

## Weekly Report for 29 Jan – 04 Feb 2018

### Monitoring Access to Human Rights and Protection of Refugees and Migrants in Transit Border Centers Tabanovce (Northern border) and Gevgelija (Southern border)

Legis is an implementing partner-organization of the Helsinki Committee for Human Rights of the Republic of Macedonia, Vlade and Ana Divac Foundation, Novi Sad Humanitarian Centre - NSHC and Arbeiter-Samariter-Bund Deutschland in the project: **Help on the Route – Fostering Protection of Human Rights of Refugees and Migrants Passing through Macedonia and Serbia**. In this regard, Legis has **six field officers and two coordinators** who collect daily information on the access to human rights and protection of residents in the transit border centers Tabanovce on the northern and Gevgelija on the southern border.

Accordingly, this weekly report represents a summary of:

- **Number of reports:** 12 daily reports in total i.e. questionnaires gathered during this period.

**The total number of supported refugees/migrants:** around 19 refugees/migrants were supported during this period, since the new arrivals fluctuate on a daily basis, our field officers managed to establish communication with almost each newly arrived person in the camp Tabanovce, while the southern border camp Vinojug, Gevgelija remains closed with 7 residents. During this reporting period in Tabanovce, the number of registered residents varied from 24-26. Moreover, there were thirteen new arrivals in Tabanovce: seven from Afghanistan, two from Pakistan, two from Libya, one from Bangladesh, and one from Syria. In Gevgelija, there were four new arrivals: one from Afghanistan and a three-member family from Iraq.

#### **Tabanovce, Northern border**

##### **Facilities and conditions:**

The transit center in Tabanovce, Kumanovo has temporary living facilities (containers) for residents with satisfactory heating and cooling conditions. All residents have access to hygiene facilities, communal kitchen, and recreational spaces for children etc. They receive three meals per day. Toilets are cleaned on a daily basis. The freedom of movement continues to be restricted meaning residents can go out but only if accompanied by the camp staff. There is heating available and hot water at the bathrooms.



**Institutional treatment:**

Two Afghani nationals told our team that they had been caught by Serbian police officers while they were crossing the Macedonian-Serbian border and were pushed back to Macedonia.

**Access to asylum or temporary protection:**

All residents have access to asylum or temporary protection submissions through the Department of Asylum of the Ministry of Interior and the local CSO Macedonian Young Lawyers Association within the center or other legal aid in need. No new asylum/temporary protection applications were submitted during this reporting period.

**Access to services: health care, medical needs, food and non-food items:**

All residents have access to basic health care, medical aid and food and non-food items. The medical staff is always present at the camp. No special medical or other needs were reported. In certain cases, residents are taken to the city hospital of Kumanovo for further medical care.

**Restriction of movement:**

- Residents can only go out if accompanied by the camp staff or Red Cross employees.

**Gevgelija, Southern border:**

**Facilities and conditions:**

As the transit-center in Tabanovce, Gevgelija has temporary living facilities (containers) for residents with satisfactory heating and cooling conditions. The daily routine of the people depends on the programs within the center's facilities, as the restriction of movement has not been removed. Residents receive pre-cooked meals (lunch only) three days per week. The rest of the days, they cook themselves. The Red Cross, depending on its budget, buys and provides the residents with food on the days when they do not receive pre-cooked meals. Bathrooms are cleaned regularly.

**Institutional treatment:**

The Macedonian police forces operating at the Macedonian-Greek border performed around 22<sup>1</sup> pushbacks to Greece during this reporting period. The people who were pushed back are from the following countries: Afghanistan, Syria, Pakistan, and Iraq.

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<sup>1</sup> This number is approximate. There may be more, but this is what our field officers have managed to register and learn during this period.



**Access to asylum or temporary protection:**

All residents have access to asylum or temporary protection submissions through the Department of Asylum of the Ministry of Interior and local CSO Macedonian Young Lawyers Association within the center or other legal aid in need. No new asylum/temporary protection application were registered.

**Access to services: health care, medical needs, food and non-food items:**

All residents have access to basic health care, medical aid and food and non-food items. No special medical needs were reported. In certain cases, residents are taken to the city hospitals of Gevgelija or Strumica for further medical care.

**Restriction of movement:**

- Residents can only go out if accompanied by the camp staff or Red Cross.

- **Number of referred cases to the Ombudsman's Office during this period:**

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