

HELSINKI COMMITTEE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS



The situation at the border crossings Gevgelija and Kumanovo

Period: 01.11.2017– 30.11.2017

Gevgelija

Over the course of this month, the number of refugees residing in the camp did not exceed 20. Greater stirrings were observed, but at the end of the month only 10 refugees were accommodated in the camp. The refugees who transit only stay for a short while, in fact only if they need some rest, medical and humanitarian relief. Apart from the increased number of groups and individuals who are transiting, no major irregularities and violations of their rights have been observed. All the refugees were provided with medical and humanitarian aid.

Available facilities and conditions

All the refugees in the camp have been provided with warm clothes and shoes by the Legis organization which also organizes creative workshops for the children in the camp.

The refugees usually buy food from the town, because they are not satisfied with the food given to them in the camp.

There are gynecological check-ups available for the women in the camp, in a mobile health dispensary.

A large number of police officers were trained on how to use video cameras by the IOM. In the international patrol units, we could observe police officers from the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Austria.

A delegation of IOM also paid a visit to the camp.

The camp hygiene is at a satisfactory level.

Institutional treatment

In the course of the month, a total of 125 refugees were brought to the camp who stayed there a relatively short time, were temporarily accommodated and/or transported back to Greek territory. A total of 26 out of them were brought to the camp in smaller groups consisting of two or three people and after they were registered and interviewed by the security services and provided with humanitarian and medical aid they were immediately transported to Greek territory. The rest of the cases were larger groups which are in more vulnerable position due to their deteriorating health or other circumstances (caught as victims of smuggling). They most often come from Pakistan, Iran, Bangladesh, Algeria, Tunisia and Syria. Please find the more notable cases below:

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Kumanovo

Available facilities and conditions

The camp hygiene is at a satisfactory level. The refugees are provided with medical check-ups and the medical treatments that they need. They also have recreational and educational workshops to attend, such as creative crafts, language learning and board games.

All the newly arrived refugees in the camp are provided with food, water and warm clothes, as well as a container if they wish to be accommodated.

There is still a practice of having registered and unregistered refugees in the camp.

Institutional treatment

At the start of the month, 7 refugees of various origin were caught in the camp. The number fluctuated on daily basis, but it never exceeded the number of 20 refugees. Most of the refugees arriving in the camp are returning from Serbia, voluntarily or sent by the police, and their most frequent countries of origin are Pakistan, Algeria, Libya, Afghanistan, Syria, Iran, India, Chad and Bangladesh. They most often make a short break in the camp to take some rest, whereby they immediately set back on their way. What is peculiar about some of the refugees is that they themselves refuse to be accommodated in the camp, so they only take food and water and immediately leave. At the end of the month, the number of refugees in the camp was 12, only 2 of whom were registered and 10 were unregistered. Out of them, only two are women, originating from Iran, while the rest of them are men.

On 09 and 10.11.2017, only one refugee was accommodated in the camp, aged 18, originating from Chad. He was considered unregistered in the camp. A few days later he left the camp, but returned shortly afterwards, probably due to the bad weather conditions.

Several representatives of the Asylum Department under the Ministry of Internal Affairs paid a visit to the camp, who explained the asylum request procedure to the refugees who had expressed intent to pursue it. Two people originating from Pakistan decided to submit an asylum request, and a few days later they were transferred to the Reception Center for Asylum Seekers in Vizbegovo, Skopje.

On 19.11.2017, 4 refugees arrived the camp, two of them originating from Libya and two from Pakistan, who had voluntarily come back from Serbia. After they were given food, the two Pakistanis immediately went on their way, according to their statement, to Greece, while the two refugees from Libya were accommodated in the camp. According to their statements, they were not planning to stay there long, but to leave shortly.

On 21.11.2017, after a major group of refugees originating from Afghanistan arrived to the camp, there was a total of 22 refugees in the camp. Out of them, 8 have been registered as originating from

