

## On the Move – Latest migration news

# MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES IN CROATIA/BALKANS

### 10/05/2022-24/05/2022

- Frontex [reported](#) that since the beginning of 2022, 27,172 people crossed the Balkan route to enter the EU, among them many Afghans and Syrians. According to Frontex *“the route represents almost half of the all the irregular border crossings into the EU”*.
- Border violence Monitoring Network published its [report](#) on the situation on the Balkan route in March 2022.

### 5/04/2022-10/05/2022

- A [decreasing](#) number of migrants have been crossing the border from Bosnia Herzegovina to Croatia according to government bodies and local police, as they seek new routes to enter EU countries.

### 25/01/2022 – 08/02/2022

- The Border Violence Monitoring Network [published](#) its December 2021 report collecting 30 testimonies of pushbacks impacting 280 people-on-the-move across the Balkans. Concerning the Balkan route, the report analyses the death of a 10-year-old Kurdish girl in the river between Croatia and Slovenia, the pushback of her family, the report of the Croatian Committee for the Prevention of Torture (CPT) on ill-treatments suffered by migrants at the hand of Croatian police, and the criminalisation of a member of the organisation Are You Syrious.

### 11/01/2022 – 25/01/2022

- Over [4,500 migrants](#) and asylum-seekers are being held in Serbian reception centres, the majority are from Afghanistan and Syria. Serbia is seen by many migrants as a transit country on the so-called Balkan route, and many want to cross its border into Croatia.

### 14/12/2021-11/01/2022

- Along the Balkan route, migrants and asylum-seekers are increasingly trying to reach Western Europe via a [new route](#) that passes through Albania and Kosovo.
- The persecution of pro-refugee activists and organizations continues. A Croatian court [convicted](#) a volunteer from the NGO *Are you Syrious* for aiding illegal immigration.

### 30/11/2021 – 14/12/2021

- The European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT) published a [report](#) on their impromptu visit to Croatia in the summer of 2020. The report denounces Croatian police ill-treatment of migrants and asylum-seekers at the border and urges for investigations to be opened on cases of ill-treatment. The report also shows how the Croatian police tried to [hide evidence](#) of pushbacks written in a logbook from the CPT, that confirms the general pattern of violence and abuse at the borders that was broadly documented in the past years.

### 16/11/2021 – 29/11/2021

- On Thursday 18th of November 2021, the European Court of Human Rights ruled on the [M.H. and Others v. Croatia](#) case against a pushback on the Croatia-Serbia border. The case refers to the death of Madina Hussiny, a six-year-old girl who was killed by a train on the border with Serbia after Croatian authorities expelled her and her family. The Court established that Madina Jussiny and her family were expelled without having the possibility to file for asylum, thereby performing a collective expulsion that is illegal under international law. Croatia must compensate the family, composed of 14 Afghan citizens, with €40,000 in damage and €16,700 in costs and expenses. In the press release issued by the ECHR, the Court states the following: *"The Court found in particular that the investigation into the death had been ineffective, that the applicant children's detention had amounted to ill-treatment, and that the decisions around the applicants' detention had not been dealt with diligently. It also held that some of the applicants had suffered a collective expulsion from Croatia, and that the State had hindered the effective exercise of the applicants' right of individual application by restricting access to their lawyer among other things"*. [Here](#) is the ECHR judgement.
- The Migreurop network has published the [report](#) *Exils sans fin: Chantages anti-migratoires le long de la route des Balkans*. The report analyses the process of European border externalisation in the Balkan region.

### 25/10/2021 – 15/11/2021

- On the [16th of October](#), the **Border Violence Monitoring Network** reported a violent pushback from the Croatia to Bosnia. According to testimonies, the Croatian police apprehended first a group of five Afghani and three Pakistani men and then a group of twelve Afghans. The people were put in a van and driven back to the Bosnian border. The Croatian police also used dogs against them and burned all their belongings except for their phones, power banks, and money that had been already

confiscated. At the border, the police forced the migrants to enter **Bosnia** by crossing a river despite the cold temperatures.

#### **05/10/2021 – 25/10/2021**

- Three police officers, accused of being involved in violent pushbacks, have been [suspended](#).

#### **23/09/2021 – 05/10/2021**

- The Border Violence Monitoring Network (BVMN) published a new legal [toolkit](#) to “map possible legal complaint mechanisms on human rights violations at borders, at both domestic and European level”.

#### **6/09/2021 – 2//09/2021**

- According to the [Balkan Region Report – August 2021](#), Border Violence Monitoring Network (BVMN) recorded 30 pushbacks, impacting 324 people across migratory routes in the Balkans.
- [Testimonies](#) from Korenica, at the Croatia-Bosnia border, where “the practice of violence and torture against migrants has become daily practice”.

#### **19/08/2021 – 06/09/2021**

- Between 16 and 29 August 2021, the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) [documented about 60 illegal pushbacks](#) by the Croatian police against Afghan families in Bosnia attempting to reach Europe.
- The Border Violence Monitoring Network (BVMN) [documented](#) 22 pushbacks in the Balkans in July 2021, affecting a total of 544 people.

#### **27/07/2021 – 19/08/2021**

- The Protecting Rights at Borders (PRAB) initiative [recorded](#) pushback incidents involving 3,403 persons between 16 April and 30 June 2021.
- According to Frontex, between January and July 2021, [22,600 migrants](#), mainly Syrians and Afghans, tried to enter the EU via the Western Balkans, 90% more than in 2020.
- On 3 August 2021, 8 human rights organisations [denounce](#) that Croatia’s recently announced border monitoring mechanism “falls short of the standards needed to ensure its effectiveness and success”.

#### **5/07/2021 – 27/07/2021**

- In early July 2021, in a [groundbreaking court ruling](#), the Regional Administrative Court of Styria (Southeast Austria) upheld the complaint by a young Moroccan man who was pushed back by the Austrian border police and declared this practice illegal and inhumane.

**21/06/2021 – 05/07/2021**

- A [video](#) from the German newspaper **Der Spiegel**, shows the brutal and illegal pushbacks of asylum seekers, including pregnant women, babies and children with disabilities, from the Croatian police.