pushed back from Italy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>June</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>5.8</td>
<td>38 (83%)</td>
<td>8 (17%)</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>155</td>
<td>9.7</td>
<td>119 (77%)</td>
<td>36 (23%)</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>260</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>172 (66%)</td>
<td>88 (34%)</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>212</td>
<td>8.5</td>
<td>182 (86%)</td>
<td>30 (14%)</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>301</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>211 (70%)</td>
<td>75 (25%)</td>
<td>15 (5%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>11.4</td>
<td>237 (95%)</td>
<td>13 (5%)</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>188</td>
<td>8.2</td>
<td>175 (93%)</td>
<td>13 (7%)</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>6.5</td>
<td>63 (69%)</td>
<td>28 (31%)</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>7.5</td>
<td>98 (82%)</td>
<td>22 (18%)</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>178</td>
<td>1,623</td>
<td>8.7</td>
<td>1,295 (80%)</td>
<td>313 (20%)</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Statistics on the last nine months of reports from Velika Kladuša**

The 162 reports written and published from June 2018 to February 2019 concerned 1,623 persons pushed back from Croatia, Slovenia or Italy. A majority of the reported pushbacks had initially been apprehended in Croatia with a quantity of approximately 1,295 persons compared to approximately 313 from Slovenia. Reported push-backs from Italy to Velika Kladuša were exceedingly rare.¹

Of particular interest is how the average group size of push-back incidents appears to have lowered in relation to the winter months. Whereas in October 2018, the average group size was quite large, at 12 individuals, the average size of push-back groups in the last several has dropped down to around 7.5 individuals. This is perhaps a result of the increasing tendency of groups to attempt to move through Croatia and Slovenia in smaller numbers in an attempt to

¹ The only report involving a push-back from Italy occured along the Italian border where an Italian police team called the Slovenian police to take them in charge [ October - report n°25].
attract less attention. It is also possible that these numbers reflect the increasing tendency for groups to attempt to transit utilizing alternative methods of travel such as public transportation, trains, and shipping container with which it is necessary to move in smaller numbers. Whatever the causality, field observations also corroborate that the tendency of groups to leave in large groups of 30 persons or more has decreased.
REPORTS OF GROUPS APPREHENDED IN CROATIA

13 reports
[Report 1.1]

3 interviewees - Algeria - Group of 7
Interview conducted in Sarajevo

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of incident</th>
<th>PUSH-BACK - PHYSICAL VIOLENCE - THEFT - PUSHED INTO WATER - VERBAL ABUSE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Location</td>
<td>The group was initially apprehended near Plitvička Jezera (Hr) before being pushed back along a section of the Bosnian-Croatian border in Sadilovac (Hr)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Victimes</td>
<td>Number of victims: Country of origin: Algeria Age: 25 - 28 years old Minors involved: None Sex: Males</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date and time</td>
<td>The group was apprehended by police in the afternoon of 26/1/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Details</td>
<td>Expressed intention to seek asylum: Yes Denied asylum request: Yes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**DESCRIPTION OF INCIDENT**

The group of three men walked somewhere between 35 and 40 km from Bihac (BiH) to Plitvička Jezera (HR) where they waited at a bus station. There, a group of policemen arrived and stopped them, asking them to show their passports. In response, the group expressed that they did not have passports but wanted to seek asylum in Croatia. In response, a policeman told the group:

“No azyl here and don’t go back to Bosnia, go back to your country."

The group was told then to enter in one of the police cars. They sat on the back seats, while two policemen sat in front. There were four other policemen who followed them in another car. Together, they drove towards a forest near the border of Bosnia and Herzegovina. During the journey, the respondent described one of the policeman voicing disaffirmation towards Muslims, saying about a famous Algerian football player:

“I don’t like him, because he is Muslim and I’m Orthodox”

The group soon arrived in the car to a forest near the Korana river along the Bosnian-Croatian border where they were made to hand their phones to the police. They never received these possessions back.
At this point, the police put on black ski-masks and took the men out of the car one-by-one. Upon exiting the car, the men were individually beaten by members of the group of six officers who wielded batons. The officers all wore uniforms emblazoned with the Croatian flag on the sleeve. Subsequently, they were corralled into the nearby body of flowing water, which was quite given that the outdoor temperature neared 0° at this time.

“They pushed us in the river. The police knew that we won’t die in the river, it was not deep enough, but they know that we can’t come back because it was so cold and we had no dry clothes.”

The water reached their hips.
Approximate location of the group’s pushback near Sadilovac (Hr) [zoom out & in]
[Report 1.2]
3 interviewees - Morocco, Palestine, and Algeria - Group of 8
Recorded interview on 12.02.2019 in Velika Kladuša

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of incident</th>
<th>PUSH-BACK – PHYSICAL VIOLENCE - SPRAYING OF CHEMICAL SUBSTANCE - THEFT - DESTRUCTION OF PERSONAL ITEMS - VERBAL ABUSE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Location</td>
<td>The group was apprehended around 8 km out of Slunj (Hr) before being driven around an hour and a half to a police station. After this, they were driven around 40 minutes back to the Bosnian-Croatian border and pushed-back.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Victimes</td>
<td>Number of victims: 8Country of origin: 7 from Morocco, 1 from Palestine, 1 from AlgeriaNo minors involvedSex: Males</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date and time</td>
<td>The group left on 7/2/19 from Velika Kladuša and walked until 10/2/19 on which day they were apprehended and pushed-back to BiH.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Details</td>
<td>Paper signed: NoFingerprint taken: NoPictures taken: No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**DESCRIPTION OF INCIDENT**

The group of eight left on February 9th from Velika Kladuša. They brought dates, bread, milk, tuna, water, and chocolates for themselves to eat as they walked through the forest. On the third day of walking, the group was walking in a forest at which point four of the group members decided to go another way. This splinter-group was soon caught by four Croatian police officers who then forced the men to lead them to the rest of the group. One of the respondents described how they were then led to a van nearby and driven off.

“They put us in camion, and inside camion he drive like a crazy man [motions being thrown back and forth]…just because we are inside, you know, and one time he stop and one police officer open the back of the camion, open, and he see no one can see, this spray for eyes, it make problem in your eyes. He do that and he close [the door] and he go.”

They were then brought to a police station, which took approximately an hour and a half to reach by car. There, they continued to be held inside of the van for around three hours. One of the respondents voiced frustration at the fact that they were not offered food or water during their time at the station. Additionally, he remarked that the van was kept intentionally cold during their time inside of it. They did
not ask for asylum during this process and they were not compelled to divulge any personal informations about themselves (name, age, fingerprints, pictures, etc.)

Eventually, they were driven in the van once more, this time to the Bosnian-Croatian border, which they arrived to at sometime between 2:00 am and 3:00 am on 11/2/19. It took them around forty-five minutes to reach this place from the police station. At this location, the respondents described seeing ten police officers, of which seven were described as having batons and one was described as having a knife. All of the officers except for one, who wore a blue uniform, were described as donning black fatigues. There were two police cars at this location already present when they arrived. The van parked in between the two, leaving one car on each side.

The respondents described being treated with humor by the officers at the push-back site:  

“Here, they open door and they start funny us. Smile and ‘hahahaha’, the police with cargo [masks], you just see eyes.”

The respondents then described being taken out of the van one-by-one and enduring varying levels of physical and psychological violence from these officers. One group-member was described as being tricked by the knife-wielding officer into thinking that he would be stabbed by feigning stikes with the knife:

“He want to hit Najib [with the knife].”
“He want just to make him scared.”

Another group-member was described as having his pants cut by this knife. This officer with the knife was additionally described as cutting each of the group-members sleeping bags, rendering them unusable, at the push-back location.

While not every group-member described experiencing this knife-play, each member was described as being beaten with batons by the officers.

“When we go out, they slap you”
“They beat three or four times and then you run off”

They described being hit primarily in the arms and the back by the batons. The respondents all described being told various swear-words in Croatian such as “u pićku materinu” by the officers as well as repeatedly to leave - “hajde, hajde”.

When they were initially captured, the group was compelled to put their electronic possessions (five phones and three power banks) into a plastic bag which they believed that they would receive back. They never received these back:

“And when you are in border, you ask where is my phone, and they say it is with you friend, go, and then when you ask the friend they say it is not there.”
In addition, the respondents described having 280€ taken from them during this process as well as their tent which the officers would not let them take with them.

It took the group seven hours to return to Velika Kladuša on foot. When they returned to Miral camp, they were told by the private security there that since they did not have ID they were not allowed in. One of the respondents expressed frustration at the manner in which his group was pushed-back into what was essentially the middle-of-nowhere without any idea of where they were:

“You can’t ask, you don’t have GPS, I don’t know where I am…At 3:00 am there is no one outside. You can’t ask anyone where you are.”
Approximate location outside of Slunj (Hr) where the group was apprehended by Croatian police.
[Report 1.3]

1 interviewee - Algeria - Group of 3
Unrecorded interview on 15.02.2019 in Velika Kladuša

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of incident</th>
<th>PUSH-BACK – ROBBED – PHYSICAL VIOLENCE – FORCED INTO WATER</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Location</td>
<td>The group was apprehended in Croatia in the area of Drežnica (Hr), they got driven to the area of Šturlić (BiH) and pushed-back there.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Victimes                         | Number of victims: 3
Interview conducted in English with Arabic translator
Country of origin: Algeria
Age: 22-30 years old
Minors: no
Sex: 3 men (but they started with a group of 5 men)
Number of “games”: 11 |
| Date and time                    | The group left from Velika Kladuša 07/02/19 two of the group got caught on the 11/02/19 at night from the police of Croatia. The other three could ran away from the police and stayed two nights out in the woods until they got apprehended at night on the 13/02/19 around 3:00 am. |
| Details                          | Paper signed: No
Fingerprint taken: No
Pictures taken: No
Asylum: No one asked them if they want asylum in Croatia. |

DESCRIPTION OF INCIDENT

On February 13th, at around 3:00 am, the group of three people was caught by a group of Croatian police officers in the area of Drežnica (Hr). There were two police cars. In one car, there were two male officers and in the second one there was a male and female officers respectively, both in black uniforms. The police made them lie on the ground with their facing eyes towards the ground. One of the officers put his feet on the neck of one group-member to keep him down. The police called another car, which the group had to enter. This car drove them directly to the border of BiH near Šturlić (BiH), a journey which took around one hour. In the car it was dark, sometimes light and it was “like in a freezer”. During the drive the police were shouting towards them to not come back.

When the van door was opened, there were four police officers waiting, dressed in completely black uniforms. They could not see their faces because these were covered by black ski-masks. The border ran along a river. All three of the group-members exited the van at the same time and then were made to run towards the river. One officer followed them with a stick and attempted to beat them. The other
officers shot their handguns into the air. They shouted at them to go back to Bosnia and forced them into the river. The water of the river was waist high.

During the course of their interactions with these police officers, the group had two of their phones confiscated - one of which was broken and returned, while the other was stolen.

Reflecting on this experience, one of the respondents compared the idea of Europe to a mother, framing himself and his friends as her reluctant child:

“We are like an adoptive child trying to please his mother.”
LOCATIONS

Approximate area of Drežnica (Hr) where the group was apprehended by Croatian police

Approximate stretch of the border near Šturljš (BiH) where the group was pushed-back by Croatian police
[Report 1.4]
1 interviewee - Morocco and Algeria - Group of 6
Unrecorded interview on 15.02.2019 in Velika Kladuša

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of incident</th>
<th>PUSH-BACK (Hr) – ROBBED – PHYSICAL VIOLENCE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Location</td>
<td>The group was apprehended in Croatia close to the Slovenia border (10 km) between Jarče Polje (Hr) and Vodena Draga (Hr), they got driven to the area of Zagrad / Velika Kladuša (BiH) and pushed-back there.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Victimes         | Number of victims: 6  
Country of origin: 4 from Morocco and 2 from Algeria  
Age: 22-31 years old  
Minors: None  
Sex: Male |
| Date and time    | The group was apprehended on 07/02/19 at sometime between 3:00 am and 4:00 am (between Jarče Polje (Hr) and Vodena Draga (Hr)). |
| Details          | Paper signed: No  
Fingerprint taken: No  
Pictures taken: Yes  
Asylum: No one asked them if they want asylum in Croatia. |

**DESCRIPTION OF INCIDENT**

On February 7th, the group of six was apprehended between 3:00 am and 4:00 am by four Croatian police officers close to the Slovenia border (10 km) between Jarče Polje (Hr) and Vodena Draga (Hr).

The officers were described as being violent towards the group - they shouted at them, hit them, and used pepper spray on them. The group was made to wait in the woods while the police called another car. While they were waiting for the other car to come, the officers took pictures of them. They had to hold a paper in front of them where their name and surname was on it. One phone was taken away at this point, and another was broke. The officers additionally took an unidentified amount of money away from the group at this point.

When a van arrived to the location, the group entered. This vehicle drove the group for an hour back to the Bosnian-Croatian border.

At the border there was a street which ran alongside an empty river valley. All six group members had to leave the van at the same time and run towards the border. The police officers shouted at them, and hit
them with a baton. One officer used his boot to kick them. One of the group-members was described as having his teeth hurt because of kicked. Since they ran in the darkness and could not see, the group ran directly into the ravine which preceded the river and fell into it.

**LOCATIONS**

Approximate location near Vodena Draga (Hr) where the group was apprehended by Croatian police

Approximate location outside of Maljevac (Hr) where the group was pushed-back by Croatian police
[Report 1.5]
3 interviewees - Morocco and Western Sahara - Group of 3
Recorded interview on 16.02.2019 in Velika Kladuša

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of incident</th>
<th>PUSH-BACK (Hr) – PHYSICAL VIOLENCE – DENIED OF ASYLUM</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Location</td>
<td>The group was apprehended in Croatia in the area of Budinjak (Hr), they got driven first to the police station in Jastrebarsko (Hr) and pushed-back at the Bosnian-Croatian border close to Poljana (BiH)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Victimes         | Number of victims: 3
Interview conducted in English
Country of origin: 2 from Morocco and 1 from Western Sahara
Age: 22 – 27 years old
Minors: None
Sex: Male |
| Date and time    | The group left from Velika Kladuša 06/02/19 they walked about 22 km and crossed the border to Croatia at Bosanska Bojna (BiH). At 2:00 am on 14/02/19, about 10 km to the Slovenia border, the Croatian police apprehended the group and pushed them back on the 15/02/19 at the Bosnia border close to Poljana (BiH). |
| Details          | Paper signed: Yes
Fingerprint taken: No
Pictures taken: Yes
Asylum: Croatian policed denied asylum |

DESCRIPTION OF INCIDENT

The group of the three left Velika Kladuša on February 6th and crossed into Croatia from Bosanska Bojna (BiH). From there they walked for 8 days through Croatia toward Slovenia. On February 14th, at around 1:00 a.m, the group was apprehended by several Croatian police officers. The group attempted to run away but the police shot handguns towards them, leading the group to stop out of fear of being shot. The respondents described there being three police officers - two in a police car and one outside of it. The three police officers came up to them and told them to wait. They did not searched them at this point or make them lay down. Instead, the officers called another car.

As soon as this other car arrived, the three group-members were taken to the police station in Jastrebarsko (Hr). There, they were searched. Their phones were taken away at this point, however they were later returned when they were transported back to the Bosnian-Croatian border. At the station,
police officers asked the group if they had any money on them, which the group responded that they did not.

“If the police had found my money, they would have taken it – I know. I hide it.”

The three men expressed their intention to claim asylum but the police officers denied this request. They were made to sign a paper which asked in Arabic, English, and Croatian for their name, surname, name of parents, origin country, where they are and where they want to go. They did not receive a copy of these papers. After this, the men had their pictures taken while they held their personal information (name, origin country) in front of them. The group waited about seven hours in their cell, where they received a small amount of bread for eating. They drunk out of the toilet in the cell for water.

After those seven hours, they were made to enter a large van. The respondents described there already being a group of about 20 Syrian men in the vehicle when they entered. They were then driven to the Bosnian-Croatian border close to Poljana (BiH). The whole group was told to leave the van at the same time.

Around twenty police officers stood on one side of the vehicle. One very large police officer, with a special “branding” (like similar to BWF) walked the whole group of around 23 men with a flashlight to the border and told them to go. No one could recognise any of the police officers because they were all dressed in black and with cargo on. They only saw their eyes blinking through.

After crossing the border, the group of the three walked around 13 km back to Velika Kladuša.
Approximate location outside of Bidinjak (Hr) where the group was apprehended by Croatian police

Approximate area near Poljana (BiH) where the group was pushed-back by Croatian police officers
**Report 1.6**

1 interviewee - Tunisia & Algeria - Group of 3

Interview conducted on 05/03/19 in Sarajevo

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of incident</th>
<th>PUSH-BACK – PHYSICAL VIOLENCE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Location</td>
<td>The group was initially apprehended in the Zagreb (Hr) train station. Later they were taken to a police station, with one group member briefly visiting a hospital during this time. The group was pushed-back along a section of the Bosnian-Croatian border approximately 35 km away from Velika Kladuša (BiH).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Victims</td>
<td>Number of victims: 3 Country of origin: Tunisia and Algeria Age: 28 - 30 years old Minors involved: No Sex: Males</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date and time</td>
<td>The group left from Velika Kladuša (BiH) on 18/02/19 and walked for 2 days. The group was apprehended by Croatian police on 20/02/19 at approximately 7:00 am. They were later pushed-back to BiH at around 11:30 pm, later on that day.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Details</td>
<td>Expressed intention to seek asylum: Yes Paper signed: No Fingerprint taken: No Pictures taken: No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**DESCRIPTION OF INCIDENT**

On the 18th of February, a group of three men crossed the border from Velika Kladuša (BiH) into Croatia. The group walked two days before reaching Zagreb (Hr) on the morning of February 20th. At around 7:00 am, a group of police officers apprehended the three men in the Zagreb train station before driving them to a police station approximately twenty minutes away. After arriving to the station, the group was frisked in an office at which point personal objects and money were taken away from each individual. The group expressed their intention to claim asylum at this location and they were told they could do so later.

The group was exhausted from their previous two days of walking, a journey done without food or water. Accordingly, a group-member asked for water. He was sent to drink water in the restroom. After drinking a lot of water during short time, he fainted for several minutes as a result of low blood pressure, a condition which he described having since childhood. When he woke up, an ambulance had arrived. Personnel checked the individual, gave him an injection, and decided to bring him to the hospital. He arrived at the hospital at approximately 8:00 am and received two infusions, was x-rayed,
and then received a third infusion. He was given some bread and cheese to eat during this time as well. There was a police officer present with him at throughout his stay at the hospital. When he wanted to go to the toilet at 9:30 am, he fainted again after walking a few meters. Although still lacking full health, he left the hospital with the officer at 12:00 pm.

In the police car, which took him back to the police station, he received a paper written in Croatian, a language he could not understand. He did received a translation for this paper. One of the three police officers told him, he had to pay a fine of 1,575 Croatian Kuna (212,50€) for his recent hospital stay or else go to the prison.

After somewhere between fifteen to twenty minutes driving, they arrived back at the police station. At 1:00 pm, the man was brought to a cell where the other two group-members were also being held. Hungry, they asked for food many times before receiving a small amount.

At around 3:30 pm, the group asked an officer if he could buy food and drinks for the group with their own money which had been taken away from them in the morning. Ultimately, they did not receive food until 8:00 pm. At this point, the officers working the shift had rotated and a new officer began to work. The group-members inquired him about how to ask for asylum in Croatia and he responded that he would bring them to a refugee camp near Zagreb, where they could begin the process.

At around 8:30 pm, they were brought to a police van with the belief they would go to the camp that the night-shift officer had described. Instead, they were driven somewhere between two and three hours to a secluded location along the Bosnian-Croatian border, approximately 35 km away from Velika Kladuša. The van they were driven in contained the three group-members and two police officers. In addition, they were accompanied by a car which held two additional officers.

When the police exited the vehicles at the push-back location, they put on black ski-masks. One-by-one, the captives were forced to get out of the car. The interviewed person described a police officer saying “Fuck you” before they beat him with batons on the legs, arms, back and head. He received two visible wounds on his head and bruises throughout his body from these actions (see photos - taken two days after the incident). After crossing over to Bosnia and Herzegovina, the group had to walk around 35 km before reaching Velika Kladuša at approximately 6:00 am. The group-members never received back the money which had been taken away from the at the police station previously.
IMAGES OF INJURIES AND DAMAGES
[Report 1.7]
1 interviewee - Afghanistan - Group of 7
Unrecorded interview on 26.02.2019 in Velika Kladuša

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of incident</th>
<th>PUSH-BACK – ROBBED – PHYSICAL VIOLENCE - GUNSHOT IN THE AIR - DESTRUCTION OF PERSONAL ITEMS - THEFT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Location</td>
<td>The group was apprehended 5km from the Slovenia border, in a forest at Rosopajnik (Hr). They were later pushed back to BiH in the general area of Gejkovac (Hr).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Victims | Number of victims: 7
Interview conducted in English
Country of origin: Afghanistan
Age: 19-27 years old
Minors: None
Sex: All males |
| Date and time | The group left from Velika Kladuša 22/02/19. They slept at 2:00 am on 25/02/19 in a forest, and were woken up by Croatian police at 7:00 am. They were held roughly an hour waiting for a car coming and loaded in. They were driven around an hour and dropped at Gejkovac (Hr) at 9:00 am. They reached Velika Kladuša later on that day. |
| Details | Paper signed: No
Fingerprint taken: No
Pictures taken: No
Asylum: They did not ask for asylum. |

DESCRIPTION OF INCIDENT

The group left from an area near Velika Kladuša where they crossed the border into Croatia where they walked for three days until they were five kilometer away from the Slovenian border, in the town of Rosopajnik (Hr), on February 25th. At approximately 2:00 am, the group set their things down in a forest and decided to sleep for a while. At 7:00 am they were woken up by five Croatian police officers who shot their gun into the air. They sat up as the officers moved in and started kicking them with their boots. These blows left visible marks on the respondent’s hands and face. The police shouted at the group in a language they did not understand, presumably Croatian.

When asked if they had requested asylum, the interviewee says no:
“No, no way, we ask for asylum they will beat us too much like dogs”.

When asked if they attempted to speak to the police in English, the respondent explained that he pretended not to know English because the police would assume that he was a smuggler and subject him to physical violence accordingly:

“[They] will beat you too much”

He showed a photo of a broken finger from the last time he attempted to translate with police.

The group was held in this location for approximately one hour until a large vehicle arrived, which they were loaded into shortly thereafter. They were driven for approximately one hour and released from the van, which was parked a few metres away from the Bosnian-Croatian border. Five police officers stood on either side of the doors of the van. One of the officers, who the respondent identified as the van driver, was described as quite ‘big’. All of the officers wore dark navy blue uniforms but had their faces and heads uncovered.

As the seven men got out of the vehicle, they were beaten from different sides with batons. The respondent described jumping out in the middle of his group, enabling him to avoid being hit at this time. Nonetheless, he described the rest of the group as receiving blows from batons. The respondent ran fast out from the van and over the border to escape the police.

Each group-member had their money and phones initially taken from them. The respondent personally lost 80€. The men received their phones back in a bag, and were excited to see they had not been smashed however soon discovered that the SIM and charging ports were damaged and useless. The interviewee described having ten phones smashed in eight months ‘going on game’. The police also stole the men’s cigarettes.
Rosopajnik (Hr) - Approximate location of where the group was caught by Croatian police (Zoom in & out)
The approximate area in Gejkovac (Hr) where the group was pushed-back by Croatian police [Zoom in & out]
[Report 1.8]
2 interviewees - Algerian - Group of 3 persons
Recorded interview on 28.02.2019 in Sarajevo

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of incident</th>
<th>PUSH-BACK - PHYSICAL VIOLENCE – USE OF WEAPONS - EXPOSURE TO COLD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Location</td>
<td>The members of the group got caught at Zagreb (Hr) train station were kept in an unknown police station most probably in Zagreb. They were brought back to a secluded section of the Bosnian-Croatian border, close to Velika Kladuša and pushed back.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Victims</td>
<td>Number of victims: 3 Interview conducted in French Country of origin: Tunisia and Algeria Age: 29 - 31 years old Minors involved: None Sex: Males</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date and time</td>
<td>The group left from Novi Grad (BiH) on 15/2/19. Two days later, on 17/2/19, they were apprehended and returned to the Bosnian-Croatian border in the same day.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Details</td>
<td>Expressed intention to seek asylum: No Paper signed: Yes Fingerprint taken: No Pictures taken: Yes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

DESCRIPTION OF INCIDENT

The group left Novi Grad (BiH) which is situated directly on the Croatian border on the 15th of February. For one and a half days they walked through forests and predominantly remote areas. They did not see one single person, only dogs. They did not take a break.

“That was the distance of risk. During this part you can not make a break.”

They walked about 35 kilometers until they arrived in a small village named Majur (Hr) around midnight. There they found an abandoned house to sleep in. At 04:30 am they took a bus from Majur to Sunja (Hr). From Sunja, they took the train to Zagreb (Hr). The train was crowded.

At 06:30 am they arrived in Zagreb. In front of each door of the train there was a police officer waiting. They stopped them and asked for papers. The three young men responded that they did not have
papers. to which the officers responded:

“Okay, then come with us.”

The officers took them in two different cars to a police station in Zagreb where they searched them and took their personal belongings (money, phones etc.). Afterwards, they were asked for their personal details (name, surname, date of birth etc.). They later had to sign forms which contained all of this personal information, after which they had their picture taken. They were not informed about what was going on. One of the respondent described that:

“They told us that they will bring you to the camp in Croatia and that they are just getting the paperwork ready, but this was a lie.”

From 7:00 am until 10:00 pm all three men were kept in a cell together. They were brought food at one point. After 10:00 pm, several officers arrived and accompanied them into a van. It was a van around the size of a Mercedes Sprinter. Inside was a cage. The two policemen who picked them up gave them no information, only saying: “Come, come!” The officers were described as wearing dark blue uniforms with a pistol, a baton, handcuffs and a pepper spray on their belt. The trip in the van took approximately one and a half hours during which time they were exposed to cold air.

“It was insanely cold in the van, during the whole trip the air condition was on, really strongly on. Outside was snow, inside air condition.”

For the last last five to ten minutes of the trip, a small 4x4 police car followed the van. They stopped on a remote forest road. The back door was opened and a police officer grabbed the bag with the collected phones and the money of the respondents. He closed the door again. The respondent inferred that they were then smashing the phones outside. After this, they put the bag with the phones back and opened the second door and said: “One person!” The Tunisian male went first. After him they closed the door again.

“Then we could hear him scream. Aiii, aiii, for one or two minutes they beat him very hard many, many times aiii, aiii, ahh”

“Go! Don’t come back!” one of the policemen shouted at the Tunisian, then they let him run away.

After one of the respondents was called to step out. Next to the backdoor of the car the two police officers from Zagreb were standing in their normal uniform. Lengthwise of the van there were six policemen with black uniforms and black ski-masks. Their face was covered. They were standing in a row. The respondent had to pass all of them. The first shouted at him “Go, go, go!” and the second beat him with his baton on the leg, several times, very strongly.

The respondents described the men as very tall (higher than 1.90 m) and strong. One of the respondents just ran as fast as he could for approximately 50 meters before he arrived to a normal border crossing on a small street. The street is blocked with a table high block made of white concrete. The street was quite wide but not tarred. He could not see much because it was dark, but was able to find the first member of the group there.

The third member of the group was given the bag with the smashed telephones and the money (200€ / 200 Kuna) inside. He was hit by a baton so hard that he lost the bag and when he went to pick it up, the officers hit him even more. He was hit several times on the right shoulder which several days later,
doctors discovered was broken. He also ran off and found his two friends hiding behind the border concrete block. Then they walked back to Velika Kladuša, which was five to six kilometers away.

**IMAGES OF THE INCIDENT**

![X-ray images showing a fracture](image)

*RTg snimci desnog ramena ukazuju na frakturu lateralnog aspekta glave humerusa sa manjom dislokacijom. Susp frakturna linija i medijalno ispod donjeg ruba labruma.*

*Ortopedu.*

X-ray and report which reads: Fracture Tuberculum Majus
Broken phones from the group as well as an image of the group-member with the broken arm being treated
Scratches left on a group-member several days after the push-back incident
[Report 1.9]

2 interviewees - Bangladesh - Group of 40
Recorded interview on 27.02.2019 in Velika Kladuša

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of incident</th>
<th>PUSH-BACK – ROBBED – PHYSICAL VIOLENCE – DAMAGED PROPERTY - DEPRIVED OF AIR</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Location</td>
<td>The group was pushed-back at a location along the Bosnian-Croatian border around 25 to 30 kilometers away from Velika Kladuša (BiH).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Victims                   | Number of victims: 40
Interview conducted in English
Country of origin: 30 from Afghanistan, 10 from Bangladesh, including interviewee
Age: 24
Minors: no
Sex: All males |
| Date and time             | The group left Velika Kladuša on 20/2/19 and walked until 26/2/19 Croatia, a distance of approximately 120 km, at which point they were caught by Croatian police at around 1:30 am. They were then brought to a police station where they were held for 14 hours. They were later pushed-back to BiH at around 8:00 pm later that day. |
| Details                   | Paper signed: Yes
Fingerprint taken: No
Pictures taken: Yes
Asylum: They asked for asylum and were rejected. |

DESCRIPTION OF INCIDENT

On February 20th the group of 40 people left from Velika Kladuša after which, over the course of six days, they walked distance of 120 kilometers through Croatia. On February 23rd, at approximately 1:30 am the group was apprehended by five Croatian police officers - four male and one female. They experienced not any violence at this point but were told to wait, and five or ten minutes later another four cars (without windows) arrived to the scene. The men were loaded into these vehicles and driven to an unlocated police station.

In the police station, the men were searched and had their food, jackets, bags, shoes and phones taken. At the police station, the respondent described encountering Croatian police officers dressed in blue uniforms. They were told they would receive them back when they were returned to Bosnia and Herzegovina, but they did not. The respondent described that the ‘bad’ phones of the group were not
taken but broken instead. The men also had their money taken. Additionally, they had photos of themselves taken with their home country and cities. They were all made to sign documents in English which they did not understand. They did not have their fingerprints taken.

The men were held for fourteen hours at the police station in a badly ventilated room. The respondent complained to an officer about the lack of air. The respondent described that:

“[If] this room have two people or three people, its ok... but more people, it’s not have oxygen...I tell police...it’s not have water...somebody dead”.

The room was very crowded and too small for their comfort. They were not brought food or water in this time, which the respondent also asked about:

“He said no water, why would I give you water. Go to Bosnia there you have water.”

After being processed in the police station, the group was driven three hours to the border and released at around 8:00 pm. At the border there were twenty police officers, half dressed in standard Croatian police uniforms, and the other half dressed in full black with ski-masks on. As the men were released, they were taken out of the vans one-by-one and stuck by police batons and boots:

“Foot, sticks, everything...they beat everyone.”

“I do not understand why he hit me...why crazy in Croatian police...Why too much crazy we don’t know...so not a humanity...why too much hate...why you hit me, why you need my everything.”

The respondent described the officers who struck the group were the ones who donned the black uniforms with ski-masks on:

“Only coming on Bosnian border, the black police...only black police beat.”

He compared this abuse several times to the officers playing football with the men as the ball. After enduring this abuse, the men then walked back to Velika Kladuša (BiH), which took them around 25-30 kilometres.

At the end of the interview, the respondent described several times his poor mental health and associated this to his continued problems in transit:

“I have a depression, I think one time I will [become] mad, because I have too much depression, I have a family depression, I have a for my life depression...what time I make a good life... no suffer this life...I don’t like this life in Bosnia.”
IMAGES OF INJURIES
[Report 1.10]
1 interviewee - Morocco & Algeria - Group of 2
Unrecorded interview on 28.02.2019 in Velika Kladuša

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of incident</th>
<th>PUSH-BACK – DESTRUCTION OF PERSONAL ITEMS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Location</td>
<td>The group was apprehended in Glina (Hr) and pushed back in the area of Glinica (BiH) / Poljana (BiH).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Victimes</td>
<td>Number of victims: 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Interview conducted in French</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Country of origin: Algerian &amp; Morocco</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Age: 46 &amp; 35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Minors: No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sex: Males</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date and time</td>
<td>The two left Velika Kladuša on 10/02/19 at 12:30 pm and got apprehended around 3:00 am on 11/02/19 in Glina (Hr). They were pushed-back right away around 4:30 am on 11/02/19 in the area between Glinica (BiH) and Poljana (BiH).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Details</td>
<td>Paper signed: No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Fingerprint taken: No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pictures taken: No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Asylum: No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

DESCRIPTION OF INCIDENT

The two men left from Vrnograč (BiH) in the evening of February 10th and made their way by foot to Glina (Hr) through forest and mountains. Along the way, the respondent described passing by several remote houses where dogs had barked at them. At some point after exiting the forest, the two men walked along a road where they crossed a red light which was situated on the street. Some minutes after they passed it, they saw a car approaching. They accordingly hid themselves back in the forest. It was a police car, however it did not stop and drove away.

At around 3:00 a.m., the two men entered the village of Glina (Hr) and some minutes later a civilian car turned up and two police officers in standard police uniforms exited the car. The two officers stopped and searched the two men and took the one phone they had away. They called for backup which came in the form of two additional officers who took over the two guys. This second pair of officers drove the two men around one hour back to the border of BiH around the area of Glinica (BiH) / Poljana (BiH). At around 4:30 a.m. on February 11th, six border police officers of Croatia in dark uniforms with ski masks
pushed-back the two guys. They gave them their phone back but it was completely damaged. The two guys walked about 20 km back to Velika Kladuša.

**IMAGES OF DAMAGES**

[Image of a broken Samsung phone]

*Broken phone from Croatian police:*
Approximate location were the group declare being pushed-back (Zoom out & in)
[Report 1.11]
1 interviewee - Morocco - Group of 13
Unrecorded interview conducted in Sarajevo

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of incident</th>
<th>PUSH-BACK - PHYSICAL VIOLENCE – ROBBED - USE OF WEAPONS - FORCED TO UNDRESS - FORCED TO WALKED BAREFOOT IN THE SNOW</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Location</td>
<td>The group was apprehended in a rural area in the Croatian interior after walking around six days from Bihać. They were brought to a nearby police station and after one day to a secluded stretch of the Bosnian-Croatian border outside of Velika Kladuša (BiH) and pushed back.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Victimes</td>
<td>Number of victims: 13 Interview conducted in English Country of origin: Morocco, Algeria Age of the person interviewed: 27 Minors involved: None Sex: Males</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date and time</td>
<td>The group was apprehended and returned to the Bosnian-Croatian border on 27/2/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Details</td>
<td>Expressed intention to claim asylum: Paper signed: Yes Fingerprint taken: Yes Pictures taken: Yes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**DESCRIPTION OF INCIDENT**

The group of ten people crossed the border somewhere near Isačić in late February and crossed into Croatia where they continued to walk.

“We walked a lot in forests, sometimes through small villages, sometimes even we crossed high mountains.”

After six days of walking, the group’s phones had run out of battery. They were somewhere in rural countryside. The group decided to continue on a standard road as opposed to an off-road. After five or six kilometers of walking, at around midnight, a police car stopped by the men. It was around midnight. According to the respondent, one of the officers told the group

“Stop! Stop! I will shoot if someone try to run!”
Six of the group-members stopped and four ran away. The police did not shoot in their direction. There were six officers, all wearing dark blue uniforms with the Croatian “RH” emblem on the arm. They officers were described as young men between 25-30 years old, tall and strong.

“For sure they all had 120 kilogram, the Croatian police always looks like action movie stars”

One of the officers told the remaining group-members that they would bring the men to Zagreb. They were then searched one-by-one during which time they had their mobile phones and power banks taken. The officers took the group’s three tents and backpacks and piled them up and set them on fire.

The respondent asked the officers:

“Why do you burn my clothes?”

The officer responded:

“It’s my job!”

The respondent then told the officer

“You can burn my tent, but why you burn my personal clothes?”

Again, the officer responded

“This is my job!”

From this location, the police drove the van for around 30 minutes during which time they switched the air condition in the back of the van to the lowest level. The group-members were very cold in the car.

“We asked them several times to switch off the air condition. They didn’t react, they were listening music. They didn’t care.”

They arrived in small village with a large police station. The building was two stories high and inside were about 30 police officers at work. Some were wearing the same dark blue uniform, some more light blue uniforms. The group was locked in a small cell perhaps which was perhaps 3x4 meters. There was no toilet, water, or heating in the cell. Before they locked them in the cell, the police searched them again and took their money (the interviewee had 200€ and 190 Kuna in his pocket) as well as their cigarettes.

One-by-one, the six men were brought to an office an interviewed. They had their fingerprints taken and all of their details logged (name, nationality, date of birth, name of the father, of the mother). After this, they had to sign a paper. On the paper were all of their personal information but also a paragraph in Croatian. The respondent did not understand it and no one translated it to him.

After some hours, seven Pakistani men were brought to the cell as well. In total they spent around twelve hours in the cell. Eventually, a police officer opened the cell and said:

“Come! Come! To the car!”

They received their phones and their money back.
As the van started driving, the police officers had the air-conditioning switched on on the coldest setting. The group in the back of the van attempted to request the officers to turn it off, but received no reaction to this request.

After two hours of driving, they arrived to a remote spot in the forest, next to a river near the border to BiH. All 13 individuals were asked to get out of the car. After this, the car with the normal police officers left and in the dark stood around 12 to 15 officers who had their faces covered with black ski-masks.

“Their clothes black and I think they have heart also black.”

The officers formed a circle around the men. First they took their money and the phones. The good quality phones they put in their pockets the less valuable phones they broke with the police batons.

“They told us: ‘Take off clothes. All!’”

They were forced to take off everything except their boxers. They even had to take off their shoes. There was snow on the ground.

They were still encircled when the officers began to beat at the same time, mostly with the batons, striking their naked bodies. The respondent got hit mainly on the back, and reported that one other person had a broken arm afterwards as well as three big wounds on the head.

“When they beat us they say ugly words in Croatian. Because this happened to me more than twenty time already I know the words. They say ‘Fuck your Mother’ and ‘Son of a Bitch’.”

If someone tried to flee the circle he was caught and struck more times. The respondent did not remember how long this process took. Eventually they let them run away. Some of the individuals were able to save one piece of clothing, the interviewee for instance was able to grab a pair of pants, however none of them had shoes.

They walked the six or seven kilometers back to Velika Kladuša, mostly naked and without shoes. Some of this journey was through the snow.

When they arrived they went to see a doctor. The doctor gave them medicine for a cold but did not want to hear their story or listen to what has happened.

“Is the European Union sleeping?”
**Report 1.12**

1 interviewee - Morocco - Group of 3  
Recorded interview on 1.03.2019 in Sarajevo

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of incident</th>
<th>PUSH-BACK - PHYSICAL VIOLENCE – ROBBED - USE OF WEAPONS - EXPOSURE TO COLD AIR</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Location</td>
<td>The group was apprehended in the Croatian interior. They were later brought to a police station in and held in a van for a period of an hour before being brought back to a secluded section of the Bosnian-Croatian border, close to Velika Kladuša.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Victimes         | Number of victims: 3  
Interview conducted in French/English  
Country of origin: 5 Moroccan and 1 Palestinian  
Age: The respondent was 30 years old  
Minors involved: None  
Sex: Males |
| Date and time    | The group left from Bihać on 1/2/19 to Croatia and walked until 6/2/19 on which day they were apprehended and returned to the Bosnian-Croatian border later in the night. |
| Details          | Expressed intention to seek asylum: No  
Paper signed: No  
Fingerprint taken: No  
Pictures taken: No |

**DESCRIPTION OF INCIDENT**

The group of six left from Bihać for Croatia in the early morning hours of February 1st. For six hours they walked through forest areas, sometimes on small roads, sometimes off-road. They were heading towards an abandoned airport just behind the border in Croatia. Once they saw a large white van (size of a VW-Bus), but they were able to hide. They walked for four days through remote Croatian forests,

"Forest, forest, forest. Sometimes we sleep. Walking, sleep, walking, sleep. It’s dangerous on this way. (We were) walking for days in the jungle.  “

Eventually, the group arrived to Plitvice Lakes NP were they approached a highway bridge on the D429 road at around 3:00 pm. Hidden, they could see several police officers standing on the bridge. Since they needed to cross this bridge, the group waited for around nine hours for the police to leave. At around 1:00 am, the police left and they were able to cross unhindered.
They continued their way for six more hours through the forest and somewhere between Blata (Hr) and Lička Jesenica (Hr), near the D42 road, they stopped to sleep. They put up their tent and slept for around ten hours.

At some point in the afternoon, as the group slept, one group-member went outside to urinate at which point he person was seen by a Croatian individual who the respondent inferred called called the police. Three Croatian police officers arrived to the location in a large white van and approached the tent around 5:00 pm. The police officers were wearing black or dark blue uniforms, two were male man and one was female. They were described as being older. The officers opened the zipper of the tent. Everyone was asleep when they arrived.

“They don’t speak anything. Just, hello, police! Give me telephone!”

The police officers did not ask for papers. They stayed outside the tent and collected four mobile phones from the group at this point. The police officers told them to pack their belongings and shortly after they had to walk in one line towards the police car. In this moment, three of the group-members fled from the officers. One police officers shouted:

“You run today, tomorrow we catch you!”

The three people that stayed were brought into the police van. The officers immediately switched the air condition onto the coldest level which blew very cold. The interviewee asked if they could turn it down, the police officers didn’t react.

“Please, please stop of the air condition, we are so cold.”

The van left soon after and drove for approximately one hour. When they arrived at the police station, the officers left the car and entered the station while the three men stayed in the van with the air-conditioning running on the coldest setting. There was no window in the car and they could not see the outside. After one hour, three new police officers returned to the van. All three were tall and strong men who wore black ski masks which covered their faces.

“They were tall and strong. Police Croatia is like berserk.”

They drove off shortly thereafter. The three men group-members never entered the police station.

They drove for approximately three hours with air conditioning still on. They asked several times to switch it off. All three men had to vomit. The interviewee had to vomit three times during the ride. They felt very sick and had headaches because of the cold and the lack of orientation. The police officers saw that they were vomiting but did nothing.

Around 11:00 pm the van stopped. The back of the van was opened and the group saw nine police officers with black ski masks on standing outside. They had stopped in a forest, approximately 100 meters away from the Bosnian-Croatian border.

The officers took the men by the hand in an aggressive way and walked them towards the direction of the border. There was a female police officer and she smashed their smartphones with a police stick in front of them. Then the nine police officers started to hit the men with their closed fists, hands, feet and police batons. The three young men laid on the ground attempting to protect their heads and for somewhere between two and three minutes all nine policemen beat them. When they finished, they
shouted: “Go, go!” The group-members stood up and ran away. Meanwhile the police took their backpacks and threw them into the small river. The officers kept the broken phones with them.

The three persons ran some 50 meters after the border, stopped, and hid themselves. They waited until the police left and then went returned to the push-back site to get their backpacks out of the river. The smartphones were gone. When they were just on the other side of the border they saw a next car coming to the same spot and soon thereafter the police officers beat another three people. One of them had a broken leg afterwards.

The closest houses were only approximately 600 meters away however the owners were all asleep. They then walked to Velika Kladuša.
LOCATIONS

Approximate location of the group’s capture by Croatian authorities [Zoom out & in]
[Report 1.13]
1 interviewee - Albania - Group of 2
Interview conducted on 27.02.19 in Sarajevo

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of incident</th>
<th>PUSH-BACK – PHYSICAL VIOLENCE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Location</td>
<td>The group was initially apprehended in a forested, semi-mountainous area near Maljevac (Hr)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Victimes         | Number of victims: 2  
Country of origin: Albania  
Age: 28 - 32  
Minors involved: None  
Sex: Males |
| Date and time    | The group was apprehended late in the evening on 24/02/19 and pushed-back shortly thereafter, at around 11:30 pm |
| Details          | Paper signed: No  
Fingerprint taken: No  
Pictures taken: No |

**DESCRIPTION OF INCIDENT**

The men first encountered two male police officer in Croatian uniforms around five kilometers into Croatia, near Maljevac (Hr), after crossing from Velika Kladuša. They described seeing two police officers running towards them a flashlight, at which point they put their hands in the air. The officers told them to put their hands on each other’s shoulders and instructed them to walk down the mountain, which was a distance of around 150 meters, to a police car.

Whilst they were walking, one of the police officers hit his friend on the top of the head with his flashlight. They carried on walking to the vehicle where there were four more police officers waiting. The respondent described that he and his friend walked to the car and when they arrived the police officers began to punch and kick them, but only from the neck down. Their ribs were targeted in particular, one of the men sustained three broken ribs after falling onto the ground and being kicked in the body and the head. Nothing was said to the men. All six officer attacked them. The two men vocalized in English with ‘please’ and ‘stop’.

After this violence stopped, the officers opened their bags and looked at their documents. When they saw their passports, they continued to handle them forcefully, however with less violence. They were then taken to a van, where there were ten other people inside.
They were then driven around ten minutes to a river where police opened the door and pointed a light into the river and told them they had to cross back to BiH.

When they neared the banks of the river, the officers hit them with batons. The group was forced into a line to cross one-by-one at which point they would hit them to force them into the river. The river was around three or four metres wide and waist deep. The respondent lost a shoe while crossing the river.

The respondent’s phone was taken and not returned during this process.
LOCATIONS

The approximate location near the Maljevac border crossing where the group described being pushed back by Croatian police officers (zoom in & out)
REPORTS OF GROUPS APPREHENDED IN SLOVENIA

3 Reports
[Report 2.1]
1 interviewee - Algeria - Group of 7
Unrecorded interview on 27.02.2019 in Velika Kladuša

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of incident</th>
<th>PUSH-BACK – TRAUMATIZED BY SEEN FRIEND DOWN IN RIVER – DENIED ASYLUM</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Location</td>
<td>The group left Bihać 14.02.2019. They were 7 days “on game” through Croatia to the border of Slovenia. Crossed border to Slovenia through river Kolpa.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Victimes         | Number of victims: 6 (7)  
Interview conducted in French with a translator  
Country of origin: Algeria  
Age: 19-24 years old  
Minors: No  
Sex: All males |
| Date and time    | The group left Bihać on the 14/02/2019. They walked for 7 days through Croatia until they reached the border to Slovenia by the river Kolpa. Around 16:00 they entered the river for crossing to Slovenia. The current of the river was so strong, one friend got taken away. They started looking for him, made a huge fire around 17:00. The police of Slovenia got to them at 4:00 a.m. the next day (21/02/19). The next day after this (22/02/19) the group was pushed-back to Bosnia by the Croatian police. |
| Details          | Paper signed: Yes  
Fingerprint taken: Yes  
Pictures taken: Yes.  
Asylum: Expressed but denied. |

DESCRIPTION OF INCIDENT

The group left from Bihać (BiH) on February 14th with seven men from Algeria and three women from Morocco. They crossed the border to Croatia and walked for seven days through the interior land until they reached the Slovenian border, along the river Kolpa. At approximately 4:00 pm on the February 20th, the group decided to cross the border to Slovenia by going through the river Kolpa. The current of the river was very strong and the group encountered problems while attempting to cross the river. The three female group-members watched from the Croatian side as the men crossed. The last Algerian man lost his fight against the current of the river and got taken away by the water.
The men were telling the women not to enter the water and go back to Croatia because it was too dangerous for them. The guys started to search for their friend but could not find him. The respondent described feeling lost and alone. In an attempt to signal for help, the group decided to make a large fire with the intention of attracting the police. They started the fire at approximately 5:00 pm but no one came.

After this shocking event and fruitless search, the exhausted group fell asleep by the fire. At around 4:00 am the following morning of February 21st, a group of Slovenian police officers woke them up. Two were dressed in standard police uniforms and five officers were dressed in military-style uniforms. They were standing there with guns.

First the officers dressed in standard uniforms searched the six men. They told the police officers what happened and the Slovenian police called out for help. According to the respondent, they searched the river but could not find their friend. After this, the group was taken to a police station.

The group spend one day in this location during which time they were questioned by a Palestine translator about their route and where their ultimate destination was. The translator did not answer any question they had about asylum. Their fingerprints (forefinger) were taken as well as their pictures. They had to sign papers.

On the next morning, February 22nd, at around 10:00 am, the Slovenian police drove the group in a van to the Croatian border. There the group was given over to the Croatian police who shortly thereafter put them into another van. In the van, there was already another group of migrants. Together they were now a group of 13 people. The van drove about an hour to the Bosnian-Croatian border where the van stopped. The entire group was told to exit the van together and were told to walk back to BiH. There were five Croatian police officers there and one driver. The group walked back to Velika Kladuša (BiH) that day.
[Report 2.2]

1 interviewee - Algeria Berber - Group of 7
Recorded interview on 02.03.2019 in Velika Kladuša

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of incident</th>
<th>PUSH-BACK – DENIED ASYLUM – ROBBED – PHYSICAL VIOLENCE – FORCED INTO WATER</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Location</td>
<td>They were apprehended around Črnomelj (Sl) and pushed back close to a river in the area of Poljana (BiH).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Victimes         | Number of victims: 7  
Interview conducted in English with a translator  
Country of origin: Berber Algeria  
Age: all around 28  
Minors: no  
Sex: All males  
Number of “games”: 4 |
| Date and time    | The group left Velika Kladuša on the 19/2/19. They walked 8 days through Croatia and entered Slovenia. On 27/2/19 the group was apprehended in Črnomelj (Sl) where they spend around 7 hours in a police station before being given over to the Croatian police and pushed back in the morning of 28/2/19 |
| Details          | Paper signed: Yes  
Fingerprint taken: Yes (Slovenia and Croatia)  
Pictures taken: Yes  
Asylum: They asked for asylum and were rejected. |

**DESCRIPTION OF INCIDENT**

The group of seven left for Croatia on February 19th after which they walked for eight days within through before entering Slovenia. At around noontime on February 28th, the group was apprehended by the Slovenian police close to Črnomelj (Sl).

They were then taken to a police station ten minutes by car. At this location, they had their fingerprints taken, the police took pictures of them, and made them sign papers. They were asked to pay a 270€ fine. The group misunderstood this request, however, and believed that the papers and the money was for the asylum process which they asked for.

The group waited in the police station (which was described as a prison) for around 7 hours. They were given bread and water during this time. At around 12:00 p.m. the Slovenian police drove the group 30
minutes to the border of Croatia and the Croatian police took over. From there the group was again taken to a police station. At this station, they had to give their fingerprints again and were made to wait until 4:00 a.m. of the next day (February 28th) at which point the group was driven to the border of BiH, close to Poljana (BiH). They arrived at around 6:00 am.

There were somewhere between seven and eight police officers at this location, dressed in black uniforms without any identifiable symbols. They had black ski masks on as well. The van was parked around 100 meters away from a small river which marks the Croatian border with Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The group-members were than made to exit the van one-by-one. The door was opened, one person was taken out, and the door was closed again. The police were positioned on each side of the van, forming a “tunnel”. When the individual left the van, they would be beat with with batons and then the officers would run after them and force them this way into the river where the water was waist-high. If someone fell down, they beat them directly in the face.

Upon reaching the other side of the border and recollecting, the group walked back to Velika Kladuša, a journey which took around three hours.

**LOCATIONS**

Approximate location near Poljana (BiH) where the group was pushed-back by Croatian police
[Report 2.3]  
2 interviewees - Algeria - Group of 8
Unrecorded interview on 17.02.2019 in Velika Kladuša

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of incident</th>
<th>PUSH-BACK – PHYSICAL / PSYCHIC VIOLENCE – DENIED OF ASYLUM</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Location</td>
<td>The group was apprehended in Slovenia in the city of Novo Mesto, they got driven the police station in Iglenik (SI). From there they were hand over to Croatia at the border in Metlika (SI) after they got pushed-back to BiH in the area of Zagrad (BiH).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Victims          | Number of victims: 8
Interview conducted in English
Country of origin: Algeria
Age: 17 – 29 years old
Minors: Yes
Sex: 8 men |
| Date and time    | The group left from Velika Kladuša 01/02/19 and five days later crossed into Slovenia. From there, the group walked three days in Slovenia before being apprehended by the Slovenian police on 10/02/19 at around 2:30 pm in the city of Novo Mesto (SI). They spend three days in prison in Iglenik (SI). On the evening of 13/02/19, the group was driven by the Slovenian police to the border of Croatia in Metlika (Hr) and from there they were brought back to Zagrad (BiH) where they got pushed-back at night on of 13/02/19. |
| Details          | Paper signed: Yes
Fingerprint taken: Yes
Pictures taken: Yes
Asylum: Slovenia denied asylum to them. |

**DESCRIPTION OF INCIDENT**

On February 1st, the group of eight left Velika Kladuša with the intention of transiting through Croatia and Slovenia. The youngest of the group was seventeen years old. They walked for 27 km to the border of Croatia and over several days crossed through the country before crossing into Slovenia. They crossed the border to Slovenia on foot and walked in Slovenia for three days.

On February 10th, the group was in the city of Novo Mesto (SI) when the Slovenia police arrived and apprehended them. The Slovenia police were described as wearing black uniforms and arriving with five cars. They put handcuffs on only one of the group-members. The respondents described that previously, as had been walking around Novo Mesto (SI), the residents had been staring at them and they inferred
that one of them called the police. They described with laughter that the people there are not used to migrants. They were apprehended in a rough way and driven to a prison in Iglenik (SI), where they stayed for a total of three days.

At the prison, the received a small bit of bread to eat every day and there was water in the cell. One-by-one they were taken to an Egypt translator whom they respondents described having problems with. Specifically, the complained that he did not hand over their questions to the police and did not react in any way when they expressed their intention to claim asylum. In addition, they also had to sign papers which were written in Slovenian meaning that they could not understand what was written on them. The translator never explained this to them. The Slovenian police took pictures of them and their index fingerprints as well. The minor of the group described that he lied about his age to the police at this prison, citing fears that he would be separated from his family:

“You know I am a minor but I lied about my age, cause if I said I am minor they had take me away from my brother.”

After three days in the prison, the group was made to enter a van in the evening of February 13th. The car was described as quite large, but they had only a small space to sit. They drove from the prison in Iglenik (SI) to the border of Croatia at Metlika (SI). They group stayed in the car and Croatian police took the car over and drove them to the border of BiH near Zagrad (BiH) outside of Velika Kladuša (BiH). This journey took them about 2 hours and when they arrived it was around 12:15 am.

At this location, the group-members were made to exit the van one-by-one. Three police officers were standing right next to the car and six were standing in two lines so the refugees had to walk / run through this “tunnel”. The respondents described seeing two of the Slovenian police officers they had encountered previously as well as seven Croatian police officers. None of the police were wearing ski-masks. The police did not beat or rob them. During the push-back they were shouting “GO BACK TO BOSNIA”.

Akt je bil vročen pridržani osebi 11.02.2019 ob 20:53.

DAMJAN ŠKORDA

(pristojni smučar)
Številka: 225-19/2019/1 (3)[698-50]
Datum: 11.02.2019

SKLEP O PREDRŽANJU

zapor osebe OUSAMA DELLA, datum rojstva 10.02.1997, državljanstvo: ALŽIRJA,
pribivališče: 
Policjski postopek se je začel 11.02.2019 ob 15:35.
Predržanje je bilo odrejeno 11.02.2019 ob 15:40 na podlagi člena:
ZNPPOL 64/4 IZROČITEV TUIJIM VARNOSTNIM ORGANOM

Ob odreditvi predržanja je bila oseba v ARABŠKEM jeziku seznanjena s spodaj navedenimi pravlicami:
- z razlogi za predržanje:
  - ga ima pravico do takojšnje pravnje pomoči tujem izvorniku, ki ga svobodno izbere;
  - da se na njeno zahtevo o predržanju obvesti njene najbližje, če je oseba tuječ pa tudi diplomatsko-konzularno predstavništvo države, katere državljan je.

Predržana oseba ima tudi pravico do zdravniške pomoči, vključno s pravico, da jo na njene stroške pregleda zdravnik, ki ga sama izbere.

Oseba je predstavljene pravice popolnoma razumela.

Obrazložitev razlogov - opis dejanja:

je v državi, šele sedmih državljanov Alžirja, pa nedovoljeno vstopil v Republiko Slovenijo iz Republike Hrvaške na HX1 na območju Kozarje pri tabli, ki označuje državo mej. Po ilegalnem prestopu državne meje so hodili po godzinah potek ter prišli do manjšega naselja potem pa so pot nadaljevali po asfaltirani cesti, kjer so se prijeli policisti. S strani policistov PP Krško, je bil prijet v naslednje Kozanjevića na Krš., v neposredni bližini Gorijanka cesta 3. ilegalni prebogniki so bili nekaj ur na 15.40 seznanjeni z razlogi za odtvperm prostosti v angleškem jeziku, ob isti uri je bil opravilen varnostni pregled, nato pa so bili prijeti v prostore PP Krško, na PP Krško je ob 17.30 prijeti prevajalec za arabski jezik VAEL HANUNA, kateri je v arabskem jeku seznanil storitca glede očitanih prekriškov in glede pravic.
ZAPISNIK O ZADANJU KRŠELE

V skladu s 55. členom Zakona o pravilih je bil kršitelj pred lesenim mesečem opozoril, da je tukaj v dolžnosti o premožitvah papirjev vajali podmevne osebe in da na voljo nemorja. V tem času je bil kršitelj v dolžnosti, da se izpolnjujejo dolžnosti in pravila, iz katere je izpeljalo, da je bilo potrebno o premožitvah papirjev vajali podmevne osebe. V tej situaciji je bil kršitelj v dolžnosti izpolnjev dolžnosti in pravila, iz katere je izpeljalo, da je bilo potrebno o premožitvah papirjev vajali podmevne osebe.


Opombe:

KRATKE OPIS DEJANSKEGA STANJA Z NAVESEDO DOKAZOV

je 11.2.2019 od 12.30 uri kršil določbe ZTU-2, s tem ko je nedovoljeno vstopil v Republiko Slovenijo iz Republike Hrvaške. Je v družbi še sedmih državljanov Albori peč nedovoljeno vstopil v Republiko Slovenijo iz Republike Hrvaške na HXL na območju Kozarje pri Kaši, ki označuje državno mejo. Po ilegalnem prestopu državne meje je pot na drugem potu ter pridoblil manjšega naselja, kjer je bil v dolžnosti izpolnjev dolžnosti in pravila, iz katere je izpeljalo, da je bilo potrebno o premožitvah papirjev vajali podmevne osebe.

Dokazi: Kršitev dokazujejo na podlagi upotrebne policistov PP Křiščko pri ogledu prehodnega mesta katerega je policistom pokazal od table državna meja na Kozarjih v smeri hrvaškega naselja Budinjak, fotografij načrta poti na mobilnem telefonu in fotografije, katere označujejo skupino ilegalnih pribeljnikov fotografirano ob tabel državna meja na območju Kozarje ter na podlagi izjave tujca.

Potrdilo o vrečevitvi:

Iznajti dva tisoč devetnašestinjak

NUSA KUKOVIČ

enajst februar dva tisoč devetnašestinjak
Slovenian

SKLEP

Prekrščkovna organ PP KRŠKO je dne 11.02.2019 ob 23:25 uri, v kraju PP KRŠKO, storilku ALZIRIJA, zaradi zavarovanja izvršitve odločbe, zagotovitev njegove navzočnosti in ali uspešne izvedbe postopka o prekršku poskušal začasno odveti potno listino, voznjarsko dovoljenje, dokumente vozila, prevozno listino ali drug dokument, ki spremlja tovor, vrednostni papir, prevozno sredstvo ali premičnine, s katero bi lahko na podlagi 5. odstavka 201. člena Zakona o prekrških zavaroval izvršitev odločbe o prekršku, plačilnega naloge ali posebnega plačilnega naloge.

V postopku je prekrščkovni organ ugotovil, da storilca nima dokumenta, premične stvari ali vrednostnega papirja, s katerim bi prekrščkovni organ lahko zavzela izvršitev po 201. členu 25-1, zato mu v postopku o prekršku ni bil začasno odvet naveden predmet.

PRAVNI POUK: Zoper ta sklep ni pravnega sredstva.

Opomba glede morebitne odklonitve podpisa:

Vročitev:
Osebi je bil sklep vročen v roki.

PODPIS STORILCA

Podlaščena uradna oseba
NUŠA KUKOVIČ