

The Second ~~XXXXXX~~ Quarterly Report in 2022

(April – May – June 2022)



About Klikaktiv

Klikaktiv – Center for Development of Social Policies is a non-profit civil society organization which provides legal counseling and psychosocial services to people on the move, asylum seekers and refugees in Serbia. The team is present on the external EU borders, namely covering border areas between Serbia and Croatia/Hungary/Romania, but also Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The report covers the main trends in the field concerning people on the move in Serbia, particularly in the northern border area with EU member states (Croatia, Hungary and Romania). The report also includes information on the process of fence construction on the border between Serbia and North Macedonia, as well as the situation of people on the move training to continue their journey towards Bosnia and Herzegovina. There is particular focus on monitoring and documenting violent push backs from the EU member states, as well as presence and participation of foreign police officers and Frontex staff during these practices.

For more information and regular updates on our work, you can visit Klikaktiv's [webpage](#) and [Facebook page](#).

For any additional information, comments or suggestions, feel free to contact us: info@klikaktiv.org.



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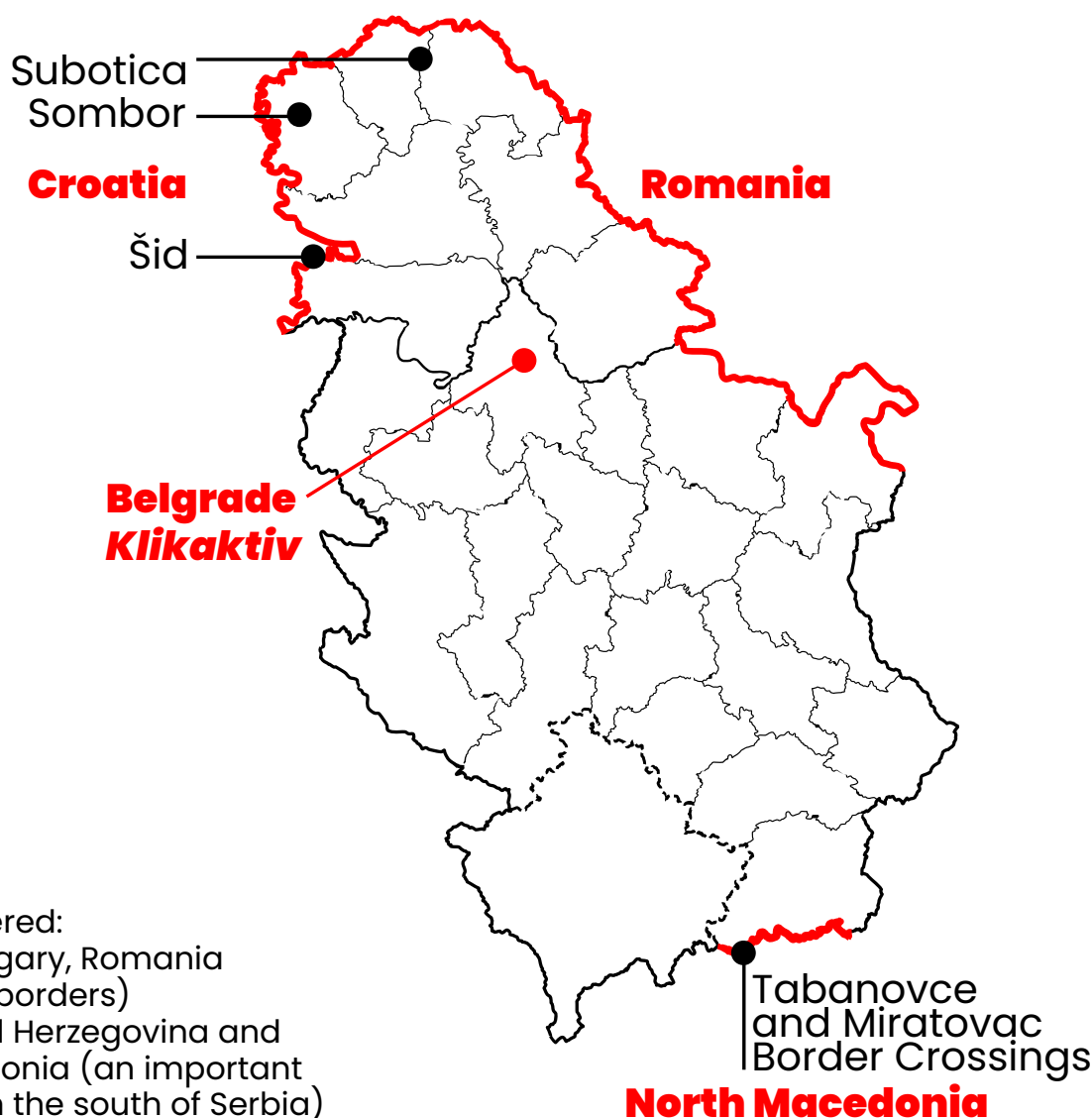


Key Trends in the reporting period

- There is **an increase of people on the move in Serbia**, with some estimations that the numbers of those traveling through the Balkan Route are as high as in 2016. Many of them are staying outside the official accommodation system and in the reporting period Klikaktiv identified three **new squats**.
- There is an increase in the number of women and children in squats, particularly unaccompanied boys aged 10 – 14 years old. There are no social services present in the field to respond to child protection and gender based violence risks that these vulnerable groups face in the squats.
- Since June 2022, it was noted an increase in the number of people on the move arriving to Serbia from **Bulgaria**, majority of whom from Afghanistan.
- The majority of people on the move tried to continue their journey from Serbia to **Hungary**. Some refugees stated they had been pushed back from Hungary to Serbia through the transit center Roszke, which ought to be closed by the order of the European Court of Human Rights.
- The fence that Serbia is constructing on its southern border with North Macedonia has progressed for a minimum of 10 – 15 km, with some segments made of barbed wire.



Snapshot of Klikaktiv's work in the second quarter of 2022



Total number of services to which Klikaktiv provided services: 3 053
(with a sharp increase of number of beneficiaries during the summer months)

Number of women and children (including unaccompanied boys and girls) in squats: 12.5%

Majority of people on the move came from: Afghanistan (37%) and Syria (28%), Tunisia (18%), Morocco (8%), Pakistan (3%) and India, Yemen, Turkey, Burundi, Algeria, Iran and Bangladesh (less than 1%)¹



Number of field visits: 29



Number of different squats visited: 16

¹Note that the demographic structure of people on the move in Serbia might be different if included those accommodated in official centers (where more women and young children can be found). The data presented here is a snapshot of Klikaktiv's beneficiaries who had been provided services directly by our team.

Context / general situation of people on the move, including important events that significantly influenced the migration situation and legal decisions

In general, there has been a notable **increase in the number of people on the move on the Balkan route**, indicated by (a) an increase in the number of new arrivals and refugees accommodate in official centers managed by SCRM, (b) an increase the number of people on the move staying in squats in the north of Serbia and an increase in the number of squats, including three new locations, as identified by Klikaktiv and (c) an increase in the number of entries to the EU from the Balkan Route which is as high as in 2016, according to the Frontex reports published in April ([here](#)) and June ([here](#)) – with a 84% increase of irregular entries to the EU in the first six months of 2022, compared to the same period the previous year.

From January until May, Frontex recorded 40 675 illegal crossings on the Western Balkan route, which is half of the total number recorded at all EU's borders. This is nearly three times the figure from the same period of last year (refugees from Ukraine are not included in this statistic). The main nationalities on this route included Syrians and Afghans, as stated in Frontex's [official data](#).

At the same time, **Frontex announced a new joint operation "Terra 2022"** at the EU's external land borders. This operation will take place across 12 EU Member States (including Croatia, Hungary and Romania) with more than 450 standing corps officers who will support national authorities with border management. It is announced that Frontex will also deploy patrol cars and thermo-vision vehicles in order to "help Member States fight against migrant smuggling, trafficking in human beings, drugs smuggling, identifying stolen vehicles, document fraud and terrorism." More on the new Terra operation [here](#) and [here](#).

While the policies to further deter people on the move from crossing borders are making the journey ever more dangerous, some refugees have lost their lives on the way, yet there is a lack of data that would indicate the scale of the loss. **Deceased, disappeared, detained** is an initiative to **document these fatal incidents on the migrant trail in the Balkans**. Neither Frontex nor state authorities publicly speak of the number of people on the move who have lost their lives or have disappeared while crossing through the Balkan refugee route. [4D database](#) collects, archives and distributes data on border regime victims in order to expose and condemn the current European migration control regime. In April, Croatian online portal "Novosti" published an article "[Balkan death route](#)" in which activists from the region, including Klikaktiv, have spoken about specific death cases and state policies.

Meanwhile, **the parliament elections in Serbia** took place on 6th April and the new government has not been formed by the time this report is published. Several far-right political parties who were known for their anti migrant and xenophobic statements, including [Dveri](#) and [Zavetnici](#), won seats in the Parliament.

Meanwhile, **deportations from Serbia to Bulgaria continue**. The Ombudsman supervised another forced removal of three men from Afghanistan who were handed to Bulgarian authorities on the border crossing point "Gradina – Kalotina" on 27th May, after

they spent several days in detention center in Padinska skela (Belgrade). More on the issue can be read on the Ombudsman's website available [here](#).

Info center for Ukrainian refugees – In May, Belgrade's city authorities in cooperation with several Ministries and Commissariat for Refugees and Migration opened "Info center for Ukrainian refugees" (its official website available: [here](#)) in the premises of Youth Center in the center of Belgrade, where people fleeing this country can get information about their rights and possibilities when it comes to their legal status in Serbia. However, this center excludes refugees from other countries as all available leaflets and brochures are available only in Ukrainian and Russian language and are mostly focused on temporary protection which is granted only to refugees from Ukraine.

Southern borders / entry points: Monitoring the process of fence construction at the border between Serbia and North Macedonia

In June, a year after our previous visit, the Klikaktiv team went to Vranje, Preševo and Miratovac again in order to better understand situation at the entry point to Serbia, as well as to monitor the process of building fence, which the government of Serbia has been erecting at its border with North Macedonia.



Photo 01 and 02: The fence at the border between Serbia and North Macedonia (June 2022).

The construction of the fence on the border between Serbia and North Macedonia continues: between June 2021 and June 2022 a minimum of additional 10–15 km were built. The fence has three layers, one of which is made of barbed wire. Unfortunately, the fence has been notably increased, both in its length and size. The fence is approximately 3 to 4 meters high, and between the doubled fence there is a space for patrolling army and police vehicles. At the top of the fence, there is barbed wire. At the moment it is tens of kilometers long and is situated on the hills along the border. Due to the fence and increased presence of border police, including Frontex (European Border and Coast Guard Agency, in control of the European Schengen Area), some of the refugees have tried to enter Serbia via an alternative route – via Kosovo.



The public in Serbia are generally not knowledgeable about the process of the fence construction. Some of the local communities oppose the fence as it disrupts their daily life and work in the area. The Decree that predicted the fence construction on the border between Serbia and North Macedonia, also includes referrals to land expropriation on the border between Serbia and Bulgaria, yet no construction work has been observed by the Klikaktiv team, and local community is uninformed about the potential fence in the area.

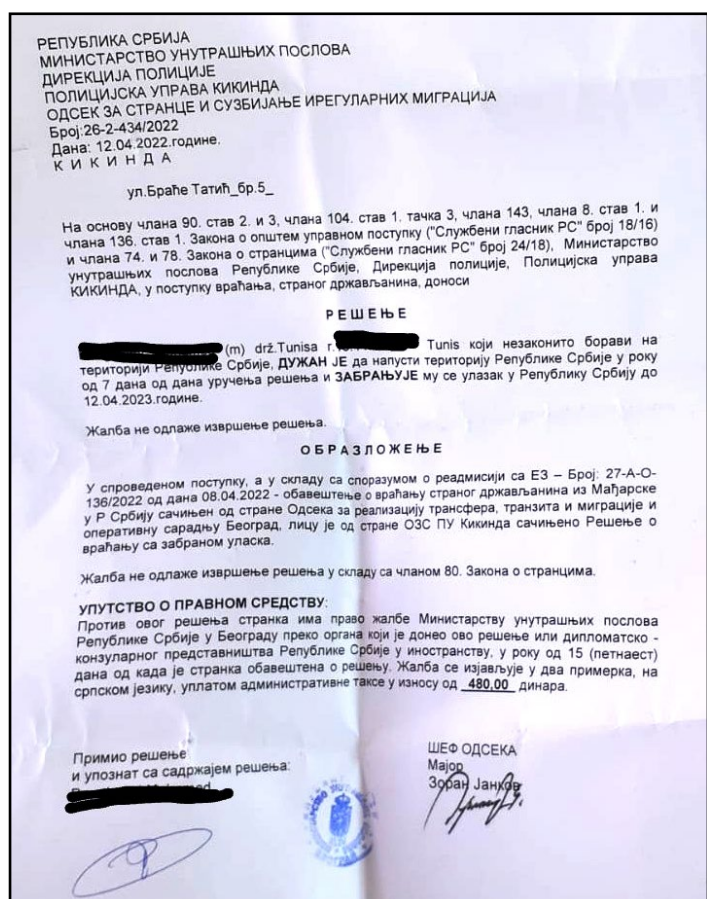
More detailed information on the process of fence construction as well as information on refugee activity in the area in general, Frontex presence and activities at the Serbian-Macedonian border can be found in the thematic report that Klikaktiv published on the subject which is available on our [website](#) and [here](#). The first report on the fence which describes the beginning of the construction and the process in June 2021 is also available on the website and [here](#).

Legal counseling and psychological support to people on the move, asylum seekers and refugees

Klikaktiv continued its core program of providing direct assistance to people on the move, specifically individual and group legal counseling, legal representation, psycho-social support and NFI, both in person in the squats located in the border areas in the north of Serbia, and in Belgrade, as well as remotely via SOS phone line.

Legal representation: Klikaktiv continued to represent asylum seekers in asylum procedure in this period, mostly of whom are from Burundi and who have all been rejected. Also, in this period Klikaktiv represented two Ukrainian women traveling alone without their spouses (one of them with two underaged children) in the procedure of obtaining temporary protection and provided legal counseling to several other Ukrainians on the legal procedure and their rights.

A strategic case of readmission from Hungary to Serbia: In a strategic case to document the practice of push backs from EU member states and lack of systematic response in Serbia, Klikaktiv filed an appeal on behalf of B.M., a citizen of Tunisia, who received the Decision on Return, issued by the Serbian Ministry of Interior, after he was readmitted from Hungary based on the [Readmission Agreement between EU and Serbia](#). This Agreement enables EU states to return all third country nationals back to the Serbian territory if they can determine that the person directly entered the EU Member State from Serbia. The Serbian Ministry of Interior accepted this readmission and instead of enabling B.M. access to asylum procedure, he was issued with the Decision on Return which orders him to leave Serbia in the following 7 days.



The case showed double standards and policies of Serbian authorities – on one side Serbia complies with EU requests and accepts requests for readmissions from EU Member States but on the other side does not provide access to the state system for these people which forces them to go back to smuggling networks and retry to enter the EU.

Child protection case – An unaccompanied boy with severe medical condition neglected by state authorities: A 12 years old unaccompanied boy from Afghanistan entered Serbia after he was separated from his brother on the Turkish-Bulgarian border. The boy had severe testicular inflammation which caused him great pain and difficulties while walking. He

Photo 03: A document provided to the citizen of Tunisia after he was pushed back from Hungary to Serbia.

and the group he was traveling with were caught by the Serbian police in a city near the border with Bulgaria, and issued with Decision on Return without the proper assessment of his vulnerability and therefore without contacting social services or providing him medical aid.

A few days later he reached Belgrade where he spent one night in “One-stop Center Miksaliste”, run by Commissariat for Refugees and Migration and with presence of outreach social workers, where again no one addressed the fact that boy was unaccompanied and in clear need for urgent medical care. He only received medical care after the involvement of his family member and activist from the EU country, with the referral and support from Klikaktiv.

Eventually, the boy had to undertake the surgery to remove his testical since the inflammation progressed too much to be treated only with medication. According to the doctor’s statement made during the call with Klikaktiv, the surgery could have been avoided if the boy was taken to hospital sooner.

Overview of squats and border areas

Squats (or informal settlements) are self-organized points where people on the move gather for a period of time, and they are not official reception or asylum centers. These are usually locations such as: forests, fields, abandoned buildings (houses, factories, farms) or in the open. Some of the characteristic features of a squat are a lack of safety and privacy, a lack of basic facilities, no running water or electricity, etc.



Photo 04: The interior of one of the squats in Serbia.



Photo 06: A group legal counseling session with the Klikaktiv team in a squat in the north of Serbia.

Klikaktiv also focused on monitoring the practice of violent push backs from the EU member states and collected testimonies of such cases, as well as presence and involvement of foreign police officers and Frontex. In addition to monitoring the situation at the EU external borders in the north of Serbia, Klikaktiv also conducted two field trips to monitor the situation at the border with **Bosnia and Herzegovina** and on the border between Serbia and **North Macedonia** (the most common entry point).

CROATIA

Although in general an increase of the number of people on the move passing through Serbia in the reporting period is noted, the numbers in squats near the border with Croatia specifically, did not increase significantly. The Klikaktiv visited two squats near the city of Šid – **Batrovci and Kuzmin**.

In both of the two places an increase in the number of tents is noted, yet no observable increase in number of people. As many people on the move that the Klikaktiv team interviewed in Šid stated they had been in the squats for less than a month, it can be presumed that on average they stay for a shorter period in Serbia and manage to continue their journey more quickly compared to the previous period. Also, the interviewed refugees stated they try to cross the Croatian border hiding in trucks – this is a preferred method of border crossing in spring as it might become too warm and potentially life threatening to hide in a truck for hours on end during warmer summer months.



Photos 07 and 08: The squat in Batrovci (near Šid, border with Croatia).

Some of the refugees that the Klikaktiv team spoke to near the border between Serbia and Croatia, reported the presence of Turkish police officers allegedly guarding Turkish trucks and “making sure the trucks go through the border without problems”. These refugees stated some had been caught by the Turkish police officers while they were hiding in a Turkish truck. In that case, the Turkish border police handed them over to the Serbian police, and there was no physical violence involved.

Almost all of those who stated they had tried to cross the border and were pushed back, also reported that the Croatian border police used physical violence (kicking, beatings with batons and hands) and that the police officers took away their money and mobile phones. After that, refugees said that the Croatian police would hand them over to the Serbian police who either let them go or would drive them for a half an hour and leave them in a forest area. From there, refugees would usually walk for more than two hours to return to the squats in Šid.

In the reporting period they did not report any presence or violence from the Serbian police in the two squats near the border with Croatia, and the most pressing issue in the squats was lack of safe drinking water.

HUNGARY

In the reporting period, most people on the move attempted to continue their journey by crossing into Hungary, hence the highest number of squats, number of refugees in squats and number of push backs was noted on the Serbian – Hungarian border². **Klikaktiv also identified three new squats in the reporting period (Vitaminka, Radanovačka šuma and Martonoš), and all three of them were near the Hungarian border.**

Also, the practice of violent push backs by Hungarian border police continued in the reporting period, as was the case in the beginning of the year too. According to accounts of some refugees, the violence and humiliation by the Hungarian border police even intensified with some refugees being left with broken limbs and thefts of refugees' personal belongings (mobile phones, money, even shoes) is reported to be happening on a regular basis. The Klikaktiv team also identified several cases of bruised or broken limbs due to the fall from ladders used for "game"³ or jumping over the fence.

In the reporting period, KlikAktiv met a woman from Tunisia with a broken arm. She arrived in Serbia legally, due to the visa-free regime between Serbia and Tunisia, with her underage children – a boy (12 years old) and a girl (14 years old). They tried to cross into Hungary on 5th June within the group of 20–25 people, but they were caught by the Hungarian police. The woman stated that the Hungarian police started beating them with the batons (police sticks) and several people fell on the ground, including her. Then the Hungarian police started kicking them while they were on the ground and allegedly that is how her arm got broken. She stated she did not get any medical assistance in Hungary. Hungarian police then pushed them back (the whole group of 20–25 people) to Serbia on the "green border".



Photo 09: The woman from Tunisia whose arm was allegedly broken when she was pushed back by the Hungarian police officers.

² On 17th May, Hungarian police reported that only during the previous week they caught 5.000 people who were trying to cross the Serbian–Hungarian border. They were all "escorted" to the Serbian border, as stated (here).

³ In order to try to cross the barbed wire fence at the border, some refugees use several ladders connected to each other and then jump over the last segment of the fence.

In the reporting period, the Klikaktiv team provided assistance to an 16 years old unaccompanied boy from Afghanistan who had a medical condition caused by complications due to infected scabies wounds. He was provided first medical aid in a reception center but stated he did not get any information on how to take care of the wounds and clean his clothes. More importantly, he was not provided information on his options to register as an asylum seeker and gain access to health care services provided by the state free of charge. His primary goal was to heal his hands as he was constantly in a lot of pain. He stated that the camp was overcrowded and filthy and that he was admitted only for a short visit to the medic. He also added that the camp security was violent towards refugees staying in the camp. The boy was pushed back to Serbia a couple of days prior to our visit, and he stated he was caught by **joint patrols of Hungarian and German police officers**, who spoke English among themselves. He was allegedly put in a car with German car plates and driven to Horgoš where he was handed over to the Serbian police, yet with no documentation.

In the same field visit, the Klikaktiv team also met two other boys with self harm wounds who inquired about the possibility of being treated by a medic. These boys also stated they had been pushed back by the joint patrols in the same manner, with the only difference being that there was no Serbian police present and they were pushed back to the green border (a field) between Hungary and Serbia.



Photo 10: An unaccompanied boy with untreated scabies infection.

In April 2022, the Klikaktiv team collected first statements of refugees who were allegedly kept in [the transition center Roszke](#) before being pushed back to Serbia. According to their testimonies, when the refugees were caught by the Hungarian border police while trying to cross the border, **the Hungarian border police would transfer them to the center Roszke**, regardless of where at the Serbian – Hungarian border they were caught. Once a larger group of intercepted refugees is formed, they would all be collectively pushed back to Serbia – either handed over to the Serbian police or just ushered to the green border. Neither of them would receive any documentation, while some of them stated their photos were taken at the center. The center was supposed to be closed by [the order of the European Court of Human Rights](#) from 2020, due to degrading treatment and deprivation of liberty at the center.

According to several accounts of refugees who had been pushed back from Hungary to Serbia, there was a presence of police officers from **Germany, Austria and the Czech Republic** at the Serbian – Hungarian border. The refugees stated they recognized German police by the German flag on their uniform, cars with German plates (but not labeled as police vehicles) and that the officers spoke German among themselves. They also stated these foreign police officers also participated in the violent pushbacks alongside Hungarian border police.

Apart from the increase of number of people on the move and number of squats near the border with Hungary, and severe police violence and physical injuries, the third factor that significantly shaped the situation of refugees who stayed in the area were armed conflicts between several criminal organized groups of smugglers. These conflicts had several detrimental effects on the refugees' safety and wellbeing: as they were afraid of the smugglers they would not talk freely to NGOs working in the area nor they would approach humanitarian workers for assistance. Also, as people on the move started hiding due to the fear, the squats became more dispersed in structure and the people staying in them harder to reach in order to provide support, hence leaving the most vulnerable among them at an even higher risk of gender-based violence, trafficking in human beings and sexual abuse and exploitation at the hands of the smuggling criminal groups. More information about the risks can be found in a short piece on the subject that Klikaktiv shared on its website and is available [here](#).

For the same reasons of fear, some squats in the city of **Subotica**, like those at the abandoned train station in the city, became inactive with just a handful of refugees occasionally passing through. The center was supposed to be closed after the ruling of the European Court of Justice in May 2020, due to degrading treatment and deprivation of liberty at the center.

In line with this trend, **some new squats were formed in the area** in the reporting period, and we provide here a short description of them.



Photo 11: A squat in Horgoš (near Subotica, border with Hungary).

Vitaminka, a collection of buildings belonging to an abandoned factory in the near vicinity of the highway leading to the border with Hungary, is a new squat the Klikaktiv team visited for the first time at the end of April. There is no local community near the squat and the squat is populated by people on the move from different parts of the world: Afghanistan, Syria, Tunisia, Morocco. They are usually ethnically divided in separate buildings, and there are accounts of tensions and even armed conflicts between some of them. In Vitaminka, there is a significant number of women and children, compared to other squats where the majority were single men. There are also indicators that smuggling criminal groups had a tight control on the squat and that the smugglers perpetrated violence on refugees in the squat too. In the reporting period, the Serbian police visited the squat occasionally, yet no refugees reported any violence or theft by the police at this particular squat.



Photos 12 and 13: A squat in Vitaminka (border with Hungary).

The second newly identified squat is in **Radanovačka šuma**, and consists of two collections of tents in a local forest in the close vicinity of the Hungarian border – the fence at the border can be seen from just outside the squat. The groups of tents are also ethnically divided with one being “under control” of a Moroccan smuggling group and the other controlled by an Afghan smuggling group. There were reports of armed conflicts between the groups and reports of violence perpetrated by the smugglers on the refugees staying there. In the squat, there are on average 150 people on the move in the two groups combined, and the number increases in the evening hours when refugees who use the squat as a transit point come, before the actual attempt to cross the border. In June 2022, refugees stated that the Serbian police came to the squat, demolished the tents and stole their mobile phones and money.



Photos 14 and 15: A squat in Radanovačka šuma (border with Hungary).

The third new squat is in a forest near a small village called **Martonoš**, also in the vicinity of the Hungarian border. The squat is dispersed in the form of many small groups in the forest area, and generally refugees there were in hiding, fearing smugglers and police raids during which they would be forcibly relocated to a camp in Preševo, in the far south of Serbia. There are indications that there is a significant number of women and children in this particular squat.

The other statement on violent push backs provided to the Klikaktiv team came from a man from Syria who attempted to enter Hungary the day before the team met him, and was pushed back by joint patrols of Hungarian and Czech police. He stated that he and 10 other Syrian men were beaten by the Czech police who also used batons. They added the police also unleashed dogs on the group and that some of the Syrian men had been bitten by a dog. After the physical violence, they were put in a van and driven to a place where there were Austrian police officers. They did not use violence on them but they drove them to the border with Serbia and pushed back. The man stated that both Czech and Austrian police officers had uniforms with their respective flags on them, and that the vehicles they used to drive the refugees and pushed them back had Hungarian plates on them. The men had bloody shirts and the Syrian man who provided the testimony had a bandaged nose. He stated he had bandaged it himself in order to stop the bleeding and ease the pain. He stated he still had trouble breathing through the nose and was not sure if it was broken.



Besides Subotica and its surrounding area, **Sombor** is the second city in the region where several hotspots are formed where people on the move who try to cross into Hungary gather before they leave Serbia. The people on the move used to gather at the city's train station and in the field in front of refugees' reception center in the area. Since 2022, there has been a new squat in the abandoned factory **Sunce** and in the reporting period there were on average 150 refugees residing in the squat, majority of whom from Syria, Iraq, Tunisia, Morocco and Algeria. They did not report any incidents at the moment as neither Serbian police nor local community members visited the squat. Majority of issues people sleeping here grappled with were scabies and no access to safe drinking water: allegedly the locals charged them many times higher prices in local shops when they bought the water for drinking and shower, due to them being foreigners.

Photo 16: The Syrian man and his nose allegedly broken by the Hungarian and Czech police officers.



Photos 17, 18 and 19: The squat in Sunce, an abandoned factory near Sombor (border with Hungary).

People on the move staying in the squat stated they attempt to continue their journey by entering Croatia for a brief period of time and from there enter Hungary right after. At the time this was the cheapest way to try to cross the border and some even attempted to do so on their own accord, without a smuggler. In the reporting period, they had not been intercepted by Croatian police but were usually caught and pushed back to Serbia by Hungarian police. They too were pushed back through the transit center Roszke as described above, although Roszke is more than 150 km away.

***“They say that Turkey is a safe country for people from Syria. I knew a Syrian man who was shot dead in Turkey yesterday!”
(a man from Syria in a conversation on deportation)***

Some of the people on the move in the squats near Sombor reported to the Klikaktiv team that their personal belongings had been stolen by the Serbian police to whom they were handed over when they were pushed back by the Hungarian police. Also, refugees staying in the vicinity of the local reception center reported that each Sunday a group of violent local right wing extremists came to the area and demolished their belongings. On some of the occasions the police were allegedly present yet did not intervene. The refugees stated they would usually hide while the violence happens, scared to confront the locals as there were rumors that some refugees were physically attacked by these local extremists.



Photo 20: Another squat near Sombor (border with Hungary).



Lastly, the Klikaktiv team also visited a village of **Srpski Krstur**, where a squat is formed in a wooded area right next to the river bank of Tisa, a river that is a natural border between Serbia and Hungary. People on the move staying in the squat usually come from Tunisia, Morocco, Syria, Algeria, Libya and in the reporting period there was a notable increase in the number of women and children, particularly women traveling alone. With a tight control that smugglers exert over the access to the squat and movement around it, one can assume that risks of sexual exploitation and other forms of trafficking in human beings are exacerbated for the women traveling alone who are staying in the squat.

Refugees at this location also reported to the Klikaktiv team that the Serbian police conducts regular raids of the squat, during which they steal refugees' belongings or take bribes, shout and humiliate them, and that some of the police officers are under the influence of alcohol during the raids.

Photo 21: A squat near the village of Srpski Krstur (near the border with Hungary and Romania).

What is particularly notable about people on the move from **Tunisia** is that the majority of them enter Serbia regularly - by flying in on a visa-free regime, and then try to reach some of the countries of their final destination in the Western EU irregularly - by crossing borders with smugglers. These people are generally not knowledgeable about their rights and duties, asylum procedure in EU and other countries and related topics. Many of them hope to be granted asylum protection or to regulate their stay by marrying a EU member state citizen. Klikaktiv wrote a specific article on the topic which is available [here](#).

In April 2022, the Klikaktiv team learned about the case of a 28 year old woman from Syria who gave birth to her son in Hungary through an urgent Cesarean section. The woman stated that they were both pushed back to Serbia by the Hungarian police only 6 days after the baby was delivered. The woman stated she had tried to apply for asylum in Hungary when the police officers came to the hospital in city Baja, where she gave birth, but she was denied the access to asylum procedure. Instead, Hungarian police handed her over to the Serbian police on the joint border after which she was left on her own, without any assistance from the Serbian authorities. She came to one of the informal squats in the woods near the border, where both her and the newborn baby stayed for weeks, without proper medical aid and protection.

szülött

Nutriklub
Szakértő segítség az anyasághoz
www.nutriklub.hu

Nevem * [redacted]

Születtem 2022. 04. 21. 12¹⁸

Magasságom 118 cm **Születési súlyom** 2510 g

Édesanyám a(z) [redacted] számú szobában fekszik

INGYENESEN HÍVHATÓ TANÁCSADÁS munkanapokon : 06 80 33 12 33

NEVEM: [redacted]
SZÜLETTEM: 2022. 04. 21. 12¹⁸
ÉDESANYÁM NEVE: [redacted]
SÚLYOM: 2510 g
MAGASSÁGOM: 118 cm

WWW.EDESKISBABAM.HU

Photo 22: A documentation from the maternity hospital in Hungary that the Syrian woman was provided when she gave birth to her son, and was pushed back to Serbia shortly after.

ROMANIA

Generally, the refugee activity in the border area between Serbia and Romania was not as notable as near the border with Hungary. People on the move who want to avoid Hungary's notorious fence often attempt to go through Romania. In the beginning of April, the squat in an abandoned milk factory in the village of **Majdan** became active again. In the reporting period majority single men from Syria were staying in the squat, with just a few women and children.



Photos 23 and 24: A squat in an abandoned milk factory near the village of Majdan (border with Romania).

All of them reported to Klikaktiv that the control of the Serbian – Romanian border was tighter than before and that the border police of Romania committed brutal physical violence during push backs, and that the police officers took away and broke their mobile phones. They did not notice any foreign police officers nor Frontex staff present during the push backs. They also stated that the Serbian police visited the squat regularly to monitor the situation but did not interact with the people staying there.

In the reporting period, the squat in the village of **Đala**, in the vicinity of Majdan and the border between Serbia, Romania and Hungary was inactive after the police eviction.

“They accuse us of being terrorists but terrorists are exactly from whom we are trying to run away. We do not want to fight in a war, we are refugees, we want safety.” (a man from Syria)

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

In the beginning of June 2022, Klikaktiv conducted a visit to **Loznica** and **Banja Koviljača**, the two towns near the border between Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina, in order to monitor the situation of people on the move who might be trying to continue their journey via this route. Although the squat where refugees used to gather in Loznica in 2021 was barricaded, a new squat was formed right next to it, and there are indications that up to 50 people on the move stay there, from different countries of origin: Syria, Kurdistan, Afghanistan, Burundi, Congo, Tunisia, Morocco, Algeria. The squat is in an abandoned company in a three story high depleted building, with mattresses and improvised cooking facilities. There are also indications of hiding spots in the building, possibly due to police raids.



Photo26: A newly formed squat in Loznica (near border with Bosnia and Herzegovina).



The second newly identified squat is a small one in an abandoned factory near Banja Koviljača, which probably serves as a transit squat: people on the move stay here only briefly for a couple of hours before they head to the border, yet no one sleeps for several days in a row in such a squat.

According to the locals' testimonies, there are 30-50 refugees at all times in the hot-spots near bus and train stations, but they do not stay for a longer period of time in the area. Generally, in the reporting period there were not many indications that many people on the move were going from Serbia to Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Photo 26: A newly formed squat in Loznica (near border with Bosnia and Herzegovina).



Photo 27: A transit squat near Banja Koviljača (border with Bosnia and Herzegovina).

Conclusions & Recommendations

Going forward, it is safe to assume that the number of people on the move will increase, both in Serbia in general and in the squats in particular. It is also likely that the smugglers will exert even more control over these people in need.

Klikaktiv will continue to provide services directly in the squats in the border areas on a regular basis, with particular focus on monitoring and reporting on violent push backs from the EU member states.

We believe that the first step to safety for refugees is granting them access to state institutions and protection systems. Hence we call on the Ministry of Interior of Serbia to regularly conduct registrations of people on the move which is the first step towards access to asylum and international protection.



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