

Weekly Report for 30 July-05 August 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 55 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 number of residents in the southern border camp Vinojug, Gevgelija was 57. During this reporting period in Tabanovce, the number of registered residents varied from 17-25. Moreover, there were 42 new arrivals in Tabanovce: 31 from Iran, 6 from Libya, 3 from Afghanistan, 1 from Pakistan, and 2 from Algeria. 52 new arrivals were registered in Vinojug, Gevgelija: all of them from Iran, mostly families.

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. There is hot water available at the bathrooms.



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Institutional treatment:

No irregularities were reported.

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. However, there were no new asylum applications.

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. In certain cases, residents are taken to the city hospital of Kumanovo for further medical care.

Restriction of movement:

Residents are free to move outside the camp, they can go to the local grocery store and buy things that they need, whenever they want, but first they have to inform the police officers where they are going and at what time they will be back. Before that, there used to be a schedule, when the residents were allowed to go out of the camp.

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. Residents complain of lack of food and low food quality. The food served is generally canned food. Bathrooms are cleaned regularly. Internet access has been provided in the camp.

Institutional treatment:

171¹ pushbacks were performed by Macedonian border police officers: 89 people from Iran, 58 from Pakistan, 10 from Afghanistan, 12 from Libya, 2 from Bangladesh.

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 applications were submitted.

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. There is need for more summer clothing, such as t-shirts, summer footwear, children's toys, fresh fruits and vegetables. The five refugees who got injured in a car accident are still residing at the transit center and are in need of medical care provided by the medical teams.

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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¹ This number is approximate. There may be more, but this is what we have managed to register and learn during this period.