Notes

Methodology

The following document presents testimonies of illegal push-backs where displaced people are expelled into the Serbian territory from the borderlands and interior of Croatia. All testimonies are gathered from oral interviews via a standardized framework. All names have been changed with the respect to 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
Sl - Slovenia
EU - European Union
An update on the situation in Šid

**Camps**

In March, UNHCR reported a **more than double increase in the number of newly arriving refugees in Serbia and estimated 4,202 refugees** being present by the end of March. Due to increased arrivals, the local UNHCR office in Šid declared the One Stop centers in Šid and Adaševci, as well as the Principovac Transit/Reception Center, to be full. This designation carries the implication that in future evictions of the squats around Šid, squat residents will be taken to camps at a great distance from the Serbian-Croatian Border. The effort, expenses and time it takes for people to return to Šid from camps near the Serbian-Macedonian border is quite large and carries the likelihood of involuntarily extended these individuals' time in transit within Serbia.

Inhabitants of the One Stop centers in Šid and Adaševci, as well as the Principovac Transit/Reception Center describe poor conditions and insufficient facilities. Many residents regularly coming to the squatted factory in Šid for distributions and to get their clothing washed by No Name Kitchen. Reportedly, some inhabitants of the aforementioned camps have to sleep on flat mats and lack sufficient blankets. Some residents report that scabies are an issue within the camp as well as poor hygienic facilities. Further, the location of the camps in the middle of the highway with poor traffic connection makes it even more difficult for people to satisfy everyday needs.

**Medical care**

Medical care for refugees and migrants living outside of the state system in the Šid area had become sparse over the course of the winter. MSF Serbia previously provided medical care in the squat in Šid once a month, as well as assisted in the sanitation of the squat and provided psychological assistance to refugees. In addition, previously, No Name Kitchen offered basic first aid services with the assistance of medically trained volunteers. Due to complications on the ground, MSF has since cut back on the frequency of their visits to squat whereas No Name Kitchen has also ceased to be able to provide its basic medical assistance with the same frequency as before.

Meanwhile, the local hospital in Šid has taking a harsh stance on the types of cases that they agree to treat refugees and migrants for, refusing treatment for “smaller” injuries. In some cases, refugees have been arrested by the local police after having sought treatment at the local hospital, as well as the next nearest one in Adaševci. Given the paucity in medical resources for this population of refugees and migrants, it is concerning that these cases are being turned away. As these refugees have no safe place to seek medical treatment, they see themselves forced to travel long distances in case of severe illness or injury. The closest safe hospital which regularly agrees on treating refugees is located in Sremska Mitrovica, more than 25 miles away from the main squat in Šid.
The continued practice of destruction and eviction

The destruction of squats in northern Serbia and the subsequent eviction of their residents by Serbian authorities is a well-documented practice dating back to the initial closure of the Balkan Route in March, 2016. Rigardu documented violence from the Serbian officers in March 2018, when they set fire to a refugee squat near Subotica, kicking and hitting with sticks the ones that wanted to call the fire department. The men occupying the building, unaccompanied minors included, lost most of their belongings in the fire.

This practice has proliferated in 2019. On the January 11th, two police officers and the proclaimed owner of an abandoned building in Šid, where displaced people are staying, came to destroy part of the space where more than 20 people had lived for several months. As they destroyed the tents with their batons, they injured one of the occupant’s head, and another’s leg. Volunteers tried to talk to the authorities, but they demanded that everyone leave as soon as possible, knowing that the residents would have no other options for the next nights. The authorities left shortly thereafter.

At 6:00 am on February 20th, the local authorities again returned to the squat to begin a coordinated operation aimed at evicting the squat. They arrived when the majority of the squat’s residents were still asleep and surrounded the compound. The authorities then went tent-by-tent to arrest and take the residents to the local police station. The residents belongings and possessions (tents, bags, blankets, clothes, documents, mobile phones, ect.) were later removed from the squat by a group of workers - working under Serbian police contract - and thrown out.

During this operation, approximately 60 refugees, including several minors, were detained through the use of physical coercion for hours within a very small place outside the police station and were taken to official camps without their consent. Some 20 people managed to hide themselves from the police when they were evicting the squat. That same day, some of the people who were sent to the camps decided to go back to the squat, even after No Name Kitchen informed them about the high risks this would entail and that there is not enough material to risk spending the night at below zero temperatures.

As the eviction included confiscations of most of the donations and personal belongings of the inhabitants as well as the lighting system and floor insulation, it took a lot of effort during march to remake the space livable for the 70-100 inhabitants. Volunteers started rebuilding the basic infrastructure and distributing NFIs some days after the incidences, but nevertheless daily needs increased with the arrival of new people in the squat. MSF asked local authorities in vain to get back some of the 200 donated blankets that have been confiscated. Volunteers and refugees spent the whole month of March on the alert of another possible eviction that was announced by the deputy of Šid.
Criminalization of volunteers

During the February eviction the Serbian authorities present denied the volunteers of No Name Kitchen, which provides assistance to the squat, access and arrested several of the volunteers for attempting to record a video of the incident. There were approximately 8 police vans and over 30 police officers at the squat during this time. When the rest of the volunteers arrived to the police station, they were denied access and were not allowed to join the volunteers who were under arrest. In a social media post published after the incident, No Name Kitchen volunteers described the treatment they encountered:

“We were not given, at anytime, the reason for our arrest, our mobiles were confiscated and we were not allowed to make even one call - to a person or lawyer - to let anyone know about our situation.

We were frisked, two of us were thrown to the floor, we were seized with violence, they twisted our arms and they also inflicted sexual touching on us and handcuffed us. We were also forced to undress for “security and control reasons”, an excuse that the police officers used only against female volunteers.

We received constant offensive comments about our countries of origin and particularly, verbal sexist attacks such as “You have all the nationalities to choose from. Look how beautiful they are! You can choose the one you like best for tonight” - comments made between the group of police officers in Serbian, but which one of the volunteers could understand because she speaks the language. They also threatened to send us to prison if we did not follow their indications.”

After this massive intervention by the authorities, most of the men sent to the official camp returned to Šid.

Six days later, on February 26th, the volunteers suffered renewed abuse by the authorities at their residence. The incident happened after a refugee, being sentenced to jail for ten days because of a failed transit attempt to Croatia, escaped. At 4:00 pm later that day, eight policemen knocked on the door of volunteer house, looking for the men who escaped. When one volunteer asked them for a legal authorization to enter and check the house, one officer threw him onto the floor and kept him immobilized for several minutes as another volunteer warned that he was not breathing well. The officers inspected the house, and left without accepting to talk to the NNK lawyer that was on the phone. None of these policemen had an identification plate on their uniforms.

The incidents that occured in Šid in February are recent example of a worrying trend across Europe where volunteers, activists, individuals are being criminalized. The strategies of the local police have been increasingly aggressive towards both people on the move and volunteers providing assistance through suspicion, harassment, and arbitrary arrest.
Trends in border violence

This report contains 21 reports of collective expulsions and border violence perpetrated by authorities from Croatia, Slovenia, and Serbia against refugees and migrants based attempting to leave from Serbia. In total, 11 of these reports were direct push-backs from Croatia while 4 involved groups which were initially apprehended in Slovenia. It is also noteworthy to point out that, in addition to these reports, there are 6 reports which details border-related violence perpetrated by Serbian authorities in the region around Šid. Emblematic of the demographics of the main squat in Šid, where of the individuals seeking to transit towards the EU reside, these groups consisted of predominantly of young men and unaccompanied minors from Afghanistan. It should be noted that one of these reports (1.11) involves a push-back of a group-in-transit which originally entered Croatia from Bosnia-Herzegovina and was later pushed-back to Serbia in the Tovarnik (Hr) area. This push-back was particularly worrying insofar as the group was intentionally mislead to believe that they would be returned to Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Serbian police increasingly active in controlling transit attempts

While in 2018 the Serbian border police watched the systematic push-backs conducted by the Croatian border forces as a passive spectator, they started to become more active since early February 2019: Whereas there are few reports from the past year referencing this tactic, six cases in this document describe groups being apprehended by Serbian authorities (local police from Šid or border police) during the course of their transit attempts. In some cases, groups report being handed over by Croatian authorities to Serbian border police who then bring them back to Šid themselves, sometimes using violence (See report of 2.5). More frequently, groups report being apprehended by Serbian forces before even arrive to the Croatian side of the border (See report 3.6). In doing so, groups report several instances of Serbian officers exercising violence while others remain inactive in these situations, as if there were certain officers specialized on beating people. In combination with the increased presence of local police officers in Šid, it can be stated that the Serbian police have taken over more responsibility during the last months to prevent crossings near the Batrovci border.
REPORTS OF GROUPS APPREHENDED IN CROATIA

10 reports
[Report 1.1]
1 interviewee - Afghanistan - Group of 13 persons
Recorded interview on November, 2018 in Šid, Serbia

### Description of Incident

On October 28th, thirty Afghans aged between 17 and 25-years-old crossed from Serbia into Croatia. After three days of walking they reached a forest in Croatia where they were picked up by two vans which were supposed to take them further towards Europe. At this point, they separated into two groups, with fifteen people in each van. On their way to Slovenia a police car tried to stop them. The drive of one of the vans jumped out of the moving vehicle and accordingly one of the group-members pulled the hand-brake to stop the vehicle. All the men exited the van and ran into the forest. Thirteen people of the group reached the forest and hid there for two days, during which time they ran out of food. The respondents described that during this time they were starving and very thirsty. As a result, they decided to go find the police, about at 3:00 am on November 2nd.

The group walked on a main road for around 45 minutes before reaching a village. There, they found a woman and asked her to bring them some water (declaring they wanted to pay for it) and to call the police, but she walked away. At around 4:00 am a man in a car told them the location of the police station and on their way there, two police cars appeared with four police officers in uniform who told them to seat on the ground and wait. The group of men told the policemen that they were the ones that had called the police and explained their story. They also explained that last time they had eaten had been 48 hours previously, to which the police officers
responded with laughter and told them they were "good boys". Then the policemen gave them some water they were carrying in the cars, and told the group to wait for ten minutes. A police van arrived to pick them up and brought them to the police station.

In the police station they were interrogated. They asked for food and water, and while they were answering the police officer’s questions, someone brought them chicken, Coca Cola, and some cake. The group-member which spoke the best English filled out a form with the information of each individual in the group. There was one woman with short red hair, which the respondent described as appearing to be the boss. She checked all the sheets and when she noticed one person was under 18 she asked:

"Who is Ali?"

And went to him to slap him hard, as she shouted

"Type here you are 18, 19, don’t type you are 17".

After this, the boy changed his age on the sheet. All the men signed the forms at the end.

After that one policeman wrote the name and age of each person in a different sheet and gave it to them to hold it while photo were taken. The men were not asked for their fingerprints. The woman who seemed be the boss told the group that she knew they were doing the game in a van, but they denied this.

The group went to another room to talk to two different officers. There were two women from different organizations, the older of which was in her forties. The younger one led them into a room with no police officers to talk. They were wearing uniforms, but different than police uniforms. These two women asked the group a number of questions: why did they leave Afghanistan, what did their parents do, why were they trying to reach Europe, why had they left Serbia, what problems did they have in Serbia, etc.

The men spoke about the problems associated with the Taliban in Afghanistan. One of them showed pictures of his father working in Pakistan border while another showed a letter from Taliban ordering him to leave the Afghan army or else he and his family would be murdered. The two women type everything down. The migrants asked them for asylum and they answered:

"Sorry, is not our decision, it’s police decision. We just type your story".

They asked for asylum to the policemen, but the answer was

"No, our government says no refugee coming here".

Before the deportation they asked to charge their phones, and the police accepted. They let them charge their phones but not to turn them on. They were told:
“If you turn on your phones I will beat your phone”.

The group stayed in the police station for about five hours. Then the policemen put the group of 13 in the back of a white police van which had no windows and no light inside. They were driven until the Croatian/Serbian border, and one by one they were asked by the officers to sign a form which was written in Croatian. One of the group-members asked:

“What I am signing? If I don’t read I can’t sign”

He was shouted to shut up, and threatened if he didn’t sign he was going to be beaten. He tried again, to ask for a copy of the signed sheet and was answered:

“Just sign and seat down, no talk with me”.

The police van took them near the Serbian border. The police gave them the phones and pointed the direction of Serbia. The group was walking for one hour without seeing any village, so they called a taxi and went to Šid train station.
**[Report 1.2]**

2 interviewees - Afghanistan - Group of 3

Recorded interview on 02.12.2018 in Šid, Serbia

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of incident</th>
<th>PUSH-BACK - DESTRUCTION AND ROBBERY OF PERSONAL PROPERTY - PHYSICAL VIOLENCE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Location</td>
<td>The group was captured in a petrol station in Županja (HR) (INA or Crodux, viz. map below). They were later detained inside the Županja police station (45.0745508,18.6973461) The group was later pushed-back along the Croatian/Serbian border near Šid.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Victims          | Number of victims: 3
Interview conducted in English
Country of origin: Afghanistan
Minors involved: 2 minors (17 years old)
Sex: Male |
| Date and time    | The group was apprehended at varying times between 30/11/18 and 01/12/18 Mahmoud and Ahmad were caught at 6:00 am while Ali was caught at 2:00 pm. The group was then pushed back sometime in between 30/11/18 and 01/12/2018. Mahmoud and Ahmad were pushed-back in the morning while Ali was pushed-back sometime in the late afternoon between 2:00 and 4:00 pm. |
| Details          | Expressed intention to ask asylum in the country: No
Paper signed: No
Fingerprints taken: No
Picture taken: No |

**DESCRIPTION OF INCIDENT**

The group left from Serbia to Croatia. After four days of walking in the “jungle”, the group of three men (two minors aged 17-years-old and one man aged 20-years-old) were arrested between 30/11/18 and 1/12/2018, near a petrol station in Županja, but at different times. 4 policemen arrested Mahmoud and Ahmad at 6:00. They were brought to a police station close-by.

The police asked them what they were doing in the “jungle” and asked where their boss was. The officers also looked at the GPS in their phones. While looking at one of the phones, one officer pointed at Ahmad and declared he was the boss. Then two officers took batons out from their car and without saying anything started to beat Ahmad and Mahmoud, telling them not to come again in Croatia, and shouting questions. Other officers said to the violent one to stop. The violence occurred for about ten minutes. As a consequence of these blows, Ahmad began to bleed.

After the violence, the officers told them not to come again to Croatia, and that
Afghani and Pakistani people weren’t welcome there

“No Pakistani, no!”

The group was asked again about the identity of their boss as well as the country they wanted to reach. Mahmoud answered he wanted to reach France, to which one police officer answered “No” and declared his job was to prevent people from coming in Europe. At the end of the conversation the officer told them they were going to Šid, and they were beaten again for another ten minutes.

At around 2:00 pm, Ali (the third group-member), came to the petrol station: the interviewees inferred that the store-owner might have called the police. The police arrived there and arrested him. He was deported back to Šid between 2:00 pm and 4:00 pm, while Mahmoud and Ahmad were deported back earlier, at 8:00 am, in a large car. Their money and phone were taken, and their phones got smashed. They did not ask for asylum.

DESCRIPTION OF PERPETRATORS

In the morning they were four police officers wearing blue uniform, speaking mainly Croatian and a little bit of English, aged around 45 years old. One of them, recognized as the boss, was wearing stars on his blue uniform, and was part of the one beating.
Location of the two possible spots of arrest (INA or Crodux gas stations) and detainment (police station) in Županja (HR)
DESCRIPTION OF INCIDENT

The police arrested the interviewee and the group of twenty-three persons he was with at around 3:00 am. They were about three hours away from Zagreb, on a road coming from the Serbian-Croatian border. The group had been travelling in vehicles which had picked them up after two days of walking. Shortly after entering the vehicles, the police stopped the group. They were soon transported to a police station near the Serbian border in two vehicles. There were eight persons in the first car, with the rest in the second one. At the police station, the interviewee described being the only one who was locked in a cell.

The police asked the group who spoke English to which the interviewee raised his hand. He was asked where he was from and declared Afghanistan.

“We come from a war country. I want to come Europe, Europe has humanity. I heard Europe has humanity but if Croatia is doing this kind of acting so other country will do too.”

While locked in the cell, the interviewee asked several times if he could use the toilet but the police denied him this. Additionally, he asked if the windows could be opened to get some fresh air, to which the officers told him “Stop, sleep”. He was kept in custody for three days, being released on the evening of the third day.
At the police station the group’s pictures were taken. The officers also took the name and country of origin of the interviewee, as well as his family name and date of birth. As a date of birth he wrote 2002, but a police officer changed it to 2000. He complained about this procedure:

“You made a crime, I’m under 18 and you catch me and you wrote 2000”.

Then the officers closed the file and told him he was free. He asked for asylum, but the police told him

“No stay here, there is no paper”.

The location of deportation is unknown; the interviewee described there being “a big stone”. They were kicked before they left.

**DESCRIPTION OF PERPETRATORS**

They were four or five police officers at the location of the group’s initial capture. They wore blue uniform “like Serbian police”. The interviewee noticed officers wearing stars when he was in jail. They spoke Croatian.
[Report 1.4]  
1 interviewee - Afghanistan - Group of 15  
Recorded interview on 06.12.2018 in Šid, Serbia

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of incident</th>
<th>PUSH-BACK - DENIED TO ASYLUM PROCEDURE - PHYSICAL VIOLENCE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Location</td>
<td>The group was captured near Tovarnik (HR) and was later pushed-back close to Šid (RS)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Victims          | Number of victims: 15  
Interview conducted in English  
Country of origin: Afghanistan  
Minors involved: 2 minors (aged 17)  
Sex: male |
| Date and time    | The group was apprehended on 6/12/18 and pushed back in the early morning hours of the same day |
| Details          | Expressed intention to seek asylum in the country: Yes  
Denied access to asylum procedures: Yes  
Paper signed: No  
Fingerprints taken: No  
Picture taken: No |

DESCRIPTION OF INCIDENT
On the 6th of December the group of 15 men waited for a taxi nearby a road, close to Tovarnik (Hr). The group was aged mainly between 20 and 25 years old, however there were also two minors aged 17 years old. Before their taxi came, the group was stopped by a group of three Croatian police officers at 4:00 am. The respondent was under the impression that his group may have been detected by thermal-imagery cameras. The officers asked the group to sit down, and asked them where they were from. They answered that they were from Afghanistan and nothing more was asked. At some point at this location, violence transpired: all the members of the group were beaten, in the face, eyes, and mouth.

The three first police officers called for back-up and ten more officers came. Then, officers wearing black masks beat the group again, with black batons, for about ten minutes. After this second episode of violence the police asked the respondent to stand up. He was hit on the face. The group was deported back to the truck scanner the Croatian/Serbian border, and violence occurred again at this spot, “near the border house” in the dark. Upon returning to Serbia, the respondent sought treatment at the local hospital for having had his nose smashed and bleeding.
DESCRIPTION OF PERPETRATORS

The officers wore dark blue uniforms. They drove a vehicle similar to a van. Five wore black ski masks (and are the ones who committed the second and third episode of violence). They spoke Croatian and English.
[Report 1.5]
1 interviewee - Armani - Afghanistan - Group of 20
Recorded interview on 22.01.2019 in Šid, Serbia

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of incident</th>
<th>PUSH-BACK - PHYSICAL VIOLENCE - DESTRUCTION OF PERSONAL BELONGINGS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Location</td>
<td>The group was apprehended in the Croatian interior in a forest near a motorway road They were later pushed back near Batrovci (RS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Victims</td>
<td>Number of victims: 20 Interview conducted in Pashto/English with the help of a translator Country of origin: Afghanistan Minors involved: 1 minor aged approximately 16 years old Sex: Male</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date and time</td>
<td>The event happened in the evening of an unspecified day in late January</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Details</td>
<td>Expressed intention to ask asylum in the country: No Paper signed: No Fingerprint taken: No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

DESCRIPTION OF INCIDENT

During the last week of January, Armani attempted to transit Croatia with a group of twenty men. The group walked for two days before they were stopped by police officers in a forest near a Croatian motorway. The respondent described that the police shut off the light of their car in order to come closer to the group and arrest them. Two police cars arrived on the location one after the other, with eight police officers arriving to the scene in total.

The interviewee was sleeping when the police arrived. According to the respondent, nothing was said before the officers began to violently hit him and the other group members. The officers beat with the respondent by kicking him at first, and then later with batons. The respondent described that the other members of the group received the same treatment, even the minors. Some were also beaten in the head.

“It was too much”.

All of the officers present were described as taking part in this violence. The officers also destroyed the cigarettes and energy drink the group had. Armani was hit in his shoulder very hard, leaving him in pain for four days after the incident. Upon returning, the respondent would consult a doctor at Principovac camp (RS) in order to calm the pain.
A second episode of violence happened soon after because, according to Armani, he had looked a police officer in the eyes. The officers asked him to sit on the ground, which was wet due to the rain, and pointed light right in his eyes. At this point, the officers began to hit the group-members again, for duration of which the respondent described as being close to 30 minutes.

After this, a large vehicle arrived and the group was brought back to Serbia. Armani declared that he did not ask for asylum because “the police was very angry”. In the vehicle the temperature was very cold, and the group was deported back to Batrovci after a half hour drive. As they were being pushed-back, the group was made to exit the vehicle one-by-one.

**DESCRIPTION OF PERPETRATORS**

The group was initially apprehended by eight Croatian police officers wearing blue uniforms emblazoned with Croatian flags, in two police cars.
On the 15th of January, the group of ten was arrested by a group of Croatian police officers after they had crossed over the Serbian-Croatian border from Sombor on foot, crossing a river. There were seven police officers in two police cars.

Shortly after apprehending the group, the officers became violent towards the men at about 10 pm. The respondent described being beaten by the officers. Shortly thereafter, the group was brought to a nearby police station where a second episode of violence occurred. There the police also accused the interviewee of being the boss, the smuggler. The officers took and stole the charger of his phone and his lighter. The interviewee described that it was not possible to ask for asylum. They were deported straight after.

Seven Croatian police officers wearing blue uniforms with Croatian flags initially stopped the group. They arrived in two police cars. There was one police dog with them.
1 interviewee – Afghanistan - Group of 10  
Recorded interview on 22.01.2019 in Šid, Serbia

**Type of incident**
PUSH-BACK - DENIED ACCESS TO ASYLUM PROCEDURE - PHYSICAL AND VERBAL VIOLENCE - FAKE STATEMENT

**Location**
The group was apprehended in Croatia, close to the Serbian border. They were accordingly pushed back to Serbia.

**Victims**
Number of victims: 10  
Interview conducted in English with the presence of a translator from Pashto to English  
Country of origin: Afghanistan  
Minors involved: All minors, the interviewee is 14 years old  
Sex: Male

**Date and time**
The group was pushed-back on 17/01/19

**Details**
Expressed intention to ask asylum in the country: No  
Paper signed: No  
Fingerprints taken: No  
Picture taken: No

**DESCRIPTION OF INCIDENT**
The group of ten minors (the interviewee was 14 years old, while the other group-members were reportedly aged between 16 and 18) left Serbia on the 17th of January with the intention of crossing the Croatia. After walking one hour in Croatia, coming from Sombor (RS), the group was apprehended by Croatian police officers who arrived close-by to where a car was supposed to pick them up.

Two police cars appeared first. The officers asked the group to sit down. The interviewee asked the police officers present if he could apply for asylum, but did not get any answer. According to the respondent, violence transpired soon after this. Several of the officers began to hit the group-members and hitting the boys with black batons and kicking them. The respondent described hearing the officers liken the Afghan group-members to Taliban insurgents, to which he replied that he was not like them. The respondent described that this made the police officers even more violent with him. The violence lasted for around ten minutes. During this time, one police officer, to a limited effect, told the others not to beat the people.

A police van with seven police officers arrived to the scene after this period. The group was then brought to a police station in Croatia, where their fingerprints and pictures were taken. They also signed papers; when the interviewee declared he was 14 years old the officer wrote down onto his document that he was 18 instead. In the police station, officers told the group to engage in humiliating physical activities.
They were told to do twenty push-ups. The interview described being told to pretend he was swimming on the floor:

“Do like a fish”.

The police continued the humiliation laughing at the boy. Their chargers and lighter were taken away. The interviewee described staying in custody for three days. Later, when he asked his items, the police refused.
**[Report 1.8]**

1 interviewee - Tunisia & Algeria - Group of 5  
Recorded interview on 12.02.2019 in Velika Kladuša

<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 apprehended near the town of Ilača (HR) and pushed back along a secluded area of the border near Serbia and pushed back.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Victimes         | Number of victims: 5  
Country of origin: Tunisia and Algeria  
Age: The group consisted of individuals aged between 14 and 40 years old  
Minors involved: There was one minor aged 14 years old  
Sex: There was one female member of the group aged 40 years old. The rest of the group were male. |
| Date and time    | The group was apprehended and pushed-back in the early morning hours of 01/02/19 |
| Details          | Intention to seek asylum expressed: Yes  
Asylum request denied: Yes  
Paper signed: No  
Fingerprint taken: No  
Pictures taken: No |

**DESCRIPTION OF INCIDENT**

The group of five people left from Šid (RS) on the 1st of February evening. After walking approximately 12 km, the group reached a forest near Ilača (HR). At around this time, a group of three Croatian policemen approached and apprehended the group. One of the officers made a call and six more officers arrived shortly after.

The officers searched the group, took their phones, and burnt the phone’s motherboards. A male policeman searched the female group-member for phones and valuables. Shortly thereafter, she was separated from the group and taken away in a police car. The respondent did not know what happened to her after this point.

The remaining group was then loaded into a van and driven back to the border. During this car ride, the air inside the van was turned on, leaving the inside of the van at an uncomfortably low temperature for the group-members:

“Though it was freezing outside which caused me a terrible headache and I caught a flu.”
When they arrived at the border, the group exited the van at which point police officers hit them with tree branches which had thorns. They were mainly struck on the legs. The respondent remarked on this event accordingly:

“They don’t want us to take this walk again.”

After this exchange, the police officer said:

“Go back to your country”

Despite this, the respondent and the rest of the group had no idea where they were:

“They left us in the forest without phones. We had no orientation.”
[Report 1.9]
1 interviewee - Afghanistan - Group of 4
Recorded interview on 24.02.2019 in Šid (Serbia)

Description of Incident

Salman, the interviewee, and 3 other males from Afghanistan (aged 18, 17 and 16) had tried to reach Croatia, leaving in the late evening of February 23rd and arriving at around 2:00 am on February 24th to the Batrovci border crossing, on the right side of the highway, close to the Bosut river. The interviewee inferred that they had been monitored by Croatian authorities with the use of thermal cameras during this time. They jumped over a fence which was around 3 meters high, during which time Salman injured himself between the fingers.

Several minutes after passing the fence, three police cars arrived carrying somewhere between ten and fifteen Croatian police officers. The officers were described as wearing blue uniforms emblazoned with the Croatian flag, they appeared very tall in stature to the interviewee. The officers arrested the four men and push them into the river. Salman described that the officers were using their feet to make them fall. His head was pushed under the water while the police was beating him. Continuing, the officers used batons, closed fists, and their feet to punch, kick, and beat them. All of their clothes and belongings were left completely wet after this incident. Salman described that they barely talked to the police and the police barely talk to them, he just specified he was from Afghanistan.
After the violence, they were pushed-back to Serbia after a three hours ride, and ordered the Croatian police officers to go back to Serbia.

**LOCATIONS**

Border area at the river Bosut
1 interviewee - Afghanistan - Group of 2
Recorded interview on 20.03.2019 in Šid (Serbia)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of incident</th>
<th>VERBAL ABUSE - DETAINMENT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Location</td>
<td>The group was apprehended at on the Croatian side of the Batrovci border crossing. They were later returned to Šid</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Victims          | Number of victims: 2  
Interview conducted in English  
Country of origin: Afghanistan  
Minors involved: The respondent was 16 years old  
Sex: Male |
| Date and time    | The two individuals were apprehended at around 9:00 am 02/03/19. They were later returned to Serbia during the evening of the same day. |
| Details          | Expressed intention to ask asylum in the country: No  
Paper signed: No  
Fingerprints taken: No  
Picture taken: No |

**DESCRIPTION OF INCIDENT**

Salman, aged 16, and Oussama aged 18, both from Afghanistan walked to the Batrovci border on the evening of March 19th and entered into a truck parked just before the border.

On the morning of March 20th, at around 9:00 am, the truck’s ignition turned on and passed the across the Serbian truck scanner. Just after passing the Croatian scanner on the other, the Croatian border police opened the back of the truck and found both men. The told Salman and Oussama to go out from the vehicles, tell them to “come talibans”. The respondent described seeing somewhere between 15 and 20 officers at this point. The officers were described as using a very basic English. All were male, except for one female officer.

The officers brought them to a room inside of the Croatian border station. The respondent described seeing four others migrants inside at the time. The officers made a short interview with each of them, asking for name, family name, country of origin, and signature. When Salman declared that he was 16 years old, the policeman wrote 20.

After two hours of waiting in this small room, between five and ten Serbian border policemen entered and escorted the two individuals to a similar room on the Serbian side of the border. Inside the building, there were a number of small cells. The
officers closed Salman and Oussama inside one of them for somewhere between five and six hours. They did not receive any food or water during this time, and had the authorization to use the toilet (located at 10 meters from the room, but on the outside), for only for one minute. The cell had no windows, and no light. They did not receive any information about the ongoing process of their case during their detention.

Finally, the officers transferred them in a “prison Serbian van” (see picture below) and drove in the direction of Šid. While Šid is located at 20 minutes’ drive from the Batrovci border, the drive lasted for 3 hours. The doors were never opened and there were no windows inside; it was also very cold as the weather outside was 1 °C and it was night time. Both individuals knocked repeatedly on the walls to get information about their situation, without receiving an answer.

When the policemen finally opened the doors, they were in Šid, in front of the Chinese market on Cara Lazara street, located a few meters away from the local police station. The officers ordered them to go in a camp in Belgrade.

**LOCATIONS**

Google Maps geolocation of arrest: scanner at the Batrovci border crossing

Google Maps geolocation of deportation: Šid city center
Similar vehicle to the one which the respondents described being transported in
The journey of the two individuals started around March 7th, near Bosanski Brod (BiH). They entered into Croatia by crossing the Sava river at night, at around 3:00 am. On the Croatian side, they walked for about one hour into Slavonski Brod (HR). On their way, they saw a group of policemen but they managed to stay undetected.

At around 4:00 am, the group reached the bus station in Slavonski Brod. They wanted to look for a bus that would take them to Zagreb. Instead, they saw a taxi with an official taxi sign on its roof. It was a grey Mercedes. They talked to the taxi driver and he offered them to take them to Zagreb for 200 €. While the two group-members were discussing whether they would accept this offer, the taxi chauffeur made a call. As it turned out, he called the police. The respondent inferred that the driver had noticed that they were refugees.

After a short time - they were still standing outside the taxi - the police arrived. They arrived in two cars, and were numbered at around 8 to 10 male policemen. They all wore dark blue uniforms. Among these policemen were also the officers whom the two migrants had seen before while in transit. They were told to get into a white Mercedes van. The police then drove with them to the nearby Croatian-Bosnian border checkpoint where the Croatian policemen briefly talked to Bosnian officials (either policemen or border-guards).
After this, the Croatian police drove them back to a police station in Slavonski Brod. The two group-members stated that they wanted to ask for asylum. The policemen, however, just started to laugh and said no. The police took the men's cigarettes, their money (100€ and a smaller amount of Bosnian marks), and the Bosnian camp IDs of the two men.

"[They took] everything that we had with us, except our phones and the part of the money that I managed to hide from them. They took even the perfume bottle that my friend had with him".

When the policemen took the camp IDs and the Bosnian money, they looked at it and laughed; the interviewee had the impression that they were deriding these Bosnian documents.

Inside the police station they were led to a cell. The interviewee mentioned that he saw the flag of the European Union at the wall of the corridor leading to the cell. When they had been brought to their cell, four policemen arrived and became violent with them. One of the policemen slapped the interviewee in his face, and the interviewee's friend was kicked into the back and the legs. While they exerted this violence, the policemen were talking to each other but not to the two group-members.

In the police station the two men were told to sign several papers. For example, they had to write down the names of their parents. The police also took their fingerprints. On the instrument used to take their fingerprints, there was also a sign with the flag of the European Union. The interviewee was then told to write his name on a paper and to hold it in front of his chest; the police took a picture of him in this position. The policemen explained them that they take this information in order to register them for a camp in Croatia where their request to stay in the EU would be considered. However, as it turned out, this explanation was only to make fun of the two men.

At around 7:00 am (some 3 hours in the police station), two policemen came to their cell and took them into the same car (white Mercedes van) by which they had been brought to the police station. After a drive of some two hours, the car stopped in front of a building on which there were the flags of the EU and of Croatia. The interviewee was noticeably unsettled by the fact that he experienced this kind of treatment in premises that were appalled with the EU flag. A man wearing plain clothes came out of the building. He had some papers with him and the two group-members were told to sign them inside the car. The papers were in Croatian language. The two migrants do not understand Croatian and were not explained what the content of the papers was. They were not even given time to have a closer look at them before signing. Next to the field where he was asked to sign on one of the papers, the interviewee recognised the sign of a flag resembling the flag of Croatia.

After that, the two policemen in the car asked them

"Where do you want to go? To Bosnia?"

The two men said yes. In fact, however, they were brought to the border between Croatia and Serbia. The interviewee stated that the policemen obviously aimed at humiliating them by their misleading question.

After some 15 minutes of further driving after the signing of papers, the car stopped in a forest and they were told to leave the car and to go to Serbia. The two migrants replied that they did not want to go to Serbia but to Bosnia. The policemen answered that they needed to leave. The migrants were not returned their belongings that had been taken away in the police station.

The two men first started to walk in the direction of Serbia but after a while decided to change their direction and head towards Bosnia. They used the GPS of their phones for this. During the interview, the interviewee could not recall the exact location. They had followed
a railway track for a few hours (the interviewee estimated the walking distance to have been almost 20 kilometres) when they were stopped by four policemen in a car. After the latter had made a phone call, the same two policemen who had driven the migrants to the Serbian border before arrived with the same van. They told them to get into the van and drove again to the same point in the forest where they had let them out before. They laughed at them and told them to go back again. The interviewee felt humiliated by this treatment.

“They are treating us like animals, they don’t see us as normal humans. They find it funny to let you walk for 20 kilometres and take you back again.”

He further mentioned that during the several hours in the custody of the police - meanwhile it was around 1:00 or 2:00 pm, and they had been arrested at 4:00 am -, they were not given anything to drink or to eat, not even water. He said that he did not ask the police for it because he felt it would be pointless:

“Even if you ask them, they would not give it to you”.

The two men reached a Croatian village a few kilometres from the border. The villagers were friendly to them, and a boy helped them to buy some food and to charge their phones.

At around 6:00 pm, some 15 hours after they had entered Croatia, the two migrants crossed the border to Serbia. It is likely that they entered into Serbia in the general vicinity of the towns of Tovarnik (Hr) and Šid (RS). They walked for around 8 hours; the interviewee estimated the distance to have been 30-40 kilometres. They saw Serbian policemen on their way but they did not take notice of them. The two men later crossed a first river and then reached the Sava river which marks the border between Serbia and Bosnia. Around 2:00 am on March 8th they found a bridge by which they were able to cross the border, likely the bridge which runs along the M18 road before the Rača Border Crossing. They used a walkway underneath the main lane of the bridge. They accessed the walkway through a door. The bridge was very long.

After one and a half hours of walking in Bosnia, they found a gas station where they ate something. A man at the gas station called a taxi to take them to the next bus station, however no taxi arrived. They thus continued to walk. It was raining. When they went to a market to buy some food, two locals called the police. The Bosnian police arrived by car and drove them back to the border to Serbia and told them to cross it.

They walked in Serbia until they reached the same walkway underneath the Save bridge to come back to Bosnia again. The walked in the forests in order to stay undetected. They finally reached Tuzla (BiH), and from there, they were able to take a bus to Sarajevo. They arrived to Sarajevo seven or eight days after they had entered Croatia.

In the end of the interview, the interviewer asked the interviewee whether he wanted to add anything. The interviewee remarked:

“The Croatian police behavior is cruel, I just wish that this will change.”
The approximate location in Slavonski Brod (Hr) where the group described being apprehended by Croatian police officers [zoom in & out] 45.1629298,18.0081565
REPORTS OF GROUPS APPREHENDED IN SLOVENIA

4 reports
[Report 2.1]
2 interviewees - Afghanistan - Group of 6
Recorded interview on 19.01.2019 in Šid, Serbia

**DESCRIPTION OF INCIDENT**

The group of six Afghans, aged between 17 and 23 years old, left from Serbia to Croatia on January 9th with the intention of moving irregularly towards Europe. They had left at night, leaving on the 9th from Šid, by truck. After two days in the truck, they reached Slovenia in the afternoon. The truck came to a stop some time after crossing the border and the group soon discovered they were inside a factory.

There were about fifteen workers inside the factory and the police arrived soon after. In total, around twelve police officers arrived in three different cars. The officers told the group that they were illegals in this country. At this point, the police officers encircled the group of men; it wasn’t possible for them to escape. They beat the whole group with batons and black steels batons. The hand and leg of two group-members were broken during this exchange. As a consequence of this violence Nisar, one of the respondents, fell down and collapsed. An ambulance was called and he was brought to a hospital by ambulance. At the same time the others members of the group were brought to a police station.
At the police station the police provided the group with water and half a loaf of bread for every two persons. The officers declared they would allow them to stay in the country, and asked the men to wait so that they could proceed with the according paperwork. The group was told that this would take about seven or eight hours. After three hours, Nisar came back from the hospital.

At the police station, the group was told by the officers there to take off their clothes, which they did, and the police checked them. Their power banks and chargers were taken away at this point and they never received these possessions back. The police also took their fingerprints and photos. They all signed papers without understanding what was written on it because it was written in Slovenian and there was no translator despite one of the respondents explicitly requesting one. They were not allowed to go to the bathroom. There was also no lawyer present.

“They didn’t even let me go to the toilet, so how could I talk with a lawyer?”

In this police station, all asked for asylum repeatedly, and the officers replied, “I will give you”. Nonetheless, the group was would later be transferred by car to another police station on the Slovenian-Croatian border. It took approximately an hour and a half to drive to this second Slovenian police station. One officer told them to wait. According to the respondent, he told them:

“You sit here, and we will talk about you, I will give you stay. Maybe I will deport you but maybe I will give you stay”.

The group stayed in this second police station for about FIVE hours, before being transferred to Croatia by car.

Once transferred to the Croatian police, the group had their pictures taken again and were made to sign documents. There were neither lawyer nor translator present. Faisan asked the police for some food and offered one of the officers 30€ to use to buy something for the group to eat. The officer took this money and never brought any food. The police was verbally aggressive during this time, using insults towards the group (“pičku ti matera” and others insults he didn’t understood).

Eventually, the group was brought back to the Serbian-Croatian border in a vehicle where the air conditioner was turned on. The respondents described the drive to the border as being approximately seven hours. The vehicle had neither windows nor lights. The group arrived back to Šid at about 3 in the morning.

At the beginning of the interview, both victims declare they had been pushed-back many times: 5 times from Slovenia, once from Zagreb, and twice from the Croatian interior.

**DESCRIPTION OF PERPETRATORS**

In the factory in which the group was initially apprehended in, there were around twelve Slovenian police officers, who arrive in 3 vehicles, wearing black uniforms emblazoned with the Slovenian flag.
1 interviewee - Abbas - Afghanistan - Group of 3
Recorded interview on 24.01.2019 in Šid, Serbia

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of incident</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION OF INCIDENT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PUSH-BACK - DENIED ACCESS TO ASYLUM PROCEDURE - ROBBERY OF PERSONAL BELONGINGS - VERBAL VIOLENCE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The three men had attempted to transit Croatia inside a truck. Through this, they reached the border between Croatia and Slovenia. When the vehicle reached the official Croatian-Slovenian border crossing, the group noticed that the border police were having an argument with the driver at the scanner. Six Slovenian police officers came to check the truck and found the three men inside. They asked them to sit down and to put their hands up, before bringing them to a “building” nearby. This building was most likely the police station of the border crossing. In this building the officers asked the three men to undress completely, and checked all of their clothes very carefully, “even the underwear”. They confiscated their belongings at this time as well, such as their bags and gloves. They did not receive these possessions back. At the police station, the group experienced verbal aggression from the officers who insulting them

“pičku ti materia”

as well as their country of origin
“All Afghans are Talibans”

They stayed around two hours at the police station, during which time their fingerprints were taken. The three of them expressed their intention to claim asylum, but were not given any chance to further this interest. Abbas described that he repeated his request often:

“Every time, every second, every minute”, “Azyl, azyl, azyl”.

Abbas also described that he avoided to say he was an English speaker, as he experienced physical violence from the police during his last push-back after communicating that he spoke English. At some point, Abbas entered in the garage of the police station, and wanted to take a jumper that was there. At this moment the police ordered him not to. He described them as “mad” at this point. Abbas argued that the weather was so cold and begged them to take it, while he was only wearing a T-shirt, but they refused.

After this incident, the Slovenian police transferred the group to Croatia. Croatian police accepted them and drove them around eight hours in a small car. They were deported back on a railway track at the border between Croatia and Serbia, most probably Tovarnik (HR). The weather was cold, it was snowing outside and the three men only had T-shirts. They walked back to Šid for about two and a half hours, until they arrived at 5:00 am on the 24th of January.

DESCRIPTION OF PERPETRATORS

There were six police officers, five men and one woman, who initially stopped the group in Slovenia. They wore black uniforms, mainly speaking Slovenian. The officer taking the fingerprints was described as a “big man”.

LOCATIONS

Likely location of the push-back : Tovarnik (HR) railway track, at the border between Croatia and Serbia, 9 km away from Šid
[Report 2.3]

1 interviewee, Ahmad - Afghanistan - Group of 6
Recorded interview on 18.02.2019 in Šid (Serbia)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of incident</th>
<th>PUSH-BACK - PHYSICAL VIOLENCE - DENIED ACCESS TO ASYLUM PROCEDURES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Location</td>
<td>The group was apprehended in the Slovenian interior, inside of an unspecified factory. The group was later transported and held within three different police stations in Slovenian before being transferred to Croatian custody and later pushed-back to Serbia.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Victims                          | Number of victims: 6
Interview conducted in English, with the presence of a translator from Pashto to English
Country of origin: Afghanistan
Minors involved: Yes (one aged 15, another aged 16)
Sex: Males |
| Date and time                    | The group was apprehended on 15/2/19 at around 3:00 am. |
| Details                          | Expressed intention to ask asylum in the country: Yes
Paper signed: Yes
Fingerprints taken: Yes
Picture taken: Yes |

DESCRIPTION OF INCIDENT

Ahmad, the respondent, described that on February 15th at around 3:00 am he, along with a group of six other persons, were had arrived to Slovenia inside of a truck that had parked in factory in unspecified city. Sometime after arriving to this location, the group was apprehended by a group of four Slovenian police officers. When the group jumped down from the truck, Ahmad described that the workers in the factory were aggressive and violent towards the group.

The police officers were also described as being violent towards the group. Two officers were described as using their batos and feet to inflict blows to the bodies of the group-members. The first one being beaten was a minor, aged 15. The respondent described that the officers were especially violent towards him, “Too much fight”.

Ahmad was also punched in the chin during this exchange. While the violence was committing by two officers, the two others officers stood passively. Ahmad recalled that the police officers did not have any interested in communication, telling the group-members with raised voices to “shut up”.

Laying down on the ground, the fifteen-year-old victim asked for the officers for water to drink and to relieve his face which had been hurt in the violence. He was described as being close to losing consciousness. The police called an ambulance for the boy and when the ambulance arrived, with three doctors, Ahmad explained what had happened. The minor, being badly hurt, was brought to the hospital. The other five men were brought to a police station while their belongings, phones, and blankets were left behind in the truck where they had been arrested. The police officers had told them not to touch anything when they left.

At the police station, Ahmad expressed to the officers that he was very hungry, and while the officers had told him they would bring food and water, this never arrived. Ahmad also declared to the officers that he did not feel well, explaining that after two days in the truck, he had vomited along the way and that his stomach was painful. Another group-member told the officers he was very thirsty and hungry, and that he had drank all of his water while in transit to Slovenia. In response, the officers were just described as smiling back at him. He asked them to bring food and water in exchange of money but they refused.

The group-members had their fingerprints taken at this police station, in addition to their pictures being taken. They were also made to sign documents. During the interrogation, the minors did not declare their true age, they all said they were older. The entire group requested asylum many times, repeating “asyl, asyl, asyl”. One of them also said “If I give my fingerprints, you give me stay in Slovenia, if you don’t I don’t give you my fingerprints”, but he was compelled by the officers to give them. Eventually, the 15-year-old minor was brought from the hospital to the police station, and his fingerprints were taken too.

The officers gave the group-members a paper where it was mentioned that they understood everything that was written and had been said to them, that the victims understood why the police had arrested them, that they knew that they could call a lawyer, and also that the family of the victim and the consulate of his country would receive a call to be informed that one of their members had been arrested. The group did not receive a proper translation for this document. There was a translator present during their time in the police station but he spoke Farsi, while the men were Pashto speakers. Accordingly, they could not understand each other. Ahmad attempted to tell one of the officers that they could not understand, but he was told to “shut up”.

Afterwards, the six group-members were transferred to another police station in Slovenia. In this second police station, their pictures and fingerprints were taken again, and they signed another document. Ahmad asked a police officer what they were doing, the officer replied in an angry way

“No problem just give me your fingerprints and signature”.

They were later transferred to a third police station where they signed documents again. After this, they were brought back to Croatia and then to Serbia, escorted by ten vehicles. They arrived in Serbia at around 1:00 am.
DESCRIPTION OF INCIDENT

The respondent, Qais, described having previously experienced push-backs from Croatia around 20 times. During his last attempt to reach the EU, Qais left with his little brother, aged 15, from Šid on March 16th during the evening after which they spent three days in a truck, without food or water. On March 19th at around 5:00 am, the truck stopped at the Slovenian-Austrian border for inspection. Soon after, several Slovenian police officers opened the truck, inspected it with a flashlight light, and found the two boys. The officers wore blue uniforms emblazoned with the Slovenian flag.

When he went out from the truck Qais noticed there were a lot of trucks opened similarly surrounding him. He also remembered there being mountains on his right and his left. It had been snowing a lot.

The two boys were then brought to a police station which was located at the border crossing on their right-hand side. Qais asked for asylum there, however the police answered no. Their pictures were then taken; the police took three pictures of each individual holding a piece of paper with their names and country of origin written on it. Then, they signed a paper written in a language that they did not understand, there was no translator nor lawyer present during this time. The interviewee
declared to the police he didn’t speak English when they asked him. The officers took his phone and powerbank. Qais described being referred to as “Talibans” by the Slovenian officers during the course of their time in the station.

Some time later, the two were transported to the Slovenian-Croatian border in a white car and transferred to the Croatian police. It was still dark outside and they drove in a grey car without windows for sometime between one and two hours. The Croatian officers then drove them to the Serbian border. Violence occurred at once they arrived to the push-back location. Qais described the officers as striking him and his brother with closed fists on their backs as they tried to cover themselves. Qais received his phone and power bank back.
REPORTS OF VIOLENCE IN SERBIA

6 reports
[Report 3.1]
1 interviewee - Tayyab - Afghanistan - Group of 60
Recorded interview on 15.01.2019 in Šid

<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 apprehended on the main road going to Adaševci (RS) which is located 1 hour by walking from the main squat in Šid.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Victims</td>
<td>Number of victims: 60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Interview conducted in English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Country of origin: Afghanistan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Minors involved: Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sex: Male</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date and time</td>
<td>The group was apprehended on 14/1/19 at 10:00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Details</td>
<td>Expressed intention to seek asylum in the country: No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Paper signed: No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Fingerprints taken: No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Picture taken: No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

DESCRIPTION OF INCIDENT
The group of 60 men (composed of around 30 single men and 30 unaccompanied minors) left the main squat in Šid (RS) on 14/1/19 at around 9:00 pm. Their plan was to reach the Batrovci border (RS) and to hide in trucks there. They were all walking on the main road of Adaševci when the local police from Šid stopped them after about an hour of walking. They ordered the entire group to stop and asked their destination. Most of them lied and pretended to go to Adaševci camp but two of them said they were going on game.

During this exchanged, the policemen struck these two men on the face with a baton (on the head and on the cheek), and also on their legs. All the injuries were minor and not noticeable. The group was not brought to another location. The police asked to the group to go back to the squat and they obeyed without saying anything since:

“...they are the police and we are refugee.”

INJURIES
Two group-members, after declaring to the police that they were attempting to cross into Croatia, sustained minors injuries on their head and legs from baton strikes.
Location of the group’s exchange with Serbian police: the road leading from Šid (RS) to Adasevci (RS)
[Report 3.2]
1 interviewee - Abdul - Afghanistan - 1 person
Recorded interview on 16.01.2019 in Šid, Serbia

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of incident</th>
<th>PHYSICAL VIOLENCE - DESTRUCTION OF PERSONAL BELONGINGS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Location</td>
<td>The individual was apprehended on their way to the city center of Šid</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Victims</td>
<td>Number of victims: 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Interview conducted in English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Country of origin: Afghanistan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Minors involved: No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sex: Male</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date and time</td>
<td>The incident occurred on 15/2/2019 at 10:30 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Details</td>
<td>Expressed intention to seek asylum in the country: No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Paper signed: No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Fingerprint taken: No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Picture taken: No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**DESCRIPTION OF INCIDENT**
Abdul, a single male from Afghanistan, left from the main squat of Šid on the night of February 16th with the intention of buying cigarettes and drinks at a shop in the city center. It was about 10:30 pm. On his way there, two local policemen from Šid stopped him and asked him to go back to the squat. Without waiting for any answer, one of the officers struck him with a baton on the chest, twice. Abdul had a friend’s phone in a pocket located on the chest of the jacket which was broken during the violence. Abdul explained that, in his observation, this kind of violence coming from the local Serbian police had been happening more often to the people staying in the squat in Šid.

**DESCRIPTION OF PERPETRATORS**
The officers were in one vehicle, a Serbian local police car.
LOCATIONS

Approximate location of the incident in Šid (RS)

IMAGES

Broken phone from the incident
DESCRIPTION OF INCIDENT
The group of four males left from Šid (RS) on 23/01/19 at 11:00 pm towards Croatia inside of a truck. Several hours later, at 1:00 am of 24/1/19, two Serbian border police officers arrested them at the Batrovci border crossing (RS) after finding them inside the truck. They made the group exit the truck and sit on the ground in a squat position.

When the policeman took Hassan, the respondent, to let him go, they tore his jacket (viz. picture below) and beat him several times on the back with a baton. Then, this same policeman put his cigarette through the t-shirt of one of the other group-members to burn him. During the interview, Hassan’s friend refused to show his burn.

The group was not brought to another location. They came back on foot from Šid through a forest.
DESCRIPTION OF PERPETRATORS
Two Serbian border police officers apprehended the group: one man and one woman. They wore blue uniforms and spoke only Serbian.

INJURIES
The friend of Hassan has cigarette burn on the chest; he did not want to show his chest.

LOCATIONS
Location of arrest and push-back: truck scanner of Batrovci border crossing (RS)

IMAGES
The damaged jacket of Hassan
[Report 3.4]
1 interviewee - Afghanistan - Group of 4
Recorded interview on 02.02.2019 in Šid (Serbia)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of incident</th>
<th>PHYSICAL VIOLENCE - THEFT OF PERSONAL BELONGINGS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Location</td>
<td>The group was apprehended at the Batrovci border crossing, on the Serbian side of the border.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Victims                        | Number of victims: 4
Interview conducted in English with the presence of a translator from Pashto to English
Country of origin: Afghanistan
Minors involved: all aged 16
Sex: Male |
| Date and time                  | The group was apprehended around 11:00 am on 1/2/19. |
| Details                        | Expressed intention to ask asylum in the country: No
Paper signed: No
Fingerprints taken: No
Picture taken: No |

DESCRIPTION OF INCIDENT
The group of four unaccompanied minors from Afghanistan left from the squat in Šid during the evening of January 31st. Nearby the official border crossing, the boys attempted to sneak into a parked truck.

At around 11:00 a.m., while the truck was still waiting to pass the Serbian truck scanner, two policemen opened the two lateral sides of the truck and found one of the boys, Naser, hidden on the on the top side of the truck (at around 5 meters high). The policemen were Serbian border police and had no vehicles.

The officers ordered Naser to jump down and began to hit the boy with batons across his back and legs. The officers spoke basic English, mixed with Serbian, and insulted the boy with insulted such as ‘‘ pičku materinu ‘’. They asked him if he was alone, and Naser said he was.

Several minutes later, the officers found his friend Amal and the two other boys hidden in the truck. They also beat them with batons. While Naser and Amal where being beaten, the two others boys escaped by running away. Because Naser lied, the officers were more violent with him. He was punched on the faces close to his eyes.
They slammed his head on the truck. The truck driver also perpetrated violence against the boy, beating him with his foot.

After this, the police took their sleeping bags and blankets. Then, they ordered Naser and Amal to leave and to not come back, threatening them to be sent to jail. During the incident the victims remained silent throughout.
[Report 3.5]
1 interviewee, Khali - Afghanistan - Group of 5
Recorded interview on 12.02.2019 in Šid (RS)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of incident</th>
<th>PHYSICAL VIOLENCE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Location</td>
<td>The group was apprehended at Batrovci border crossing, nearby where cargo trucks are scanned</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Victims          | Number of victims: 5  
Interview conducted in English with the presence of a translator from Pashto to English  
Country of origin: Afghanistan  
Minors involved: 2 aged 15 and 16  
Sex: Males |
| Date and time    | The incident occurred on 9/2/19 |
| Details          | Expressed intention to ask asylum in the country: No  
Paper signed: No  
Fingerprints taken: No  
Picture taken: No |

DESCRIPTION OF INCIDENT
The group of five men from Afghanistan (two minors aged 15 and 16 and 3 adults, the interviewee is 18 years old) entered in a truck during the evening of February 8th. The next day, at 2:00 pm, Serbian border police officers, aged in their mid-twenties, found them inside the vehicle at the cargo scanner at the Batrovci border crossing on the Serbian-Croatian border.

The officers did not speak but became violent with the group, striking them with closed fists, kicks, and batons on the men’s torsos and heads.

After the violence occurred the police ordered them to go. The interviewee described feeling continued pain on his back. He had been to the doctor the day before the interview to get a cream and still walked with his back bowed. Khali had previously been arrested three times by the Serbian police back to Serbia, and two times by the Croatian police back to Serbia.
LOCATIONS

Batrovci scanner
[Report 3.6]
1 interviewee - Afghanistan - Group of 4
Recorded interview on 24.03.2019 in Šid (Serbia)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of incident</th>
<th>PHYSICAL VIOLENCE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Location</td>
<td>The group was apprehended at the truck scanner at the Batrovci border crossing, on the Serbian side</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Victims              | Number of victims: 4  
Interview conducted in English  
Country of origin: Afghanistan  
Minors involved: two boys aged 16  
Sex: Male |
| Date and time        | The incident occurred on 24/03/19 |
| Details              | Expressed intention to ask asylum in the country: n/a  
Paper signed: n/a  
Fingerprints taken: n/a  
Picture taken: n/a |

DESCRIPTION OF INCIDENT

The group of four males (two aged 16 years old, one aged 18 years old, and one aged 20 years old) left Šid on the evening of March 23rd and walked until the Batrovci border crossing. There, they entered into a truck which had parked close to the border.

At around 9:00 am the next day, three Serbian border officers opened the truck and found two of the group-members. The officers were described by the respondents as tall, muscled, and very white. Several were noted to have had green eyes and bald heads or shaved heads. They wore dark blue uniforms. The officers asked if there were other persons inside of the truck and they answered no. The three officers were described as delivering strikes to the two men after this response, kicking and punching their torsos. Due to the violence, one of the group-members confessed that there were two more persons in the truck. The officers quickly found Abbas and Faizan: they were kicked and punched as well.

During this time, another border police officers arrived to the scene and participated in the violence. The victims of the violence described the incident as a “big fight” which involved kicking where the officers’ “shoes were like stones”. During this exchange, the respondent attempted to protect his head with his arms. Abbas’ mobile was damaged because it was located inside his pocket. Faizan’s jacket was torn (see picture below), and he also developed bruises on his body after the incident. The officers also beat the two drivers (one Serbian, one Turkish) and insulted them in Serbian.
Afterwards the four males managed to escape by running towards a nearby forest. Their sleeping bags stayed in the truck.

IMAGES

The torn jacket of the respondent